



Electronic Travel Authorisation (ETA) Guide

An Electronic Travel Authorisation or ETA is digital permission to travel to the UK for short visits such as tourism, business trips or short-term study such as coming to the UK for one semester only (if you are from a country that does not require a Standard Visitor visa). Proof of a valid ETA will be required of all non-UK citizens prior to boarding a flight, train, boat, or other carrier into the UK.

This new ETA process is part of the UK Government's aim for all travel into the UK to become fully digital in 2025.

The ETA is only applicable if the applicant does not hold a UK visa or other Immigration status. Therefore, if you hold a Child Student/Student visa, a Work/Dependant visa or hold pre-settled/settled status under the EU Settlement for example, you do not need to apply for an ETA as you already have permission to live, work or study in the UK. You also do not need to apply for an ETA if you already hold a Standard Visitor visa.

To find out whether you need to apply for a visa to travel to the UK (rather than an ETA), please follow this link [here](#).

Update on the ETA rollout

Recently UKVI announced an update to the timeline for the UK Electronic Travel Authorisation (ETA) after a successful start earlier on in the year. The ETA rollout will continue, with the next phase commencing on 27 November, 2024 and will now include a large number of International passport holders (the ETA will come into effect for EU nationals later in 2025).

Current nationals who can already apply for an ETA from Phase 1 include: Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and United Arab Emirates. (Jordan was originally on this list but is now a country where the UK requires nationals to apply for a visa to come to the UK, even if they are travelling to the UK for a short period).



ETAs will be required for nationals of Phase 2 countries (including US, Brazil, Mexico, etc) for travel to the UK from 8 January, 2025 and can apply for one from 27 November, 2024.

Nationals of Phase 3 (including EU countries) will be required to hold an ETA for travel to the UK from 2 April, 2025 and can apply for one from 5 March, 2025.

From 2 April, 2025 all visitors will be required to travel to the UK using an ETA.

Further information regarding the phases can be found via the UKVI's guidance [here](#).

ETA's will be required for nationals of Phase 2* countries for travel to the UK from 8 January 2025 and applications will open on 27 November 2024. Nationals of Phase 3** countries will be required to hold an ETA for travel to the UK from 2 April 2025 and applications will open on 5 March 2025.

Applying for an ETA

To apply for an ETA, you will need to complete an online application. The fastest way is via the *UK ETA* app which can be downloaded via the App store or Google Play. If for any reason, you cannot use the app, you can also apply online [here](#).

How to apply:

- You will need to take a photo of the passport you will use to travel to UK
- You will then need to scan your face with your phone or other device (if you are under the age of 9, this is not applicable)
- You will then take a photo of yourself
- You will then be asked to answer a series of questions about yourself
- You will finally be required to pay £10 per applicant

Ensure that you apply in advance of travel as it can take approximately 3 working days to receive your ETA.



Please note:

- There is always a chance that it can take longer to be issued so we would recommend you apply as soon as possible before your travel plans commence.
- Once issued, the ETA will be valid for two years or until the applicant's passport expires (whichever happens sooner).
- If you renew your passport, you will be required to apply for a new ETA.
- The ETA will allow for multiple trips to the UK within the two year validity period (as a student, if you are coming to the UK to study for more than 6 months you will still require a Child Student or Student visa).

List of Phase 2 Nationalities (coming into effect from 8 January, 2025 onwards):

| | | |
|---|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Antigua and Barbuda | Argentina | Australia |
| The Bahamas | Barbados | Belize |
| Botswana | Brazil | Brunei |
| Canada | Chile | Costa Rica |
| Grenada | Guatemala | Guyana |
| Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (including British national overseas) | Israel | Japan |
| Kiribati | Macao Special Administrative Region | Malaysia |
| Maldives | Marshall Islands | Mauritius |
| Mexico | Federated States of Micronesia | Nauru |
| New Zealand | Nicaragua | Palau |
| Panama | Papua New Guinea | Paraguay |
| Peru | Samoa | Seychelles |
| Singapore | Solomon Islands | South Korea |
| St Kitts and Nevis | St Lucia | St Vincent and the Grenadines |



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| Taiwan (if you have a passport issued by Taiwan that includes in it the number of the identification card issued by the competent authority in Taiwan) | Tonga | Trinidad and Tobago |
| Tuvalu | United States | Uruguay |

List of Phase 3 Nationalities (coming into effect from 2 April, 2025 onwards)

| | | |
|--------------|-------------|---------------|
| Andorra | Austria | Belgium |
| Bulgaria | Croatia | Cyprus |
| Czechia | Denmark | Estonia |
| Finland | France | Germany |
| Greece | Hungary | Iceland |
| Italy | Latvia | Liechtenstein |
| Lithuania | Luxembourg | Malta |
| Monaco | Netherlands | Norway |
| Poland | Portugal | Romania |
| San Marino | Slovakia | Slovenia |
| Spain | Sweden | Switzerland |
| Vatican City | | |

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact Jenny Smolka (Visas & Immigration Coordinator) in the Admissions Office via ukadmissions@tasisengland.org