



Naturalisation Factsheet



General Requirements

All applicants must demonstrate that:

- they are over 18 years old;
- they are of good character and sound mind;
- they have sufficient knowledge of English language and have passed a Life in the UK test;
- they have not broken any immigration laws whilst in the UK;
- they intend to make the UK their principal home;
- they have spent less than 90 days outside of the UK in the last 12 months; and
- they have been free from immigration controls for at least 12 months (unless married to a British citizen).

Residence Requirements

- they have lived in the UK for at least five years before the date of application; and
- they have spent less than 450 days outside the UK during the five year period.

Spouses and civil partners of British citizens benefit from reduced periods of residence requirements:

- they have lived in the UK for at least three years before the date of application; and
- they have spent less than 270 days outside the UK during the three years.



In certain cases, it is possible for applicants who have been absent from the UK for longer periods of time to qualify.

Costs, time-scale and process

At the time of writing in October 2021, the Home Office application fee for naturalisation is £1330 plus a mandatory biometric enrolment fee of £19.20. The application fee has been frozen for a few years and may increase in the future.

Naturalisation applications cannot be expedited and the current standard processing time for such cases to be considered by the Home Office is 6 months, although in our experience processing time can often be much shorter.

The application process is now fully digital with applicants being required to make their application online and then attend a UKVCAS (UK Visa and Citizenship Application Service) service point to enrol their biometrics. The application is then passed to the UK Nationality department to process. A successful applicant will be advised that their application for naturalisation has been approved and they require to attend a Citizenship ceremony where the applicant will be presented with a naturalisation certificate which they then can use to apply for a British passport.