

# Permission to Travel

To strengthen the UK's borders, those travelling to the UK (except British and Irish citizens) must seek permission to travel in advance.

The type of permission will depend on the person's own circumstances

## NO CHANGE

**British & Irish citizens** do not need an ETA to travel to the UK.

Their passport is evidence of their permission, if travelling from outside the Common Travel Area.

## NO CHANGE

Those already **granted permission to enter or remain** do not need an ETA to travel to the UK.

Their entry clearance, biometric residence document, other physical document or **eVisa** is evidence of their permission.

## NEW

Those who **do not need a visa**, entry clearance or other specified immigration status do need an ETA to travel to the UK.

The ETA linked to the passport used to apply for it is evidence of their permission to travel.

Advance passenger information will be submitted to the Home Office, who in response will confirm whether the traveller has a permission to travel to the UK.



# Introduction of eVisas

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The Government is developing a digital immigration system.

Digital proof of a person's immigration status will replace these physical documents:

- biometric residence permits (BRP)
- biometric residence cards (BRC)
- passport endorsements, such as indefinite leave to enter (wet ink stamps).
- vignette stickers in passports, such as entry clearance or visa vignettes.

**This is known as an eVisa.**





# What is Electronic Travel Authorisation (ETA)



An ETA is advance permission to travel to, or transit through the UK, for those **who do not currently need to obtain a visa, or do not have a UK immigration status.**



An ETA will be valid for **2 years or until passport expires, whichever sooner** and for **multiple journeys** to the UK within that period.



The application process will be **light touch, low cost £10 per applicant and online.**



If successful, an ETA - **digital permission to travel** - will be granted.



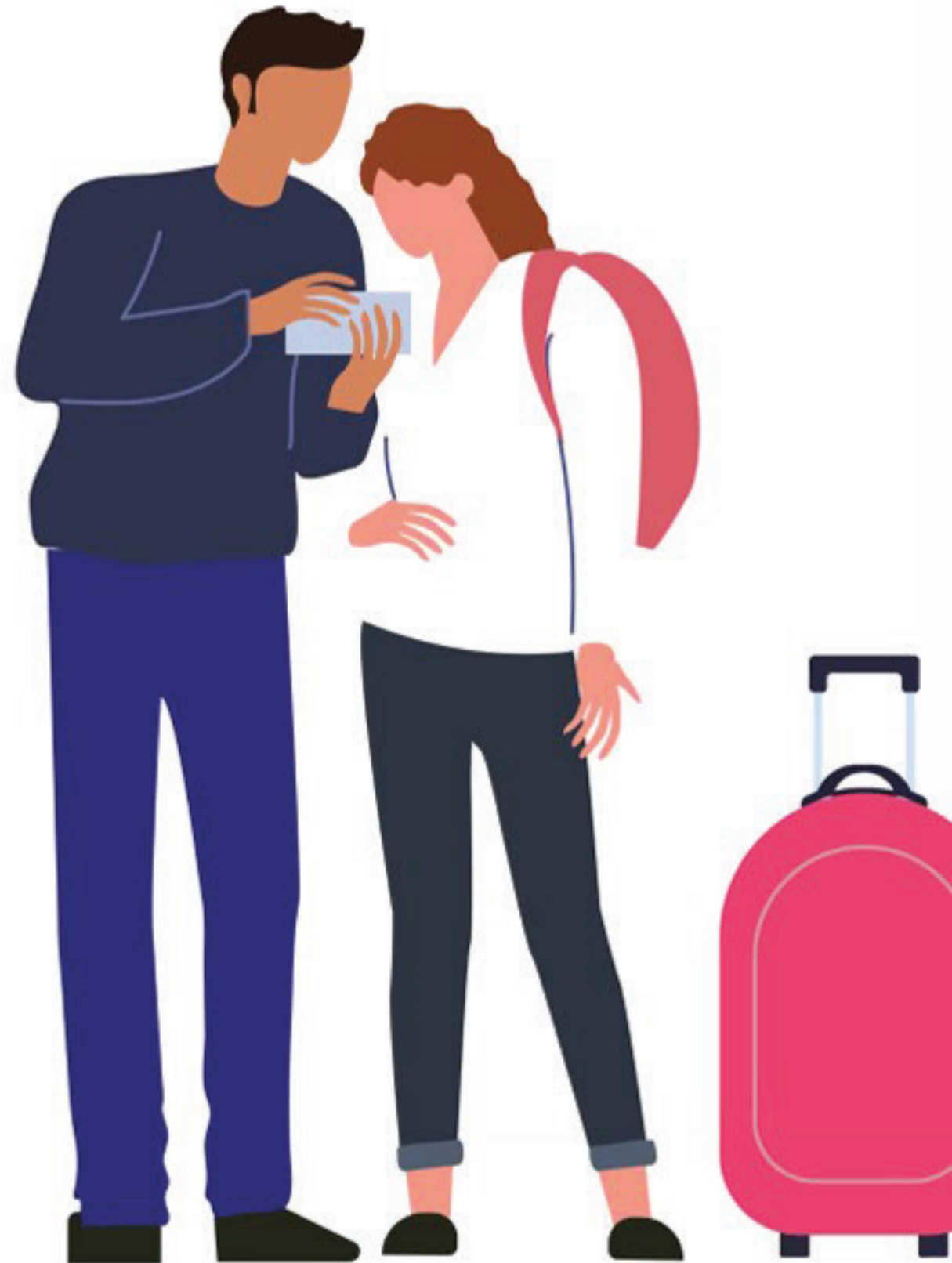
**Strengthens the security of the UK border** - enhances our ability to screen travellers and stop those who pose a threat from travelling to the UK.



**Fill the current gap** in advance permissions for non-visa nationals



Increased use of automation will **speed up clearance at the border** to improve overall passenger experience.





# International comparisons

Several countries

**ALREADY OPERATE**

similar  
schemes and  
have done for  
many years:

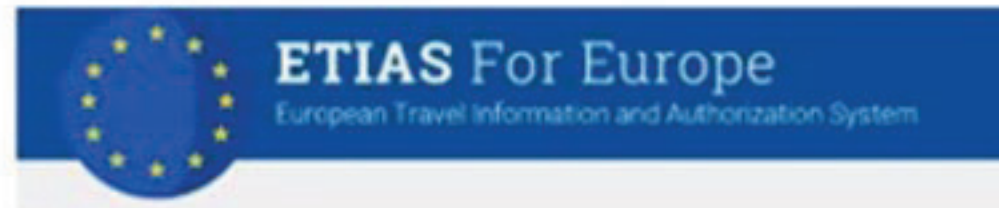
For example



US (ESTA)



New Zealand (ETA)



EU (ETIAS)  
(launching mid-2025)



Government  
of Canada

Canada (ETA)



Australia (ETA)



# Who does/does not need an ETA?



People visiting the UK who currently do not require a visa for short stays

- Tourism, visiting family and friends, business, study as a visitor, attending events.
- Infants and children
- Transiting through the UK
- T5 Creatives
- EEA and Swiss nationals



- People visiting the UK who currently require a visa will continue to require a visa
- Those with permission to live, work or study in the UK
- British or Irish Passport Holders
- Dual Nationals
- Those legally resident in Ireland who do not require a visa for travel to the UK
- Those exempt from immigration control
- British Overseas Territories Citizens (BOTC)





# Common Travel Area

- The UK Government remains committed to the Common Travel Area (CTA) and British and Irish citizens **do not need an ETA**.
- The UK does not operate routine immigration controls on journeys from within the CTA, with **no immigration controls whatsoever on the Ireland-Northern Ireland land border**.
- All people arriving in the UK, including those crossing the land border into Northern Ireland, **continue to need to enter in line with the UK's immigration framework**, including the need to obtain an ETA once required for their nationality.
- **Non Irish residents of Ireland from a nationality that does not usually need a visa to visit the UK** (e.g. European and US nationals), **do not need an ETA when travelling to the UK from within the CTA**, provided they hold acceptable evidence of their residence status. Full guidance on this can be found at GOV.UK
- **Non-Irish residents of Ireland** who are travelling to the UK from **outside** of the CTA **need an ETA** before they travel, once required for their nationality.

The **CTA** is an arrangement for free movement of British and Irish citizens between the **United Kingdom, Ireland, Jersey, Guernsey and the Isle of Man.**

**To find out more, and apply for an ETA,  
go to: [GOV.UK/electronic-travel-authorisation](https://gov.uk/electronic-travel-authorisation)**



# Roll-out Phasing

## Phase 1

Nov 23\*  
Feb 24

Qatar\*  
Saudi Arabia  
Oman  
Bahrain  
Kuwait  
UAE

## Phase 2

Apply from 27 November 2024  
Use from 8 January 2025

### Africa

Botswana  
Mauritius  
Seychelles

### Americas

Antigua & Barbuda  
Argentina  
Barbados  
Belize  
Brazil  
Canada  
Chile  
Colombia  
Costa Rica  
Grenada  
Guatemala  
Guyana  
Mexico  
Nicaragua

Panama

Paraguay  
Peru  
St Kitts & Nevis  
St Lucia  
St Vincent & Grenadines  
The Bahamas  
Trinidad & Tobago  
Uruguay  
USA

### Asia

Brunei  
Hong Kong (SAR)  
Israel  
Japan  
Macao (SAR)  
Malaysia  
Maldives  
Singapore  
South Korea  
Taiwan

### Pacific/Oceania

Australia  
Kiribati  
Marshall Islands  
Federated States of  
Micronesia  
Nauru  
New Zealand  
Palau  
Papua New Guinea  
Samoa  
Solomon Islands  
Tonga  
Tuvalu

## Phase 3

Apply from 5th March 2025  
Use from 2nd April 2025

### EU/EEA & Swiss

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



# Case study: Elina

Elina is a Greek national living in Rhodes. Since she has retired from work, she likes to visit her family in the UK for up to one month every year.

## Currently

Greek nationals do not require a permission to travel to the UK for short trips.

## From 2<sup>nd</sup> April 2025

As a Greek national Elina **WILL** require an ETA for permission to travel to the UK for short trips.

If granted, she can use this for multiple short trips of up to 6 months over a 2-year period.





# Case study: Felix

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Felix is a German national who lives in the UK, having been granted pre-Settled Status under the EUSS scheme.

He is travelling back to the UK after visiting his family in Germany.

## From 2nd April 2025

ETA **is** a requirement for German nationals.

However, Felix **WILL NOT** require an ETA.

His pre-settled EUSS status granting him permission to live in the UK is his permission to travel.





# Communications and Engagement

To help you prepare your audiences, we have created an [ETA partner pack](#) with shareable messages and products. This pack includes:

- Key messages
- Factsheets with FAQs
- Social media assets and supporting post copy
- Guidance videos
- Display assets
- [GOV.UK guidance page](#)

For official updates to the UK ETA scheme subscribe via:  
[www.gov.uk/electronic-travel-authorisation](https://www.gov.uk/electronic-travel-authorisation)



For Feedback or requests on communication campaign products:  
[ETAcommunications@homeoffice.gov.uk](mailto:ETAcommunications@homeoffice.gov.uk)



For ETA question and engagement opportunities:  
[ETAengagement@homeoffice.gov.uk](mailto:ETAengagement@homeoffice.gov.uk)

People travelling  
to the UK without  
a visa will soon  
need an

**ELECTRONIC  
TRAVEL  
AUTHORISATION**

 UK Government