

Naturalising as a British Citizen (Adult)

If you have Indefinite Leave to Remain - as a refugee, humanitarian protection or discretionary leave

You can apply to become a British citizen if you've lived in the UK for 5 years and have had indefinite leave to remain (ILR) in the UK for 1 year. If you are married or civil partnered to a British citizen, then you can apply to become a British citizen as soon as you obtain indefinite leave to remain (ILR). You must:

- be over 18
- prove you were in the UK exactly 5 years before the day the Home Office receives your application
- prove your knowledge of English
- pass Life in UK test
- not have been absent from UK for more than 450 days in 5 years
- not have spent more than 90 days outside UK in last 12 months
- intend to continue living in the UK
- be of good character
- not have broken any immigration laws

Cost

Citizenship applications for adults cost **£1580**
[application = £1500
ceremony - £80]

English Language

You can prove your knowledge of English language (or Welsh or Scots Gaelic) by having:

(a) a degree researched or taught in English;

OR

(b) a recognised qualification from an approved test provider.

Tests cost between £150-£200.

See our guidance [English language requirement for Citizenship](#)

Life in UK Test

You must complete a test at one of over 30 official test centres across the UK.

You will have 45 minutes to answer 24 questions based on the official Life in the UK handbook.

You must score 75% to pass.

You can repeat the test if you fail.

Each test costs £50.

See our guidance [Life in the UK test for Citizenship](#)

Waiver

It is possible to apply for a waiver of the English language and Life in the UK test requirement on the basis of having a long term physical or mental health condition. Medical evidence would be required.

Process

There are 2 ways to apply for British citizenship by naturalisation. You can either:

- make an application yourself
- use an agent (solicitor, immigration adviser)

You must:

- Check you meet and understand the requirements before you submit your application.
- Submit your application and pay the required fee. Include details of 2 British referees.
- Enrol your biometric details
- Wait for a decision
- Attend a citizenship ceremony - You will make an oath of allegiance and a pledge, promising to respect the rights, freedoms and laws of the UK.
- Return any Biometric residence permit you hold within five working days of getting your certificate

You'll usually get a decision within 6 months - some applications can take longer. Your ILR rights still apply while you wait for an outcome.

Rights

Having British citizenship means you will be a UK national. Benefits include:

- the right to live in the UK forever – your status will be permanently settled
- the right to hold a British passport
- full civic rights – this includes the right to vote and the right to stand for public office
- no restrictions on your right to work
- no restrictions on entry to the UK or travelling abroad