

Changes to UK Entry Requirements From 25 February 2026

A number of immigration changes will take effect from **25 February 2026**.
The key points for the health & care sector are set out below.

Mandatory Electronic Travel Authorisations (ETAs) for eligible nationals

An ETA will be mandatory for all eligible nationals travelling to the UK as visitors, unless they already hold a valid UK visa. ETAs must be obtained before travel. Airlines and other carriers will refuse boarding where an ETA is required but not held. A list of nationalities requiring an ETA is available in the following link: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/immigration-rules/immigration-rules-appendix-eta-national-list>

Dual nationals

British citizens are not eligible for an ETA, even if they also hold another nationality. Entry to the UK will only be permitted using a valid British passport, or a non-British passport endorsed with a Certificate of Entitlement (CoE). This is particularly important for individuals whose British citizenship applications have been approved but who have not yet received a British passport. Anyone in this position should apply for their British passport before making travel arrangements to the UK.

Visit visas and eVisas

Visit visas will be issued as eVisas only. No physical visa vignette will be placed in the passport. Applicants attending a Visa Application Centre will have their passport returned immediately after their appointment and will not need to return to collect it, potentially saving time on the visa application process. However, before travelling to the UK, individuals must create a UKVI account and ensure their current passport is correctly linked to their eVisa. Failure to do so may result in delays, additional questioning, or difficulties proving immigration status at the border.

Key Checks

- **For non-UK residents who are entering the UK:** confirm nationalities and passport details early for anyone proposing to enter the UK to determine whether they should enter based on an ETA or on the new Visitor eVisa
- **For UK residents who are re-entering the UK:** for anyone with an approved British Citizenship application, apply for a British passport before leaving the UK.