



UK SETTLEMENT: INTRODUCTION OF LANGUAGE AND CITIZENSHIP TESTING



UK SETTLEMENT: INTRODUCTION OF LANGUAGE AND CITIZENSHIP TESTING

This leaflet describes new rules for people who wish to live permanently in the UK.

From 2 April 2007, all applicants for indefinite leave to remain in the UK (settlement) will have to demonstrate knowledge of the English language and life in the UK.

This will encourage people to become full and active citizens and play a full part in their wider community.

Please note: this leaflet is only a guide. It explains only one requirement of the immigration rules regarding settlement.

Nothing in this leaflet supersedes the immigration rules.

General

From 2 April 2007 all applicants for indefinite leave to remain in the UK (settlement) will need to provide evidence of knowledge of life in the UK.

There are two ways this evidence can be provided.

- If you are already at or above ESOL Entry 3 standard for English you will be able to take a specially developed short test called 'Life in the UK Test'. (ESOL means English for Speakers of Other Languages)
- If you are not yet at ESOL Entry 3 you will be able to meet the new requirements by successfully completing an ESOL course which has been taught using a citizenship syllabus.

Exemptions

The following people are exempt from the requirement to show knowledge of life in the UK. Applicants aged under 18 or 65 and over. Applicants who have a mental or physical impairment that prevents them from taking the test or following a course of study.

Life in the UK Test

This is a computer-based test which consists of 24 questions based on the information contained in the handbook 'Life in the United Kingdom: A Journey to Citizenship'.

The handbook can be ordered online from: www.tso.co.uk/bookshop or by telephoning 0870 243 0123. The handbook was originally published in December 2004. A revised version will be available from early 2007.

Tests from 2 April 2007 will be based on the revised handbook. You will not be able to take a test based on the first edition of the handbook after 1 July. The test can be taken at one of over 100 Life in the UK Test centres throughout the UK.

Further information on the tests (including locations of test centres and how you should book your test) can be found at www.lifeintheuktest.gov.uk or by calling the Life in the UK Test helpline on 0800 015 4245.

If you pass this test you will not need to produce additional proof of your knowledge of English.

ESOL with citizenship courses.

These courses are meant to help you gain knowledge of the UK at the same time as you improve your English language skills. In order to meet the requirements for settlement you will need to show that you have successfully progressed from one ESOL level to the next (for example ESOL Entry 1 to ESOL Entry 2). Therefore applicants using the ESOL route may not necessarily have to reach ESOL Entry 3 in order to satisfy the requirement.

You must ensure that the college course you enrol on includes the 'language with citizenship' materials and that the college will give you a letter confirming this when you have successfully gained your certification.

Courses are available at many Further Education, Adult and Community Colleges across the UK.

For further information contact the learndirect helpline on 0800 100 900 or visit the learndirect website at www.learndirect.co.uk

Course fees are subject to individual circumstances and enquiries should be made to your local college.

Checking your language ability

To check your language ability, you should work through the tutorial on the Life in the UK Test website www.lifeintheuktest.gov.uk.

If you cannot fully understand the information in the tutorial, you may need to enrol on an ESOL with citizenship course rather than taking the Life in the UK Test.

Copies of this publication can be made available in alternative formats.

To make a request email:
amelia.scott-cowley@homeoffice.gsi.gov.uk

Further information

For information about the knowledge of life in the UK test contact the Test Helpline on 0800 015 4245

If you require information about language courses, call the learndirect helpline on 0800 100 900 or visit the learndirect website at www.learndirect.co.uk

Further information on applying for settlement (including frequently asked questions) can be found at: www.ind.homeoffice.gov.uk

or by calling:

0870 606 7766 or 0800 389 8289

(for Minicom users)

Monday–Thursday 9am–4.45pm

Friday from 9am–4.30pm

or by writing to:

Immigration and Nationality Directorate

Lunar House

40 Wellesley Road

Croydon CR9 2BY