PRE-APPLICATION QUERIES

I believe that I am British but I have no proof. How can I confirm it?
You have three options:
(i) You can apply for a British passport. Advice about the passport application process, and relevant forms can be obtained here or by calling Her Majesty’s Passport Office on 0300 222 0000. If you are living outside the UK, you should click here.
(ii) You can apply for a nationality status certificate using Form NS. A non-refundable fee is payable with any application.
Quick Links to FORM NS, Guide and fee information.
FORM NS and guide
Fees Guide
(iii) You can seek advice from a professional legal adviser in private practice. A list of suitably qualified advisers can be obtained from www.oisc.gov.uk or by calling the Office of the Immigration Services Commissioner on 0207 211 1500.

I am not British but I wish to become British. What are the requirements and how do I apply?
The requirements and the fees can be found on our website from where an application form and guide can be downloaded (we do not send out application forms by post).
Check If You Can Apply
Fees Guide
Please note: The onus is always on the applicant to ensure that they fully meet the requirements for any application as set out in the appropriate guide. All applicants are advised to read the guide thoroughly and make sure they satisfy the requirements before submitting any application. We will not be able to tell you prior to submitting any application whether it will be successful. The application fee will be retained if an application is refused or withdrawn, and only the ceremony fee will be returned.
Applications for British citizenship can be made at a Nationality Checking Service. This is a service provided by local authorities who, for a fee, will check and forward your form to us. Details of the local authorities that provide this checking service can be found here.

To naturalise as a British citizen - you have to meet the knowledge of Life in the UK and the English Language
For information regarding the Life in the UK test please click here.
For information about the English language requirement please click here.

How do I book a Life in the UK test if I don't have one of the specified identity documents?
If you do not have suitable photo ID, you will not be able to book a test until after you have submitted your application. You should state on page 15 of the application form that you do not have the necessary documents to book the test. You should still prepare for the test before submitting your application as you will be required to pass it within 21 days of us contacting you to make the special arrangements.

How do I transfer my certificate of entitlement to the right of abode to my new passport?
Since December 2006 the Home Office no longer undertakes transfers of Right of Abode vignettes. All requests for Certificate of Entitlements to the Right of Abode must be submitted with a fresh application and documents supporting the claim.
Information on the requirements for Certificates of Entitlement to the Right of Abode, along with links to obtain the application forms, may be obtained [here](#).

**Are my referees in support of my application suitable?**
Further information may be found [here](#).
The list is not an exhaustive list; therefore an individual’s profession may not be listed as acceptable although they may fall under the category of a person of any nationality who is of professional standing or a member of a professional association. If the caseworker is not satisfied with your referee they may request another.

**POST APPLICATION QUERIES**

**Will receipt of my application be acknowledged?**
You should receive an acknowledgement within six weeks. If you have not received an acknowledgement within eight weeks please email us at: FurtherNationalityEnquiries@homeoffice.gsi.gov.uk giving your full name date of birth and address.

**How long will it take for my application to be decided?**
We aim to conclude 100% of applications within six months of receipt. If you applied more than six months ago, you can check the progress of your application by calling our Contact Centre on 0300 123 2253 or by emailing us at: FurtherNationalityEnquiries@homeoffice.gsi.gov.uk

**What do I do if I need my documents returning before my application is decided?**
Advice may be found [here](#)

**How do I notify you about a change of address?**
Advice may be found [here](#)

**How do I obtain a copy of my certificate of British nationality?**
If your certificate was issued after October 1986 click [here](#)
If your certificate was issued before 1969, a copy of your certificate may be obtained from The National Archive, who can be contacted at: Advice & Records Knowledge
The National Archives
Kew
Richmond
Surrey
W9 4DU
Telephone number 0208 876 3444

Further information is available at:
www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/contact/contactform.asp?id=7
www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/records/research-guides/naturalisation.htm
If the certificate was issued between January 1969 and October 1986
Certificates of citizenship issued between January 1969 and September 1986 are no longer available in some cases but The National Archive should still hold a card record of the certificate.
Once a copy of this card record has been obtained from the National Archive
(address above), it should be submitted to us with an application for confirmation of British nationality status on Form NS (a non-refundable fee is payable). The Form NS and guidance can be obtained [here](#). Once the NS application has been submitted and processed we will issue you with a letter, providing we are able to confirm your status.

**The personal details on my certificate of British nationality are incorrect. Can they be amended?**
Further guidance may be found [here](#)

**How do I obtain confirmation that I have not been registered or naturalised as a British national?**
Further guidance may be found [here](#)

**Can the Home Office confirm my previous nationality? status and/or passport details at the time of my British nationality application?**
The Home Office is only able to comment on issues relating to British citizenship and so cannot confirm your nationality at the time your application was submitted. If you wish to confirm this information you would need to contact your country’s embassy in the UK. You may wish to note that we record the personal details of individuals who apply for registration or naturalisation as they are recorded on their application form. This may have been supported by documentation which would have been submitted with your application. Copies of documents are not automatically retained on file. If you did not receive your passport back, your passport would have been sent to your country’s embassy in the UK.

**Where do I find information about European Economic Area (EEA) Nationals and their dependants applying for a Registration Certificate and/or a Residence Card?**
Visit [here](#) if you are an EEA national; and [here](#) for information if you are the family member of an EEA national. Further advice may be obtained by calling our Contact Centre on 0300 123 2253.

**Where do I find information about immigration?**
Further information can be found [here](#) or by calling our Contact Centre on 0300 123 2241

**Who should I contact if I wish to report (actual or potential) abuse of the UK’s immigration and nationality laws?**
You can complete a form and leave this information by clicking [here](#) The Home Office treat any information received seriously and any such information will be forwarded to the relevant department and investigated accordingly. We are grateful for any information provided. However, we will not be able to advise you of the progress or results of any investigation relating to this information. If you wish to make an allegation by post, please write to us at the following address: Allegations Intel Post Room
You can remain anonymous, but please include as much detail as possible, including home and/or work addresses and postcodes if you have this information.

What should I do if I have a different nationality related enquiry?
You should call our Contact Centre on 0300 123 2253 or email us at: FurtherNationalityEnquiries@homeoffice.gsi.gov.uk (you should provide your name, date of birth, place of birth, current nationality, immigration status and Home Office Reference number where known. A telephone number should also be provided so that we may contact you.
We aim to respond to your enquiry within 20 days.
Please note that a response to an email sent to this address will only be answered if it is a nationality related query. Details of how to contact other departments within UK Visas and Immigration can be found on our website at: www.gov.uk/contact-ukvi