



MAYFAIR LEGAL

COVID-19 GENERAL QUESTIONS

INFOSHEET



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Commonly Asked Questions – I am outside of the UK

Can I still apply for my UK visa at this time?

Yes. There is nothing to stop us from applying for your visa at this time. The UK borders remain open.

Can I attend a visa appointment?

Visa Application Centres for the majority of countries overseas are now open. As such, if your local Visa Application Centre is open, you will be able to attend a visa appointment after we have submitted your online application form. We will advise you however, in the event that your local Visa Application Centre is closed as we are monitoring developments on a daily basis.

What if I need to take an English test for my application?

Approved English language test centres for the majority of countries overseas are now open. As such, if your local test centre is open, you will be able to book in and sit for an English language test. We will advise you however, in the event that your local test centre is closed as we are monitoring developments on a daily basis.

How long are decisions taking?

Generally speaking, decisions are taking longer than in 'usual' times because of delays due to COVID-19.

Priority Service for the majority of countries overseas is now available. We will advise you however, in the event that Priority Service is not available in your country as we are monitoring developments on a daily basis. We are finding that applications submitted via Priority Service are taking around 1-2 weeks to be processed.

We are finding that applications submitted via Standard Service are taking around 1 month to be processed.

We are finding that applications for Administrative Review are taking around 2-3 months to be processed.

Do I need to do anything before travelling to the UK?

All passengers to the UK will be required to complete a 'Passenger Locator' form up to 48 hours before you arrive in the UK. The link for the form may be accessed [here](#).

We can assist you with completing this form, if required. Please note that if you are travelling with family members, each of your family will be required to complete a separate form.

Can I still travel to the UK at this time?

Yes, you can travel to the UK once you have your visa as the UK borders remain open.

For all those arriving in the UK, you will need to comply with the UK government's social distancing rules once in the UK. The UK has entered a lockdown phase from 05 November 2020 – 02 December 2020.

During this time, those in the UK are required to stay at home except in limited circumstances and minimise their social contact with others. You should only leave your home:

- for childcare or education, where this is not provided online
- for work purposes, where your place of work remains open and where you cannot work from home (including if your job involves working in other people's homes)
- to exercise outdoors or visit an outdoor public place - with the people you live with, with your support bubble or, when on your own, with 1 person from another household (children under school age, as well as those dependent on round-the-clock care, such as those with severe disabilities, who are with their parents will not count towards the limit on two people meeting outside).
- for any medical concerns, reasons, appointments and emergencies, or to avoid or escape risk of injury or harm - such as domestic abuse
- shopping for basic necessities, for example food and medicine, which should be as infrequent as possible
- to visit members of your support bubble or provide care for vulnerable people, or as a volunteer

Non-essential shops, restaurants and other businesses are closed. More information on the UK's social distancing rules can be found [here](#).

For those arriving in the UK from certain countries, you will also need to comply with the UK government's requirement to self-isolate for a minimum 14 days on arrival. Unless you are travelling from a country on the 'travel corridor' list, you will be required to self-isolate on arrival in the UK. The 'travel corridor' list can be found [here](#). Please note that this list regularly changes as such, you should continue to check the list right up until arriving in the UK.

Please seek our guidance if you are unsure as to whether you will be required to self-isolate.

What does self-isolation mean?

If you are required to self-isolate, this means that you will have to remain in one fixed place for the first 14 days following your arrival in the UK and you should not leave this place until the 14 days have passed. You will need to be provided with essential resources as you will be unable to go out to buy these for yourself. You may self-isolate in any place of your choosing e.g. a hotel or a property which you rent/own. Failure to comply with the self-isolation requirement can result in a fine of up to £3,200.

More information on the self-isolation requirement can be found [here](#).

When do I travel to the UK?

You should endeavour to travel to the UK within the 90 day validity period of your temporary entry visa contained in your passport. Please update us as soon as is possible in the event that you are unable to travel to the UK within this period and we will provide further guidance on your options.

Can I still collect my Biometric Residence Permit ("BRP card") on arrival?

Yes, you will be able to collect your BRP card once in the UK as Post Offices remain open. We will inform you of which Post Office to go to and their opening hours.

You should go to collect your Post Office either within 10 days of arriving in the UK or after having completed your 14 day self-isolation period, if applicable.

I am going to be living in London. Can I still register with the police on arrival?

Please note that not all nationalities are subject to the police registration requirement. We will inform you if you are subject to this requirement.

At the present time, the Overseas Visitors Records Office remains open for police registration. As such, you will be able to book an appointment to complete police registration once you have arrived in the UK. Appointments may be booked online [here](#). We can assist with the appointment booking process and may also arrange to accompany you to the appointment, if required. Please note that at present, appointments from March 2021 onwards are available.

If you are going to be living outside of London, we will provide you with specialised guidance on how to complete police registration.

Commonly Asked Questions – I am inside the UK

Can I still apply for my UK visa at this time?

Yes. There is nothing to stop us from making your application at this time. During the lockdown period, we will still be in a position to submit your online application form and make payment of UKVI official fees.

Can I attend a visa appointment?

Based on the current information available from UKVCAS, UKVCAS service centres will be remaining open during the lockdown period due to being classed as an essential service. As such, you will be able to attend a visa appointment after we have submitted your online application form. We will advise you however, in the event that UKVCAS service centres are closed as we are monitoring developments on a daily basis.

VIP service appointments also remain available. Please let us know if you would like further information on these.

What if I need to take an English test for my application?

Approved English language test centres across the majority of UK cities remain open. As such, if your local test centre is open, you will be able to book in and sit for an English language test. We will advise you however, in the event that your local test centre is closed as we are monitoring developments on a daily basis.

What if I need to take the Life in the UK test for my application?

Life in the UK test centres across the majority of UK cities remain open. As such, if your local test centre is open, you will be able to book in and sit for the Life in the UK test. We will advise you however, in the event that your local test centre is closed as we are monitoring developments on a daily basis.

How long are decisions taking?

Generally speaking, decisions are taking longer than in 'usual' times because of delays due to COVID-19.

Priority Service is currently suspended. We are finding that Standard Service decisions are taking approximately 2-6 months, depending on the application type.

How long will it take to receive my Biometric Residence Permit (“BRP card”) after application approval?

Generally speaking, BRP card delivery is taking longer than in ‘usual’ times because of delays due to COVID-19. We are finding that BRP cards are taking around 2-3 weeks to be received.

Can I still update my police registration certificate after application approval?

Please note that not all nationalities or UK application types are subject to the police registration requirement. We will inform you if you are subject to this requirement.

At the present time, for those living in London, the Overseas Visitors Records Office remains open for police registration. As such, you will be able to book an appointment to complete police registration after your application has been approved. Appointments may be booked online [here](#). We can assist with the appointment booking process and may also arrange to accompany you to the appointment, if required. Please note that at present, appointments from March 2021 onwards are available.

If you live outside of London, we will provide you with specialised guidance on how to complete police registration.