



HM Government

BREXIT 31 OCTOBER 

**UK NATIONALS
IN THE EU**

A communications pack for partners

Prepare for Brexit at [gov.uk/brexit](https://www.gov.uk/brexit)



Introduction

The UK will leave the European Union (EU) on 31 October, whatever the circumstances.

If there's a no-deal Brexit, UK nationals will have to take action in order to maintain access to rights and services.

The '**Get ready**' campaign is a UK Government campaign to inform UK nationals living in the EU about how to prepare for Brexit, including the steps they need to take. Specifically it will:

- inform them how Brexit might impact on them;
- encourage them to visit **the Living in Guide** and take action to maintain access to rights and services after Brexit;

The four main actions UK nationals need to take are: register for residency; check access to healthcare; check passport validity; and exchange UK driving licences for Portuguese ones.

How you can help

Important partners like you can help us extend the campaign's reach by pushing out our messaging to people we would otherwise struggle to reach.

There are **four key things** you can do to help us:

1. Write out to your colleagues/members/students;
2. Post information on your social media channels;
3. Display our Posters in a prominent location;
4. Talk to your colleagues/members/students about the guidance.

Please let us know of any communications activity that you decide to run in support of the campaign. Contact details are below.

Thank you!

Thank you very much for supporting this campaign. We appreciate your help in informing the UK nationals of changes that could affect them in the coming months.

If you need any further information please do not hesitate to contact us at:

notarial.portugal@fco.gov.uk



How to support this campaign

We want UK nationals in **Portugal** to know how Brexit might affect them, to visit gov.uk/living-in-portugal to find the information they need, and take appropriate action.

Specifically we need UK Nationals to:

1. Register for residency;
2. Check they are covered for healthcare and register with their local health centre;
3. Check their passport is valid for travel;
4. Exchange their UK driving licence for a Portuguese one.

You can help by sharing information with UK nationals via your own communication channels. You could:

- Use the key messages to communicate to UK nationals in any meetings or events you may hold;
- Share on messages and link to the Living in Portugal guide on your social media channels, websites and blogs;
- Ask us for a supply of posters to display in a prominent location.



Key messages for UK nationals

- The UK is leaving the EU on 31 October 2019.
- If there's a no deal Brexit, your rights and how you access services will change.
- Check the Living in Portugal guide for more information, including actions you need to take now to secure your rights.
- There are four priority actions you need to take now:
 1. Register for residency in Portugal;
 2. Check you are covered for healthcare and register with your local health centre;
 3. Check your passport is valid for travel;
 4. Exchange your UK driving licence for a Portuguese one.

What the UK Government is doing

- Protecting the rights of UK nationals in the EU is a priority for the UK Government. We continue to encourage member states to do as much as they can to protect UK nationals living in the EU, and to communicate details of their plans as soon as possible.
- It remains the government's preference to leave with a deal.
- The government will continue to work with the EU and all member states to ensure UK nationals are given the certainty they need.

Key actions for UK nationals

- Check the Living in Portugal Guide where you can find the latest information and sign up for email updates: gov.uk/living-in-portugal

Residency

- If there's a no-deal Brexit, you need to ensure you are registered in the country you live. Check the Living in Portugal Guide for more information, including actions you need to take to secure your rights.

Healthcare

- You should ensure you are properly registered for healthcare as a resident in Portugal.
- If there's a no deal Brexit and you are already registered with your health centre, your access to healthcare will not change.
- You should check the Living in Portugal Guide for more information.

Passports



- You should check you have enough time left on your passport to travel by going to the Living in Guide.

Background

- If there's a no-deal Brexit, you must have at least 6 months left on an adult or child passport to travel to most countries in Europe (not including Ireland). If you renewed your current passport before the previous one expired, extra months may have been added to its expiry date. Any extra months on your passport over 10 years may not count towards the 6 months needed.

Driving Licences

- If there's a no-deal Brexit, you will need to exchange your UK driving licence for a Portuguese driving licence.
- If you are a resident in Portugal on exit day, you have until 31 December 2020 to start the process of exchanging your driving licence.
- If you move to Portugal after 31 October, you will have 3 months from the day you become resident to start the process of exchanging driving licence.
- EU-issued driving licences will continue to be recognised in the UK after Brexit.

Continuing education in the EU

- If there's a no-deal Brexit, continuing education in the EU and any associated fees will depend on the immigration requirements of the host country and/or the requirements of the educational institution. Contact your institution or host country government for advice.
- In Portugal, UK nationals and family members who are enrolled in higher education on leave date or who enrol until 31 December 2020 will be exempt from falling under international student status until graduation.
- If you have made arrangements to enrol on courses with universities in other EU countries, read further guidance for UK nationals studying in the EU.
- The government Erasmus+ and ESC underwrite guarantee means funding is available to UK organisations to support their students to continue their Erasmus+ placement in their host EU country.

Pensions and Benefits

- The UK leaving the EU will not affect your entitlement to continue receiving your UK State Pension if you live in the EU. The UK government will continue to pay a State Pension to those eligible in the EU after Brexit.
- If there is a no-deal Brexit your UK State Pension will be uprated in April 2020, 2021 and 2022 if you live in the EU, EEA or Switzerland.



- In Portugal, UK contributory periods made before 31 December 2020 will continue to be recognised.
- You will carry on receiving other UK benefits you already receive while you are living in the EU, EEA or Switzerland, as long as you continue to meet the eligibility criteria.

Social media

We thank you for your support on promoting our advice and information by sharing our posts on Facebook, Twitter and other social media channels.

Posters

The British Embassy have high resolution posters similar to the one in the image that can be put up in any areas in your local community that you think would be appropriate. For example, on a noticeboard at work or in a community centre.

You can also use this asset if you have any local newsletters.

Please contact the Embassy by replying to this email if you wish to use them so we can send you the posters.

