



Home Office

UK ancestry

Version 16.0

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About this guidance

This guidance tells you how to consider applications from Commonwealth citizens wishing to come to work in the UK on the basis of having a grandparent born in the UK.

The guidance is based on the [Immigration Rules paragraphs 186-193](#).

An applicant is not allowed to change from another immigration category into UK ancestry while they are already in the UK. This is known as switching. The applicant must have entry clearance to come to the UK under UK ancestry.

Contacts

If you have any questions about the guidance and your line manager or senior caseworker cannot help you or you think that the guidance has factual errors then email the Economic Migration Policy Team.

Border Force officers can also email BF National Immigration and Customs Enquiries (BF NICE).

If you notice any formatting errors in this guidance (broken links, spelling mistakes and so on) or have any comments about the layout or navigability of the guidance then you can email Guidance – making changes.

Clearance

Below is information on when this version of the guidance was cleared:

- version **16.0**
- published for Home Office staff on **12 December 2016**

Changes from last version of this guidance

This version has moved to the new template and reflects the following changes:

- FLR(O) has been amended to FLR(IR)

It replaces the UK Ancestry modernised guidance version 14.0 which has been withdrawn and archived.

Related content: [Contents](#)

Related external links

Safeguard and promote child welfare

[Immigration Rules - paragraph 186 -193](#)

Specified application forms and procedures

[Commonwealth countries](#)

Key facts

This page shows you the key facts for UK ancestry category.

Area	Fact
Eligibility requirements	<p>A Commonwealth citizen who:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • is aged 17 or over • can provide proof that one of their grandparents was born in the UK and islands (Guernsey, Jersey or Isle of Man), Republic of Ireland before 31 March 1922, or on a British-registered ship or aircraft • is able to work and intends to take or seek employment in the UK • can maintain and accommodate themselves and any dependants while in the UK without recourse to public funds • has valid entry clearance under UK ancestry
Application forms	<p>Entry Clearance – VAF2 Extension - FLR(IR) Indefinite leave to remain – SET(O)</p>
Cost of application	Fees for Home Office services
Entry clearance mandatory?	Yes
Is biometric information required for applications made in the UK?	Yes
Code of leave to remain granted	Code 1
Entry clearance endorsements	'D: UK ANCESTRY EMPLOYMENT'. CODE 1. 5 YEARS
Conditions of leave to remain	No recourse to public funds
How long is leave to remain normally granted for?	5 years
Are dependants allowed?	Yes
Work and study allowed?	Yes
Is switching into this category allowed?	No
Does time spent in this category lead to settlement (indefinite leave)?	Yes
Is knowledge of language and life required?	Yes unless exempt

Area	Fact
CID case type:	Leave to remain - UK ancestry – LTR Indefinite leave to remain - UK ancestry – ILR
Immigration Rules paragraphs	186 -193

Related content

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Entry or extension requirements

This section tells you the requirements an applicant must meet for a grant of leave to enter or remain in the UK ancestry category.

Before you consider an application you must check:

- it is valid
- the applicant has given biometric information, when required
- the applicant's passport or travel document is genuine
- there are no general grounds for refusal

Guidance on these checks is available using related links:

- Specified application forms and procedures
- Passports and travel documents
- General grounds for refusing
- [Biometric information](#)

The applicant must meet the requirements of paragraph 186 of the Immigration Rules. They must:

- be a Commonwealth citizen
- be aged 17 or over
- provide proof that one of their grandparents was born in the UK and islands and they are the applicant's blood grandparent or grandparent by an adoption recognised by the laws of the UK
- be able to work and intend to take or seek employment (this includes self-employment) in the UK
- be able to maintain and accommodate themselves and any dependants adequately without recourse to public funds
- hold a valid entry clearance for entry in this capacity

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[Employed or seeking employment in UK](#)

Passports and travel documents

Public funds

Related content

[Immigration Rules - paragraph 186-193](#)

[Commonwealth countries](#)

[Immigration Rules - paragraph 320-324 - general grounds for refusal](#)

Documents not in English

This page tells you about what an applicant must provide if they are providing a document which is not in English.

All documents provided with an application must be in English. If they are not, the applicant must provide the original and a full translation which has been independently verified.

The translation must:

- confirm that it is an accurate translation of the original document
- be dated
- include the full name and original signature of the translator or an authorised official of the translation company
- include the translator or translation company's contact details
- be fully certified and include details of the translator or translation company's credentials, if the applicant is applying in the UK

Related content

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Requirements of the applicant

This page tells you the requirements the applicant must meet to qualify under the UK ancestry category.

Commonwealth citizen

A person must be a Commonwealth citizen at the date of application, not necessarily at their date of birth.

For more information, see [Commonwealth countries](#).

Age 17 or over

An applicant must be aged 17 or over at the time they apply for permission to enter the UK.

UK born grandparent

An applicant must be able to provide proof that one of their grandparents was born in the UK and is the applicant's blood grandparent or grandparent by reason of a UK recognised adoption.

The grandparent must have been born:

- in the UK (this includes the Channel Islands and the Isle of Man)
- in what is now the Republic of Ireland before 31 March 1922, or
- on a British registered ship or aircraft

You must refuse the application if they were born anywhere else, including in a British colony or military base overseas.

The applicant's relevant grandparent may be in either the legitimate or illegitimate line. This means that they or their relevant parent's birth may be either within or outside marriage.

For legal interpretations of terms used in the Immigration Rules, you must read [paragraph 6 of the Immigration Rules](#).

Adoption

If the applicant or their parent is adopted, they will meet this requirement if they can prove one of the following:

- they have been adopted by someone who has a parent born in the UK
- one of their parents was adopted by someone born in the UK
- their grandparents by birth (blood grandparents) were born in the UK

The adoption must be through an adoption process recognised as valid for the purposes of UK law. An applicant cannot claim UK ancestry through step-parents.

For more information, see: IDI chapter 8: Family members transitional

For legal interpretations of terms used in the Immigration Rules, you must read [paragraph 6 of the Immigration Rules](#).

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Evidence required

This page tells you the type of documents the applicant can submit with an application to prove they meet the requirements for the UK ancestry category.

The applicant must submit enough evidence to prove they have a UK born grandparent.

Documentary evidence can include:

- their full birth certificate
- the full birth certificates of the parent and grandparent through whom the applicant is making the ancestry application
- legal adoption papers if the applicant, or the applicant's parents, are adopted.
- their marriage certificate or civil partnership registration document if their spouse or civil partner intends to join them in the UK
- offers of employment or, if self-employed, business plan and/or company accounts
- the applicant may include the marriage certificates of parents and grandparents - this is not always required because ancestry can be through the legitimate or illegitimate line: this means the parents and/or the grandparents do not need to be married

You must [check the documents](#) are correct and genuine.

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Related external links

[Immigration Rules - paragraph 186 -193](#)

Check the documents

This page tells you what checks to make on documents submitted to support an application in the UK ancestry category.

For details of the evidence the applicant must submit, see the [‘evidence required’](#) section of this guidance.

You must:

- cross-check the documents to make sure all the details correspond and show a clear line from applicant to grandparent
- check carefully for any signs a document has been altered
- recheck documents sent with previous UK ancestry applications, for example, when a person with 4 or 5 years leave to enter or remain applies for extension or indefinite leave
- get all certificates the application relies on and re-check, for example, birth certificates and, in some cases, marriage certificates
- record the birth certificate reference numbers on CID, including birth certificates of family members (parents and grandparents) provided in support of applications
- search on all birth certificate reference numbers in CID and Warehouse

In cases where the CID check shows birth certificates bearing the same nationality and reference have been used before, you must consult a senior caseworker. You can make checks through local intelligence units or, for documents with an overseas source, through the Foreign & Commonwealth Office.

If you doubt a document is genuine, you must ask for more evidence. This applies particularly to countries where you know birth and marriage records are usually unavailable.

If considering leave to remain or indefinite leave to remain you must not rely on a previous grant of leave as evidence that a person still satisfies the UK ancestry rules.

If you have any doubt about whether documents sent with an application are genuine, you must check with entry clearance posts and/or other service providers. If you are still in doubt, ask your local forgery unit. For more information, see: Forgery.

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[Immigration Rules - paragraph 186-193](#)

Employment/seeking employment in UK

This page explains the meaning of 'employed or seeking employment' when used in the UK ancestry category.

Paragraph 186(iv) of the Immigration Rules says an applicant must be able to work and intend to take or seek employment in the UK.

An applicant in the UK ancestry category must prove they can work and intend to take or seek employment in the UK. For the applicant to meet this requirement, you must be satisfied they either:

- have a job in the UK
- genuinely intend to look for a job (or become self-employed) and are realistically able to do this. When you assess this it may be relevant to consider the applicant's:
 - age
 - health, for example, do they have any medical problems that may prevent them from taking employment?

The applicant need only demonstrate they are able to work and genuinely intend to seek employment. You must not refuse their application on the grounds of a disability alone.

The applicant does not have to be working at the time they apply.

The applicant is not allowed to claim public funds in the UK. For more information, see: [Maintenance and accommodation and public funds](#).

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Related external links

[Immigration Rules - paragraph 186 -193](#)

Maintenance and accommodation and public funds

This page explains the meaning of 'maintenance and accommodation and public funds' when used in the UK ancestry category.

Paragraph 186(v) of the Immigration Rules requires an applicant to be able to maintain and accommodate themselves and any dependants adequately without recourse to public funds.

An applicant is not allowed to claim public funds.

For more information, see: [Public funds](#)

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Related external links

[Immigration Rules - paragraph 186 -193](#)

Indefinite leave requirements

This section tells you the requirements the applicant must meet to gain indefinite leave to remain (settlement) in the UK ancestry category.

Before you consider an application you must check:

- it is valid
- the applicant has given their biometric information, when required
- the applicant's passport or travel document is genuine
- there are no general grounds for refusal

For more information on the following, see related links:

- Specified application forms and procedures
- Biometric information
- Passports and travel documents
- General grounds for refusal

An applicant for indefinite leave must meet the requirements of paragraph 192 of the Immigration Rules. That is:

- continue to meet all the on entry requirements of paragraph 186 (i)-(v)
- have spent a continuous period of 5 years in the UK on the basis of UK ancestry
- have enough knowledge of the English language and enough knowledge about life in the UK, unless they are under the age of 18 or aged 65 or over at the time the application is made

The applicant must not be in the UK in breach of immigration laws, except that any period of overstaying allowed under the immigration rules will be disregarded.

The applicant must specifically ask for indefinite leave. If they have been in the UK for 5 years on the basis of UK ancestry and apply only for an extension of existing leave to remain, you must not treat the application as one for indefinite leave.

For more information on the on entry requirements, see: [Entry or extension requirements](#).

For more information on calculating the 5 year qualifying period for indefinite leave and the employment requirement for indefinite leave, see links:

- Indefinite leave to remain –calculating continuous period in UK
- [Indefinite leave employment requirement](#)

For more information on the knowledge of life requirement, see: Knowledge of language and life in the UK.

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Indefinite leave employment requirement

This page explains what evidence you need when you consider the employment requirement for a person who applies for indefinite leave (settlement) in the UK ancestry category.

A person with leave under UK ancestry is not required to be continuously employed while in the UK. The requirement is for them to stay employed or seek further work.

Applicant employed at date of application

If the applicant is in employment, you can accept one of the following as evidence:

- a letter from their current employer which confirms they will continue in their current job with that employer
- documents to show they are employed, such as recent wage slips

You can accept one of the following as evidence the applicant is self-employed:

- business and/or company accounts
- official letter from a registered accountant which confirms self-employment
- official tax documentation

This is not an exhaustive list. For examples of other kinds of documentation a self-employed applicant can produce, see: [Sponsor applications appendix A - supporting documents for sponsor applications](#), which includes types of evidence self-employed people can provide in table 5.

If the applicant provides other documentation as evidence to show they are self-employed and running their own business but you are not sure if you can accept it, you must speak to your line manager.

Applicant unemployed at date of application

If the applicant is unemployed, you must ask for evidence of their employment record throughout their 5 years in this category and of any attempts they are making to find work. You may grant the application if there is evidence the applicant is currently working or genuinely looking for work.

If it is clear the applicant was not employed throughout the 5 years, you must be satisfied that they have lawfully supported themselves without access to public funds.

You must refuse the application under [paragraph 193 of the Immigration Rules](#) with reference to 192(i) and 186(iv) on the basis that they do not intend to take or seek employment if the evidence suggests that they have not been seeking and do not intend to seek work.

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Knowledge of language and life in the UK

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Granting or refusing

This section gives information you will need when you grant or refuse an application for UK ancestry.

This guidance is based on the Immigration Rules, [paragraphs 186-193](#).

For more information on the following, see related links:

- [Grant or refuse entry clearance](#)
- [Grant or refuse entry at UK port](#)
- [Grant or refuse extension of stay in the UK](#)
- [Grant or refuse indefinite leave](#)

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Grant or refuse entry clearance

This page gives information you will need when you grant or refuse an application for UK ancestry made overseas.

For guidance on the requirements, see: [Entry or extension requirements](#).

Grant entry clearance

When the applicant meets all the requirements of [paragraph 186 of the Immigration Rules](#) and none of the general grounds for refusal in [paragraph 320](#) apply, the endorsement is:

D: UK ANCESTRY EMPLOYMENT'. CODE 1. 5 YEARS.

It must be valid from the date the applicant intends to travel to the UK.

GCID case type is:

UK Ancestry – EC (for referred applications decided in the UK).

Refuse entry clearance

If the applicant does not provide the required evidence to show they meet all the requirements of [paragraph 186](#), or if any of the general grounds for refusal in [paragraph 320](#) apply, you must refuse the application.

GCID case type is:

UK Ancestry – EC (for referred applications decided in the UK).

Appeals

Appeals rights changed for all applications made on or after 6 April 2015 and migrants no longer have a limited right of appeal. See [appeals guidance](#).

Rights of appeal and administrative review - out of country applications

If an application for entry clearance is refused under the points-based system, the applicant cannot appeal against our decision. However, if they think the Home Office has made an error in considering their application, they can apply for an [administrative review](#).

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[Administrative review – Forms for migrants outside the UK](#)

[Applications from overstayers \(non family routes\)](#)

[Rights of appeal](#)

Related external links

[Immigration Rules - paragraph 186 -193](#)

[Immigration Rules - paragraph 320](#)

Grant or refuse entry at UK port

This page explains when to grant or refuse entry at a UK port under the UK ancestry category.

You must be satisfied:

- the applicant has valid entry clearance based on UK ancestry
- there is no reason to believe the applicant gave false information to obtain the entry clearance or that circumstances have changed since it was issued
- none of the general grounds for refusal in [paragraphs 320 to 321](#) of the Immigration Rules apply

Statistical code to record on the landing card: UK Grandparent UKG.

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[Immigration Rules - paragraph 186 -193](#)

Grant or refuse entry at UK port

This page explains when to grant or refuse entry at a UK port under the UK ancestry category.

You must be satisfied:

- the applicant has valid entry clearance based on UK ancestry
- there is no reason to believe the applicant gave false information to obtain the entry clearance or that circumstances have changed since it was issued
- none of the general grounds for refusal in paragraphs 320 to 321 of the Immigration Rules apply

Statistical code to record on the landing card: UK Grandparent UKG.

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Related external links

[Immigration Rules - paragraph 186 -193](#)

Grant or refuse extension of stay in the UK

This page explains when to grant or refuse an extension of stay (leave to remain) in the UK ancestry category and the codes used.

Grant extension

If the person meets all the requirements of [paragraph 189](#) of the Immigration Rules, and none of the general grounds for refusal in [paragraphs 322-323](#) apply, you must grant leave for a period of 5 years in the UK ancestry category on Code 1.

GCID case type is:

UK Ancestry – LTR.

The statistical code is:

UKA - Extension. Y1.

Refuse extension

You must refuse an extension of stay on the basis of UK ancestry if the applicant does not meet all of the requirements of [paragraphs 189 and 186\(i\)-\(v\)](#) of the Immigration Rules.

The refusal is under paragraph 191 of the Immigration Rules, quoting the relevant parts of paragraphs 189 and 186(i)-(v) that the applicant has not met. For example, if the applicant was unable to work, you must refuse on paragraph 191 with reference to paragraphs 189(i) and 186(v).

If you consider refusing an extension of stay on grounds not specific to UK ancestry, you must see:

- General grounds for refusal
- Immigration Rules paragraph 322-323: general grounds for refusal

GCID case type is:

UK Ancestry – LTR.

The statistical code is:

UKA - Refusal. Y5.

Rights of appeal and administrative review - in country applications for leave to remain made before 2 March 2015

If the application was made before 2 March 2015, depending on their appeal rights, applicants may be able to submit an appeal if they want to challenge a

refusal decision for leave to remain (permission to stay in the UK). Details of whether and how they can appeal against our decision must be included in the decision letter.

Rights of appeal and administrative review - in country applications for leave to remain made on or after 2 March 2015

If the application was made on or after 2 March 2015, applicants cannot appeal against our decision. However, if they think the Home Office has made an error in considering their application, they can apply for an administrative review. Details of how to make an administrative review application must be included in the decision letter.

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Grant or refuse indefinite leave

This page explains when to grant or refuse indefinite leave to remain (settlement) in the UK ancestry category and the codes.

Grant indefinite leave

If the person meets all the requirements of [paragraph 192](#) of the Immigration Rules, and none of the general grounds for refusal in [paragraphs 322 to 323](#) apply, you must grant indefinite leave to remain. For more information on requirements, see: [Indefinite leave requirements](#).

GCID case type is:

UK Ancestry – ILR.

The statistical code is:

UKA - UK Ancestry – 4/5 yrs. 2AA.

Refuse indefinite leave

You must refuse indefinite leave on the basis of UK ancestry if the applicant does not meet all the requirements of [paragraph 192](#) of the Immigration Rules.

The refusal is under [paragraph 193](#) of the Immigration Rules, quoting the relevant parts of paragraphs [192 and 186\(i\)-\(v\)](#) that the applicant has not met. For example, if the applicant was not able to work you must refuse on [paragraph 193](#) with reference to [paragraphs 189\(i\) and 186\(v\)](#).

If you are considering refusing indefinite leave on grounds that are not specific to UK ancestry, you must refer to the following links:

- General grounds for refusal
- [Immigration Rules - paragraph 322-323: general grounds for refusal](#)
- 01.4 - Settlement - Guidance - General

GCID case type is:

UK Ancestry – ILR.

The statistical codes are:

- UKA - Refusal Not compl 4/5 yrs. Y7, Refusal No extn of leave granted. Y8
- UKA Refusal No extn of leave granted. Y8

Rights of appeal and administrative review - in country applications for indefinite leave to remain made before 2 March 2015

If the application was made before 2 March 2015, depending on their appeal rights, applicants may be able to submit an appeal if they want to challenge a refusal decision for leave to remain (permission to stay in the UK). Details of whether and how they can appeal against our decision must be included in the decision letter.

Rights of appeal and administrative review - in country applications for indefinite leave to remain made on or after 2 March 2015

If the application was made on or after 2 March 2015, applicants cannot appeal against our decision. However, if they think the Home Office has made an error in considering their application, they can apply for an administrative review. Details of how to make an administrative review application must be included in the decision letter.

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Conditions of leave

This page explains which dependants may join an applicant who comes to the UK in the UK ancestry category, and the requirements they must meet.

Under [paragraphs 194-199](#) of the Immigration Rules, the following dependants are allowed to come to the UK to join a person granted entry clearance or leave to remain on the basis of UK ancestry, provided they meet the requirements of the rules:

- spouse, civil partner, unmarried or same-sex partner
- dependent children

You must read the rules and the guidance on dependants before you make a decision. For more information, see the following links:

- Dependants of part 5 migrants
- [Immigration Rules - paragraph 194 -199](#)

Refusing entry clearance

Refusing entry clearance as the dependant of a person with UK ancestry attracts a full right of appeal, except when the main applicant's own application for entry clearance has been refused.

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