

JUNE 2021



British Embassy
Paris

VOISINS VOICES

A BRITISH EMBASSY PARIS NEWSLETTER

WELCOME

Welcome to the June edition of Voisins Voices! In this edition, we look at updates to our Travel Advice, Attestation d'Accueil, healthcare, the next online outreach event, voting rights, information for UK students studying in France, and the UK National Support Fund. As always, our online Living in France Guide has the most up to date information - please click on this [link to see](#) more detail and register to be notified of updates.

Do please forward this to any friends, family, or new acquaintances living in France. To get added to the distribution list, simply email France.Enquiries@fcdo.gov.uk or follow this [link and fill](#) in the form with your email address and name.

British Ambassador to France: June Article for Connexion France

Each month the British Ambassador to France, Ed Llewellyn, shares an insight into his role through [The Connexion](#). Here is his latest:

By Ed Llewellyn

As this goes to press, it is a big day in Paris - and indeed across France - with the re-opening of terraces! It is wonderful to see them open again across the city - it has been so strange, and such a symbol of the pandemic, to see them closed and shuttered over such a long period.

This is one of several relaxations of the restrictions in France that have been coming into effect, of course. The lifting of constraints on inter-regional travel have made visits possible again, subject to the curfew. I recently visited our team at the Consulate in Bordeaux, to thank them for their hard work throughout the period of the toughest restrictions. I also visited Bordeaux port and met the city's mayor Pierre Hurmic, and laid a wreath in memory of those who took part in Operation Frankton - the 'Cockleshell Heroes'.

For the UK, the year 2021 sees us chairing two key Summits - the G7 Summit, which the Prime Minister will host at Carbis Bay in Cornwall this month - and then the COP26 Summit on tackling climate change in Glasgow in November. The G7 comprises the UK, US, France, Italy, Canada, Germany and Japan. There is a regular drumbeat of ministerial meetings as part of the UK's Presidency of the G7 throughout the year. Last month, the Foreign Secretary hosted a meeting of G7 Foreign and Development Ministers in London. Their discussions, amongst many other issues, included global health; fair access to vaccines; how best to build back after Covid; and improving access to high quality education for girls across the world.

On 6 June, the anniversary of D Day, I will be in Normandy for the official opening of the newly completed British Normandy Memorial just above Gold Beach. This Memorial commemorates the 22,442 who fell under British command during the Normandy campaign. It is a beautiful, fitting tribute to their sacrifice - and I hope that when it opens to the public you may be able to visit it and experience its stillness and calm.



While travel within France is now possible, I know many of you will be anxious to visit family and friends in the UK, which the restrictions have made so difficult in recent months. As I write, travellers from France to the UK are subject to testing and quarantine measures. For more detail and the latest information on the UK's entry requirements, please check the border control pages on [gov.uk](https://www.gov.uk). The Embassy will also communicate any changes to the rules on our social media channels, including Facebook and Twitter, so please do follow us on those. This is obviously an area that is subject to frequent change at short notice as the pandemic evolves.

As many of you will know, following the UK's departure from the EU, British citizens living in France now need the Withdrawal Agreement Residency permit - even if you already had a Carte de Séjour, you need to apply for the new card if you settled in France before 31 December 2020. The deadline for making your application is 30 June 2021, which is almost upon us. So if you've not yet made an application, please do so today. The online process is straightforward and more than 135,000 Brits and their family members in France have already submitted their applications. Should you or someone you know need more support to submit the application, please contact the UK Nationals Support Fund organisations who can assist. [You can find their details here.](#)

If you have already applied and haven't yet heard back, this may be because your prefecture is steadily working its way through a large number of applications. But please make sure you are regularly checking your emails, including your junk folder, as responding promptly to requests for further information will help avoid delays. If it has been several months since you applied, you should visit the prefecture website to see if they have any information about their processing rate. As a last resort, you may wish to contact them to check you have not missed anything.

If you live outside of France and come to work here regularly, you must also apply for a frontier worker permit at the prefecture where you work by 30 June 2021. [See more here.](#)

One of the issues that has been raised most frequently in recent years has been frustration that many of you are not able to vote in UK elections after residing outside the UK for a long period. The Government announced last week its plans to remove the 15-year limit on voting rights. In particular, the planned Bill will enable all British citizens who were previously registered or resident in the UK to vote in UK Parliamentary General elections. These changes will come into effect in time for the next scheduled General Election in 2024. I hope that you will find this welcome news.

I know that the topic of driving licences is a source of concern and frustration for many of you. I want to assure you that I and my team are working hard on this: we are waiting for the French authorities to finalise an agreement on the recognition and exchange of driving licences. Implementing legal changes on the French side is taking longer than we had hoped, which is why we have not yet been able to publish details of new arrangements. We are pressing the French authorities for a rapid response - I have raised in the last few days again with the Ministry of the Interior and the Prime Minister's office, stressing the real difficulties that this matter is causing for British citizens in France. We will keep pressing and as soon as we have an update, we will share it with you on our social media channels, our online Living in France guide and here in The Connexion. In the meantime, valid UK licences continue to be recognised until the end of this year.

Let me close by wishing you a very pleasant June, I hope wherever you are in France you are able to enjoy some sunshine and the beginning of summer.

Travel Update

France is on the UK's amber list for international travel. You should not travel to amber list countries or territories for leisure purposes. The list of amber countries is kept under regular review.

Travel to the UK from France

Travellers to the UK must:

- [Complete a passenger locator form.](#)
- [Have proof of a negative COVID-19 test taken within 3 days of departure \(if 11 years or over\).](#)
- [Quarantine for 10 days.](#)
- [Complete COVID-19 tests on day 2 and 8 of your quarantine.](#)



You may be denied boarding if you do not comply with these requirements, or fined if found to have broken the rules. If you entered France from a red-listed country less than ten days before you arrive in England, then you will need to use [managed quarantine](#).

There are a small number of exemptions to these rules, which you can find [here](#).

In England, you can still use the Test and Release scheme to end quarantine early, [if you take a test after 5 days](#).

You can find specific information [here](#) if you are travelling to Scotland, Wales or Northern Ireland.



Travel to France from the UK

From Monday 31 May, travel to France from the UK is permitted only for EU nationals, French residents, or those travelling for essential reasons. This applies to all air, car, ferry and train passengers.

Arrivals from the UK who are resident in France may need to show proof of residence. Those who are not French residents or EU nationals will need an essential reason to travel and to complete an [International Travel Certificate](#). Further information is available on the [French government's website](#).

Arrivals from the UK will need to complete a 'sworn statement' (déclaration sur l'honneur) form self-certifying they are not suffering from symptoms associated with coronavirus and have not been in contact with confirmed cases in the preceding fortnight. This can be found on the [French government's website](#).

The French government strongly advises limiting international travel to a minimum.

Testing requirements

All travellers from the UK, including children aged 11 and above, will need to present a negative PCR COVID-19 test result, carried out less than 48 hours before departure.

HGV or van drivers arriving in France from the UK are no longer required to provide a negative COVID-19 test to enter France. The latest information for HGV or van drivers is available [here](#).

You should not use the NHS testing service to get a test in order to facilitate your travel to another country. You should arrange to take a private test from a [private coronavirus testing provider](#).

Self-isolation

Passengers arriving in France from the UK must agree to self-isolate for seven days on arrival, and, if over 11 years of age, to take a PCR test at the end of the isolation period. Find more information on [how to get a PCR test in France](#).

Please continue to follow our [Travel Advice for France](#) and [@BritishinFrance](#) on Twitter.

If you are travelling from France elsewhere within the European space, please do check our [Travel Advice for the relevant country](#) in case of border restrictions and/or testing requirements.

You can find general advice on travelling abroad from the UK [here](#).

Entry requirements and Attestation d'Accueil

From Monday 31 May, travel to France from the UK is permitted only for EU nationals, French residents, or those travelling for essential reasons. This applies to all air, car, ferry and train passengers. The French government strongly advises limiting international travel to a minimum.

France is on England's amber list. The Government advises that you should not travel to amber list countries or territories and the FCDO advises against all but essential travel to the whole of France based on the current assessment of COVID-19 risks.

Regular entry requirements

Visas

The rules for travelling or working in European countries changed on 1 January 2021:

- you can travel to countries in the [Schengen area](#) which France is part of for up to 90 days in any 180-day period without a visa. This applies if you travel as a tourist, to visit family or friends, to attend business meetings, cultural or sports events, or for short-term studies or training
- if you are travelling to France and other Schengen countries without a visa, make sure your whole visit is within the 90-day limit. Visits to Schengen countries within the previous 180 days before you travel count towards your 90 days
- to stay longer, to work or study, for business or for other reasons, you will need to meet the French government's entry requirements. To see what your individual entry requirement might be visit [France Visas](#) website
- if you stay in France with a visa or permit, this does not count towards your 90-day visa-free limit
- British citizens who are unable to return to the UK before the expiry of their visa/permit or the end of their visa-free limit due to COVID-19 restrictions should contact their local immigration authorities in France.

Any time you spent in France or other Schengen countries before 1 January 2021 does not count towards your 90-day visa-free limit.

At French border control your passport may be stamped on entry and exit. You should also be prepared to:

- queue in separate lanes from EU, EEA or Swiss citizens.
- show proof of where you intend to stay, for example, a booking confirmation of your accommodation (e.g. hotel, B&B or Airbnb-type booking), proof of address if visiting your own property (e.g. second home).
- show proof of insurance for your trip. Please check the guidance on travel insurance [here](#).
- prove that you have enough money for your stay. The minimum amount required depends on your accommodation and your length of stay. See below.

For further information on these requirements, visit the [French government's](#) website on travel conditions for British citizens.

Where are you staying?

France categorises possible accommodation arrangements for visitors as follows:

1. **Staying with family, friends or third party**

You may be asked to provide an invitation from your host if you are staying with a friend or family. This must be done by the French resident hosting you and who will need to obtain an "attestation d'accueil" from their local mayor's office, and send you the original before you enter France. If you do not have an attestation d'accueil you should be ready to fulfil the requirements of option 4 below.

2. **You have a second home in France**

You will need to be able to prove ownership or tenancy of your property e.g. tax or utility bill.

3. **You are staying in a hotel or other** commercially provided accommodation

A reservation confirmation may be asked at the border. This includes major booking platforms such as Airbnb.

4. **You do not have an attestation d'accueil** or any pre-booked accommodation

In this case you may be asked to prove you have sufficient funds to pay for your accommodation for the duration of your stay. Expect to show funds of at least €120 per day for the duration of stay e.g. bank statement.

There are separate requirements for those who are resident in France. If you are resident in France, you should carry proof of residence as well as your valid passport when you travel. For further information for residents, see our [Living in France guide](#).

Healthcare

If you've visited your local doctor in France recently you may recognise the poster below, which is being displayed in surgeries and hospitals across France. All the cards shown on the poster are valid for use until their marked expiry date.



Direction
de la sécurité sociale



UK-insured reciprocal healthcare entitlement documents (EHIC/GHIC)

All documents below are valid for use until the expiry date marked on the card

Attestation de droits d'accès aux soins de la santé type CEAMS pour les personnes assurées du régime britannique (EHIC/GHIC)

Tous les documents mis en évidence ci-dessous sont valables jusqu'à la date d'expiration indiquée sur la carte

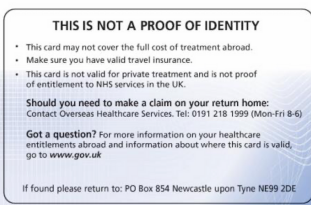
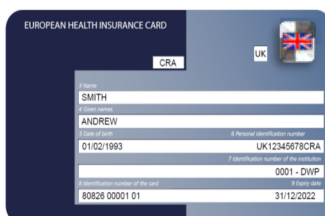
UK-issued EHIC with stars



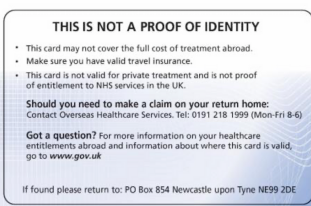
UK-issued EHIC without stars



UK-issued EHIC (Citizens' Rights Agreement)



Global Health Insurance Card (GHIC)



Do you have a specific question about accessing healthcare in France? From next week, we'll be offering one-on-one healthcare surgeries with one of our expert policy advisors. The slots will be 10 minutes long and we'll share information about signing up on our social media pages. Do keep an eye out if you have a question about your S1 form, are wondering whether you need a carte vitale or have a query about EHIC and GHIC cards. Please note that these will not be sessions regarding illnesses or medical problems. If you have any health problems, please seek advice from a doctor or healthcare professional.

You're invited to The Queen's Birthday Party

In June, the Embassy's digital doors will be flung open to celebrate Her Majesty The Queen's Birthday. For the first time ever, we are hosting our traditional summer party online, and we'd love to invite you! This will be a fun, interactive event that will show off the best of British, celebrate our links with France, and offer a peak behind the scenes of the Embassy.

On 24 June we are delighted to host an evening dedicated to UK nationals resident in France, with all the above plus a host of Withdrawal Agreement related information in one easily accessible setting. The evening should provide you with answers to all the questions you might have, as well as clear guidance on how to receive support or guidance in applying for residency permits – plus a chance to toast The Queen!

We will not be hosting an online outreach event on Microsoft Teams this month, and we encourage you instead to sign up to our Queen's Birthday Party event, and to share this invitation with your friends and family.

[Please sign up at this link.](#)



Voting Rights

As we shared in last month's newsletter, new measures announced in the Queen's Speech will make it easier for British citizens who have moved abroad to participate in our democracy.

Decisions made in the UK Parliament on foreign policy, defence, immigration, pensions and trade deals affect British citizens who live overseas. It is therefore right that they have a say in UK Parliamentary General Elections.

The Government has now set out further detail on plans to scrap the arbitrary rule that prevents British citizens from voting in General Elections if they have lived abroad for more than 15 years

The changes, which will form part of the Elections Bill, will include measures to enable overseas electors to stay registered to vote for longer, with an absent voting arrangement in place.

Minister of State for the Cabinet Office, Lord True, said:

"In an increasingly global and connected world, most British citizens living overseas retain deep ties to the United Kingdom. Many still have family here, have a history of hard work in the UK behind them, and some have even fought for our country.

"These measures support our vision for a truly Global Britain, opening up our democracy to British citizens living overseas who deserve to have their voices heard in our Parliament, no matter where they choose to live."

The proposals fulfil a manifesto commitment to deliver 'votes for life', extending the voting franchise for UK Parliamentary General Elections to all British citizens living overseas who have been previously registered or previously resident in the UK.

In addition, new rules will mean overseas electors can stay registered for longer, including with an absent voting arrangement in place, requiring them to renew their registration details once every three years, rather than annually.

Electors will be able to reapply for a postal vote or refresh their proxy vote at the same time as renewing their voter registration, streamlining the process and helping to ensure overseas electors have appropriate voting arrangements in place ahead of an election. Those who are entitled to vote should always be able to exercise that right freely, securely and in an informed way. The Government's wider Elections Bill will also: improve access to voting for electors with disabilities; prevent foreign interference by hostile actors; tackle electoral fraud by post, proxy, in polling stations or through intimidation and undue influence; and increase transparency and accountability within our elections. Further announcements will be made on its measures ahead of the Bill's introduction.

Studying in France

If you are not in scope of the Withdrawal Agreement (i.e. did not live in France before January 2021), but have been accepted in a higher education programme in France for the year 2021-2022 you will need to get a visa.

Campus France UK of the Higher Education, Science and Innovation Department of the French Embassy in London service opened the new platform Etudes en France the 28th of May 2021.

Registering on the Etudes en France platform is mandatory before applying for a long-stay student visa. You need to register up to 3 months and at least fifteen days before your programme begins in France.

[More info here.](#)



Applying for Residency in France and Available Support

Apply now for a Withdrawal Agreement Residency Permit, even if you already have a carte de sejour. All UK nationals need to have this new permit, unless they have a second EU nationality. If you don't take action by 30 June you risk losing your rights in France.

If you're applying for residency, don't forget to check your emails regularly, including your junk folder. Your Prefecture may ask for more information and responding promptly will help keep your application moving. Let the Prefecture know if you cannot make the appointment you have been given.

There are a number of organisations dedicated to helping British nationals living in France in applying for a Withdrawal Agreement residency permit. Check out [our latest newsletters](#) for a profile on each of them and find their contact details below.

PARTNERSHIP PACKS

We have printed a set of Partnership Packs - handy booklets explaining what UK nationals living in France need to do to protect their rights under the Withdrawal Agreement. If you know of an organisation that would find these useful, please contact France.Enquiries@fcdo.gov.uk, giving the name of the organisation and its address, and stating whether you could best use a pack of 20 or of 50.

UK NATIONALS SUPPORT FUND

In France, [four British Government funded organisations](#) can help UK nationals secure their residency rights. They provide practical support to individuals finding it harder to complete applications, including pensioners, disabled people, those living in remote areas or who have mobility difficulties, and those who face language barriers or barriers in accessing technology.

IOM - The International Organisation for Migration (Brittany, Normandy, Ile de France, Hauts-de-France, and Pays de la Loire)

Visit the [IOM website](#)

Email: UKnationalsFR@iom.int

Hotline: 08 09 54 98 32 available during the following hours:

Mon - Tues 2pm to 4pm and Wed - Thurs 10.30am to 12.30pm

FBN - The Franco-British Network (Dordogne, Provence-Alpes-Côte-d'Azur, Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes)

Visit the [FBN website](#)

Email: [The Franco-British Network](#)

Hotline: 05 19 88 01 09 available during the following hours:

Mon, Tues and Wed, 9am to 1pm; Thurs and Fri 1pm to 5pm

Church of England - Diocese in Europe (Nouvelle Aquitaine, Occitanie, Grand Est, Bourgogne-Franche-Comté, Centre-Val de Loire, Corsica)

Visit the [Diocese in Europe Residency Support Project website](#)

Hotline: 05 32 80 00 05 available during the following hours:

Mon - Fri 9:30am to 12:00pm and 1:30pm to 4pm;

Tues 5.30pm to 8pm; Sat: 9:30am to 12:00pm

SSAFA, The Armed Forces Charity (veterans across France)

Visit the [SSAFA website](#)

Email: ukvie.support@ssafa.org.uk

Hotline: 08 05 11 96 17

USEFUL LINKS TO ADDITIONAL GUIDANCE OR SUPPORT

Please visit the webpages below for more information. The links and contact details can signpost you in the right direction and also connect you to those who can provide support or offer help with technical matters if you need it.

Key websites:

- Living in France Guide: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/living-in-france>
- France Travel Advice: <https://www.gov.uk/foreign-travel-advice/france>
- Sign up to the Business Newsflash: bit.ly/WeeklyNewsflash
- French government website: www.brexit.gouv.fr
- Healthcare in France: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/healthcare-in-france-including-martinique-and-guadaloupe>
- NHS advice on planning healthcare abroad: <https://www.nhs.uk/using-the-nhs/healthcare-abroad/moving-abroad/planning-your-healthcare/>
- If you use social media, do also follow us on Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/ukinfrance> and on [Twitter](https://twitter.com/BritishinFrance) @BritishinFrance

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