

BREXIT consequences in terms of residence law

Competent Department

- [Aufenthalt](#)
- [Migrationsamt](#)

Basic information

Great Britain and Northern Ireland will leave the European Union at the end of January 31, 2020.

According to Section 1 of the Brexit Transition Act, Great Britain and Northern Ireland will continue to be a member state of the European Union for the transition period until December 31, 2020. This means that they will continue to be entitled to freedom of movement in 2020. The residence rights of British nationals and their family members and the right to work in Germany will not change in the meantime. British citizens therefore do not need a residence permit until December 31, 2020 if they wish to live in Bremen.

From January 1, 2021, British nationals who were entitled to reside or work in Germany until then and had made use of this right will essentially have the same rights as before the withdrawal. The rights are therefore frozen, as it were, insofar as they have also been used. These rights exist "by operation of law". You can therefore assert them without any further action on your part.

However, in order to prove that you have rights under the Withdrawal Agreement, it is mandatory that you obtain a document from the Migration Board. Therefore, all British citizens are obliged to report your stay in Germany to the Migration Office. You can find more details under the menu item Procedure.

In principle, British nationals and their family members can continue to be employed beyond 31.12.2020 if they were already employed there previously.

For more information on the right of residence and employment for British nationals and their family members, see "i" Where can I find out more?

Procedure

The residence notification must be made in the period from 01.01.2021 to 30.06.2021. The notification of residence can be made informally, by e-mail to ref20@migrationsamt.bremen.de, or by post.

A personal visit is not required for this purpose.

Please make sure to include a copy of your current British national passport with your notification of residence.

In order to process your notification of residence, we also require two pieces of evidence that you are currently residing in Germany and that you have also resided here prior to 01.01.2021. This can be, for example, invoices, employment contracts, pay slips, rental contracts, utility bills, etc. Unfortunately, a registration certificate alone is not sufficient proof.

Should we require further documents or have any queries, we will contact you.

After the notification you will receive a confirmation and further information from the migration office.

If you are considering applying for German citizenship, please contact our citizenship office for a non-binding consultation: (see under "i" Where can I find out more?).

What are the costs?

We will inform you in writing about the costs for your new residence document in 2021.