

You may already be aware that the UK government is making improvements to deliver a more streamlined, digital immigration system which will be quicker and more secure for the millions of people who pass through the UK border each year.

Electronic Travel Authorisations (ETAs) are being introduced worldwide for visitors to the UK who do not currently need a visa for short stays, or who do not already have a UK immigration status prior to travelling.

The introduction of ETAs is in line with the approach many other countries have taken to border security.

Key dates

Eligible **non-Europeans** can apply for an ETA from 27 November 2024 and will need an ETA to travel to the UK from 8 January 2025 onwards.

Eligible **Europeans** can apply for an ETA from 5 March 2025 and will need an ETA to travel to the UK from 2 April 2025 onwards.

Key points

- Although European students will not need an ETA when they first arrive in the UK in January 2025, if they intend to travel outside the UK during the Easter break (28 March 2025 – 28 April 2025), they will need an ETA to return for the final weeks of teaching and exams.
- Students can apply for an ETA from within the UK.
- Dual nationals who hold a British or Irish passport do not need to apply for an ETA.
- ETAs are linked to passports, not people, so students should apply with the passport they intend to use to travel to the UK.
- An ETA costs £10 and permits multiple journeys to the UK for stays of up to six months at a time over two years or until the holder's passport expires – whichever is sooner.

Information Videos

The Government video 'What is an Electronic Travel Authorisation?' provides viewers with a quick overview of the ETA and who will need one.

The video details:

- Who needs an ETA
- ETA validity
- Proof of an ETA
- Entering the UK

and can be watched here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EQVvTTbHlu4>

The Government video 'Getting started: applying for an ETA' video provides applicants with a short and simple walkthrough of the ETA application process.

The video details:

- Where to apply
- When to apply
- How to apply
- What applicants receive

and can be watched here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uG1zaOMI63M>

A useful factsheet with information and answers to frequently asked questions in separate files.