

## FFOA IN 2025/1

Dear Members,

New Year greetings to all. As we have a diverse membership of many nationalities, we thought it good to provide members with information on the new travel requirements for visiting the United Kingdom, even if only transiting through a UK airport:

The UK's ETA is being introduced in three stages; it is already a requirement for nationals of Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates.

From **Wednesday January 8th, 2025**, an ETA is required for nationals of all non-EU or non-EEA countries - including Americans, Canadians, Australians and New Zealanders. So even if you are living in the EU, if you are a non-EU national and don't have an EU passport you'll need an ETA from January 8th.

The final stage involves EU and EEA countries - Andorra, Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czechia, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Italy, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Monaco, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, San Marino, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland and Vatican City. Passengers will require the ETA from **April 2nd, 2025**. (Travelers can apply from March 5th).

The only exception is for people travelling on an Irish passport (because of the Common Travel Area between the UK and Ireland). Anyone with UK dual-nationality won't need an ETA *as long as they use their UK passport to travel*.

Non-EU and EU nationals who have a British spouse will still require the ETA.

UK visa-holders or anyone who has residency status in the UK (for example EU nationals who moved before Brexit and have Settled or Pre-Settled Status) are exempt. **if you are a visitor from a country that requires a**

visa to enter the UK, you apply for your visa as before, but you do not need an ETA.

Otherwise everyone needs one - including children or babies. EU nationals who have a British spouse and airline passengers who are simply transiting through the UK will require an ETA.

The ETA is intended for short visits such as holidays and family stays - it does not allow people to stay in the UK for more than 180 days or to work in the UK.

**How can I get one?** apply online or on the UK ETA app in advance of your trip - the UK government says that applications will normally be processed within three working days, but sometimes this may take longer. ***You cannot enter the UK until the ETA has been processed.***

The ETA costs £10 and lasts for two years - during that time you can make multiple trips to the UK. If your passport is renewed during that time, you will need to apply for a new ETA.

You cannot make group applications - each person in a group needs their own ETA, but you can make the application for another person.

Regards,

FFOA Secretariat