

RESIDENCE RIGHTS IN PORTUGAL FOR UNITED KINGDOM NATIONALS AFTER THE UNITED KINGDOM'S WITHDRAWAL FROM THE EUROPEAN UNION (BREXIT)

On 29 March 2019, 23h00 (WET), the United Kingdom (UK) will cease to be a European Union (EU) Member State. The **Withdrawal Agreement**¹ will ensure the status and rights of EU citizens living in the UK, and of UK nationals living in EU Member States. The Agreement also establishes a transition period from the withdrawal date until 31 December 2020.

Under the term of the Agreement, UK nationals and their family members who already are permanent residents in Portugal will be able to maintain that right. And all those who arrive before the end of the transition period (31 December 2020) will be able to acquire permanent residence status after completing a five-year residence period.

The Portuguese Government wants to reassure UK nationals and their family members living in Portugal that they are welcome to stay.

IF YOU ARE ALREADY A PERMANENT RESIDENT IN PORTUGAL

UK nationals and their family members will enjoy exactly the same rights and obligations, framed by the same administrative procedures. Expired residence permits will be renewed under the same requirements already foreseen in national legislation (Law no. 37/06, 9 August). Current fees will also continue to apply.

Therefore:

If you already have a **permanent residence card** (valid for 10 years), the same rights and obligations apply and no further action is required. If your **permanent residence card** has expired, you may submit a renewal request to the Immigration and Borders Service (*Serviço de Estrangeiros e Fronteiras* - SEF) by presenting your **permanent residence card** (expired or valid only for the next six months); and a passport or a valid identity card. If you have changed addresses, you must present proof of your current address (for example, a statement from your Town Council

(*Junta de Freguesia*), your home deed, proof of acquisition of real estate, or your lease contract).

In order to renew their **permanent residence card**, UK nationals' family members must submit the above-mentioned documents, as well as a proof of their family connection.

IF YOU ARE NOT YET A PERMANENT RESIDENT IN PORTUGAL

IF YOU HAVE NEVER REGISTERED

If you and your family are already residing in Portugal, but have not yet registered as residents, you must register at the City Council (*Câmara Municipal*) of your area of residence (you should request the issuance of a **registration certificate**, which is valid for 5 years).

UK nationals and their family members arriving in Portugal before 29 March 2019 need to register at the City Council (*Câmara Municipal*) of their area of residence, under the same conditions currently applicable.

The Withdrawal Agreement establishes that these rules will apply until the end of the transition period. Therefore, UK nationals and their family members arriving in Portugal before 31 December 2020 must follow the above-mentioned procedure.

If family members of UK nationals are citizens of a non-EU country, their resident status application should be addressed to SEF.

IF YOU HAVE NOT COMPLETED FIVE YEARS OF LEGAL RESIDENCE

In case you already hold a **registration certificate**, but you have not yet completed the five-year residence period, you may continue to live in Portugal under the same rights and obligations. After completing the

¹Please note that the Withdrawal Agreement needs to be ratified by both the UK and the EU for its entry into force. The text can be found on:

https://www.consilium.europa.eu/media/37095/draft_withdrawal_agreement_incl_art132.pdf