

Electronic Travel Authorisation (ETA): Stakeholder factsheet

Background

- Each year the UK welcomes millions of visitors from around the world. From holidays to short term study or business trips, the UK is a dynamic, diverse, and exciting destination.
- We are introducing an Electronic Travel Authorisation (ETA) scheme as part of our transformation and digitisation of the UK border – an ETA is a digital permission to travel.
- The improvements we are making to our border system will enhance security and over time transform the experience for legitimate travellers, providing an increasingly seamless experience when crossing the UK border.
- The ETA scheme is open to Qatari nationals, who can now apply and will require an ETA to travel to the UK on or after 15 November 2023. Other nationalities do not need to apply yet.
- Visitors from the other Gulf Cooperation Council states and Jordan will be able apply for an ETA from 1 February 2024, ahead of a worldwide expansion of the scheme.
- An ETA costs £10 and permits multiple journeys to the UK over two years or until the holder's passport expires – whichever is sooner.
- The introduction of an ETA scheme is in line with the approach many other countries have taken to border security, including the US and Australia, and will help prevent the arrival of those who present a threat to the UK.

Eligibility for an ETA

- Visitors who do not [need a visa](#) for short stays or who do not have any other UK immigration status prior to travelling will be required to apply for an ETA in advance of their travel. An ETA is not a visa, it does not permit entry into the UK – it authorises an individual to travel to the UK.
- The ETA scheme is being rolled out in phases. It will replace the Electronic Visa Waiver (EVW) scheme, making it cheaper and longer lasting for visitors to the UK who are nationals of:
 - Qatar
 - Saudi Arabia
 - Oman
 - Bahrain
 - Kuwait
 - United Arab Emirates

- British and Irish citizens will not require an ETA.

Timing of the ETA scheme

Nationality	Can apply for an ETA from	Will need an ETA from
Qatar	25 October 2023	15 November 2023
Saudi Arabia Oman Bahrain Kuwait United Arab Emirates Jordan	1 February 2024	22 February 2024
Additional nationalities	To be announced	To be announced

- Qatari nationals who intend to visit the UK before 15 November 2023, will continue to require an EVW or visa to travel to the UK.
- Before 22 February 2024, nationals of Saudi Arabia, Oman, Bahrain, Kuwait and the United Arab Emirates will continue to require an EVW or visa to travel to the UK.
- Before 22 February 2024, Jordanian nationals will continue to require a visa to travel to the UK.
- The ETA scheme will be implemented worldwide for visitors to the UK who do not currently need a visa for short stays, including European nationals. We will provide further details about timings of the scheme in due course.

Applying for an ETA

- The application process is simple and fast. Most applicants will receive a response within three working days, with many receiving a result sooner.
- The easiest way to apply for an ETA is through the 'UK ETA app'. Individuals can also search for '[Apply for an Electronic Travel Authorisation to come to the UK](#)' on GOV.UK if they do not have access to a smartphone.
- To apply for an ETA, individuals need to:
 - Pay a fee
 - Provide contact and passport details
 - Provide a valid photo, complying with our rules for digital photos on [GOV.UK](#)
 - Answer a set of questions
- An ETA costs £10. As with all our fees, we will keep the cost of an ETA under review.

Frequently asked questions

Will EU, EEA and Swiss nationals require an ETA?

- Yes, in the future EU, EEA and Swiss nationals (except Irish citizens) will be required to obtain an ETA before travelling to the UK. We will provide information on when EU, EEA and Swiss nationals will need an ETA in due course.

How will individuals know if they need to obtain a visa instead of an ETA?

- If an individual intends to visit the UK for longer than six months, they will need to obtain a relevant visa. They may also need a visa for stays of less than six months for purposes other than visit, transit and some business visits.
- Individuals can check if they need a visa by using the [visa checking tool on GOV.UK](#).

What will happen if someone is refused an ETA?

- If an individual's ETA application is refused, they will need to [apply for a visa](#) if they still wish to seek permission to come to the UK.

When should someone apply for an ETA?

- Individuals should apply for an ETA before booking travel to the UK.

Can individuals appeal an ETA refusal decision?

- No. If an individual is refused an ETA and still wishes to seek permission to travel to the UK, they can [apply for a visa](#).

Do children require a separate ETA?

- Yes. Children of all ages must have their own ETA.

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