

UK Travel and Passport Requirements for Dual Citizens



1. How can I check if I am a British or Irish citizen?

You can find out if you are a British or Irish citizen by using the government's official online info here:

[Check British Citizenship](#)

[Check Irish Citizenship](#)

2. I was born in the UK but now hold a New Zealand passport. Do I need a British passport to travel?

If you hold British citizenship, **you are required to travel using a valid British passport** to enter the UK from 25th February 2026 onwards. If your British passport is expired or you don't have one, you must apply for or renew it before travel. You cannot use only your New Zealand passport with an ETA if you are a British citizen.

3. My mother/father was born in the UK, then moved to New Zealand. Does this affect my eligibility for a British passport?

You may be eligible for British citizenship by descent if your parent was born in the UK. This can make you eligible to apply for a British passport. You will need to check the specific circumstances and eligibility through UK government resources or a legal advisor. If eligible, **you must hold a valid British passport to travel to the UK** from 25th February 2026.

4. If I have multiple passports, including British and Irish, which should I use to enter the UK?

You should use a valid British or Irish passport to enter the UK. British and Irish citizens are not eligible for an ETA and must travel with their British or Irish passport. If you travel on another passport without a British or Irish passport or a certificate of entitlement, you may be denied boarding or face additional identity checks.

5. Can I travel to the UK on an Irish passport if I am also a British citizen?

Yes, you can travel to the UK on a valid Irish passport even if you are also a British citizen. Both British and Irish citizens have the right to enter the UK without immigration control, **but you must use a valid British or Irish passport.**

6. What if my British passport is expired and I have travel booked soon?

You should apply for a British passport renewal immediately. Processing times vary, so apply as soon as possible. Alternatively, if you are also an Irish citizen and hold or are eligible for an Irish passport, you can travel with a valid Irish passport instead.

7. Where can I find official guidance on this?

UK government guidance on dual nationality and travel:

[UK Government Official Guidance](#)

In-depth FAQ from UK Parliament:

[UK Parliament FAQ](#)

8. Is it easier to get a certificate of entitlement than a new passport?

It is significantly more expensive to apply for a certificate of entitlement (£589) than a British passport (£94.50 for adults or £61.50 for under 16s when applying online).

9. What can I do if I have an urgent need to travel?

British nationals abroad might be able to apply for an emergency travel document if they have an urgent need to travel and can't renew or replace their British passport in time. It might be more difficult to get an emergency travel document if the person hasn't had a UK passport for many years.

10. "I'm just going on holiday, I have no plans to live there, why do I now have to have a British passport?"

Even if you're only visiting the UK on holiday, as a British citizen you have the right to enter the country without immigration control. To prove this right at the border, you must travel with a valid British passport. From February 25, 2026, you won't be allowed to use an ETA or other passports for entry if you hold British citizenship, so having a British passport is essential to avoid being denied boarding or entry.

11. Can Visa Atlas provide advice beyond official guidance?

No. Visa Atlas must follow the UK government's official rules and guidance. We cannot interpret or offer advice beyond this.