



Intercountry adoption and resident status requirements

Prospective adopters who wish to adopt a child by way of an intercountry adoption need to ensure they will be able to obtain the necessary clearance for that child to enter and reside in the UK.

Minimum requirements are set out below, however, entry clearance requirements vary depending upon the circumstances of each case and prospective adopters will need to obtain their own independent legal advice to establish the requirements that apply to their individual circumstances.

Minimum requirements

All prospective adopters must be habitually resident in the British Islands.

If the prospective adopter is an EEA national, they will also need to satisfy the following status:

- Permanent residence or equivalent status (for Hague Convention and non-Hague Convention adoptions)

Or

- Qualified person status (for Hague Convention adoptions only)

It is possible to apply for a registration certificate which confirms an individual's right to live in the UK as a qualified person. This would be satisfactory evidence of qualified person status for the purposes of an intercountry adoption

application. <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/apply-for-a-registration-certificate-as-a-qualified-person-form-eea-qp>

Similarly, it is possible to apply for a document certifying permanent residence which confirms that an individual has acquired such a right in the UK. This would be satisfactory evidence of permanent residence status for the purpose of an intercountry adoption

application. <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/apply-for-a-document-certifying-permanent-residence-or-permanent-residence-card-form-eea-pr>

If the prospective adopter is a non-EEA national they will also need to satisfy that they have permanent residence or equivalent status e.g. Indefinite Leave to Remain (ILR).