

## BRITISH CITIZENSHIP:

For some time those who are to be granted British citizenship have gone through a small ceremony when their application has been accepted by the Home Office. This involves 'swearing an oath' (i.e. making a promise) to respect and defend the Queen and country. For many immigrants this is a proud moment with many benefits. To find out more about what that involves visit [www.ind.homeoffice.gov.uk/britishcitizenship](http://www.ind.homeoffice.gov.uk/britishcitizenship) or call 0845 010 5200.

Once you have British citizenship you can apply for a British passport. As you'd expect, this all costs money. See the table below or go to [www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/documents/britishcitizenship/feesfrom060409.pdf](http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/documents/britishcitizenship/feesfrom060409.pdf)

Fee type	ADULTS APPLYING FOR BRITISH CITIZENSHIP	COST	THE FORM(S) YOU NEED
A	Naturalisation	£720	AN
B	Husband and wife or civil partners living together who apply for naturalisation at the same time pay a joint fee	£850	AN
A	Registration	£480	B(OS), B(OTA) EM RS1, S1 S2 S3 T.UKM
	<b>APPLICATIONS FOR OTHER FORMS OF BRITISH NATIONALITY</b>		
C	Adults applying to register as British Overseas citizens or British subjects each pay	£460	S1
	It is possible to be registered or naturalised as a British overseas territories citizen in the UK only in exceptional circumstances. Where this is done, the fees are the same as for the corresponding application for registration or naturalisation as a British citizen.		AN (modified) RS2 S1 S2 S3
	<b>CHILDREN</b>		
D	One child under 18 *plus £50 for each additional child	£460 *	B(OTA) B(OS) EM MN1 S2 S3 T
E	One or more child under 16 applying separately from their parents to register as British Overseas citizens or British subjects *plus £50 for each additional child	£460 *	MN3 MN4 S2
	<b>RENUNCIATION OF BRITISH NATIONALITY</b>		
F	Applications made at the same time to renounce one or more nationalities (including British citizenship, British Overseas citizenship and British overseas territory citizenship) one fee	£395	RN1, RN2

	Renunciation of British National (overseas) status	No Fee	RN3
	<b>RIGHT OF ABODE</b>		
G	Application for a certificate of entitlement to the right of abode in the UK	£140	ROA
	<b>OTHER</b>		
H	Duplicate certificate	£75	
I	Confirmation of status as a British citizen	£75	NS
J	Confirmation of non-acquisition of British citizenship	£75	NQ

Yet soon there will be major changes in the way that foreign nationals can become British citizens. In essence it will become much harder. The political decision to make such changes has been driven by public consultation.

All changes are intended to be clear and fair. And all changes will have to comply with EU law, whatever British politicians want. This is because all EU citizens and many other immigrants from elsewhere, have rights that the British government cannot easily remove. These are rights established under existing agreements, including those under EU and Human Rights legislation.

At the centre of all such changes planned by the British government there would be a 'Citizenship Contract'.

#### **WHAT THE CITIZENSHIP CONTRACT WOULD DO:**

Broadly speaking the aims are for foreigners to:

- Have the rights and benefits of citizenship
- Demonstrate a commitment to Britain's shared values (for tolerance, opportunity and diversity)
- Contribute to the community
- Learn the English language (or, possibly, the Welsh language)
- Obey British laws
- Play by British rules – this means learn to queue, for instance!

#### **HOW THE CITIZENSHIP CONTRACT WOULD BE ENFORCED:**

This might involve:

- A new points-based system to encourage highly skilled immigrants to move to the UK
- Stronger border controls to make it harder for illegal immigrants to enter the country
- A new 3-stage route to citizenship (i.e. entry, a new 'probationary period', then citizenship itself)
- Immigrants must either contribute to the UK economy or leave the country
- Refusing public benefits to immigrants who are not full UK citizens
- Refusing social housing to immigrants who are not full UK citizens
- Tests in spoken English (or, possibly, for Welsh, since this is the UK's 2<sup>nd</sup> language)
- Refusing citizenship to anyone convicted of serious crimes
- Removing citizenship and deporting any immigrants convicted of serious crimes
- Making those convicted of minor crimes spend more time on citizenship probation

- Making immigrants pay contributions towards the costs of having them enter and live in the UK
- Speeding up the citizenship process for immigrants who volunteer to help their local communities

**MORE INFORMATION:**

For further information on the most current developments you are advised to use the following links:

- [www.bia.homeoffice.gov.uk](http://www.bia.homeoffice.gov.uk)
- [www.homeoffice.gov.uk](http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk)