



# **LONG RESIDENCE ILR: A COMPLETE GUIDE TO SETTLING IN THE UK**

Indefinite Leave to Remain (ILR) based on long residence is a pathway for individuals who have lived legally in the UK for a continuous period of 10 years. This route is ideal for those who may not qualify under other visa categories but have built a life in the UK over a decade.

In this guide, we'll explore the eligibility criteria, application process, and key considerations for securing ILR through long residence.

## **Eligibility for Long Residence ILR**

To qualify for ILR based on long residence, you must meet the following requirements:

### **1. Continuous Residence for 10 Years**

You must have legally resided in the UK for 10 continuous years without any single absence exceeding 180 days in any 12-month period. Short breaks (e.g., holidays or business trips) are acceptable, provided they do not disrupt continuity.

### **2. Valid Immigration Status**

Throughout your stay, you must have held valid leave (visa status) without gaps. Overstaying for more than **14 days** can disqualify you unless there are exceptional circumstances.



### **3. No Criminal Record**

You must adhere to UK immigration laws and not have a criminal record that could affect your application.

### **4. Life in the UK Test & English Language Requirement**

You must pass the **Life in the UK Test** and prove English language proficiency (unless exempt).

## **Application Process for Long Residence ILR**

### **Step 1: Gather Required Documents**

Prepare:

- Passports & travel documents covering the 10-year period
- Proof of continuous residence (e.g., employment records, bills, bank statements)
- Life in the UK Test pass certificate
- English language proof (e.g., degree certificate or Secure English Language Test)

### **Step 2: Complete the Online Application**

Submit **Form SET (LR)** via the UK Visas and Immigration (UKVI) website.





### **Step 3: Book a Biometrics Appointment**

After submission, you'll need to provide fingerprints and a photo at a UKVCAS centre.

### **Step 4: Decision Time**

Processing times vary, but most applicants receive a decision within **6 months**.

### **Common Pitfalls & How to Avoid Them**

#### **1. Breaks in Continuous Residence**

Ensure no absence exceeds **180 days** in any 12-month period. Keep travel records to prove compliance.

#### **2. Overstaying or Gaps in Visa Status**

Even a short overstay can jeopardize your application. Always renew your visa before expiry.

#### **3. Insufficient Documentation**

Provide comprehensive evidence of your stay, including employment records, tenancy agreements, and utility bills.





## **Benefits of Long Residence ILR**

Once granted, ILR offers:

- **Permanent residency** with no visa restrictions
- **Access to public funds** (benefits, healthcare, etc.)
- **Eligibility for British citizenship** after 12 months

## **Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)**

### **1. Can Time on Student Visas Count Towards ILR?**

Yes, time spent on student visas (Tier 4/Student) counts towards the 10-year requirement.

### **2. What If I Have Short Gaps in My Visa Status?**

Gaps of **14 days or less** may be overlooked, but longer overstay can lead to refusal.

### **3. Can Dependents Apply with Me?**

Dependants must apply separately unless they also meet the 10-year requirement.



## Conclusion

The **Long Residence ILR** route is a valuable option for those who have spent a decade legally in the UK. By meeting the continuous residence rule, maintaining valid immigration status, and submitting a strong application, you can secure permanent settlement.



Phone:- +44 (0)20 3411 1261

Email:- [info@visaandmigration.com](mailto:info@visaandmigration.com)

Website:- <https://www.visaandmigration.com/>

Location:- TBXH Sunley House, 4 Bedford Park, Croydon, CRO 2AP, UK