

# ETIAS and ETA

**ETIAS** and **ETA** are travel authorisation schemes being implemented for visa-exempt nationals to visit certain European countries. The table below summarises and illustrates similarities and differences between the two schemes. Visa-exempt travellers travelling to the Schengen Area should also note the new scheme EES being implemented before ETIAS.

Further information on the EU schemes (EES and ETIAS) and UK scheme (ETA) as well as official communication resources can be found on ETOA's visas and borders webpage:

<https://www.etoa.org/operating-in-europe/visas-and-borders/>

	<b>ETIAS</b>	<b>ETA</b>
<b>Official website</b>	<a href="http://www.europa.eu/etias">www.europa.eu/etias</a>	<a href="http://www.gov.uk/electronic-travel-authorisation">www.gov.uk/electronic-travel-authorisation</a>
<b>Implementing countries</b>	<b>Schengen Area + Cyprus (30 countries)</b> All countries in the EU/EFTA (except Ireland)	<b>United Kingdom</b> (England, Northern Ireland, Scotland, Wales)
<b>Applicable to</b>	<u>Visa-exempt</u> third country nationals (non-EU/non-EFTA) visiting for short-stay (90/180 days)  <u>Exemptions</u> include British (UK) nationals resident in Ireland before 2021. Third country nationals resident in any of the 30 countries are excluded from the scheme.	Visa-exempt nationals (excluding British/Irish) visiting for short-stay (6 months) - <u>start date varies by nationality</u>  Exemptions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• visa-exempt nationals <u>resident in Ireland</u> (not British/Irish) when travelling to the UK from Ireland or elsewhere in the Common Travel Area</li> <li>• Children on <u>school trips from France</u> (adults supervising the children still need to apply for an ETA if their nationality is visa-exempt)</li> </ul>
<b>Start date</b>	<b>Not yet in operation (target start date Q4 2026)</b>  Will be applicable to all visa-exempt nationals at the same time from start date.  There will be a transition period of at least 6 months from start date whereby ETIAS will not be a requirement as well as a further grace period following the transition period.	<b>In operation for nationals of <u>non-European countries</u></b>  Start date for remaining visa-exempt nationals:  2 April 2025 - EU/EFTA nationals (excluding Irish) and European microstates

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<b>Cost</b>	<b>€7 per person</b> (person aged under 18 or over 70 at time of application is exempt from paying although still need to apply)	<b>£10 per person</b> (payable by all ages)  Subject to UK Parliament approval, the application fee is proposed to increase to £16 per person. Start date of change to be confirmed.
<b>Validity</b>	<b>Up to 3 years</b> from issue date (multiple entries permitted during validity)	<b>Up to 2 years</b> from issue date (multiple entries permitted during validity)
<b>To apply (in advance of travel)</b>	<b>Not currently possible to apply</b>  Apply either via official website or ETIAS mobile app (authorisation is linked to travel document i.e. passport)	<b>Currently possible to apply for <a href="#">all applicable nationalities</a></b>  EU/EFTA nationals (excluding Irish) and European microstates are not required to apply travelling to the UK before 2 April 2025  Apply either via official website or ETA mobile app (authorisation is linked to travel document i.e. passport)
<b>Air-side transiting</b>	Not required to apply	Not required to apply
<b>Application form language</b>	24 (all official <a href="#">EU languages</a> )	1 (English)
<b>Biometric data when applying</b>	Not required as collected by EES	Facial image required if age 10+ applying via mobile app
<b>Third parties permitted to apply on behalf of traveller</b>	Yes (with <a href="#">declaration of representation</a> )	Yes (third party should use official website to apply where the traveller is not present with third party)

Last reviewed: 7 March 2025

*Disclaimer: While best efforts have been made to verify the accuracy of the information, the information displayed should be used as guidance only.*

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