

NEW EU TRAVEL RULES

WHAT IS THE ENTRY/EXIT SYSTEM (EES)?

The Entry/Exit System (EES) is a new digital border system for people travelling to the EU. It replaces the need for travellers to have their passports manually stamped at the EU border.

The new system requires travellers, **including under-18s**, to register their biometric details at the EU border. It uses electronic kiosks – similar to self-service check-in booths – to take fingerprints and a photo.

- Groups travelling to Europe by air will go through EES checks on arrival at their destination airport.
- School groups crossing the Channel by ferry or rail will have their EES checks on departure at the Port of Dover, Eurotunnel or Eurostar terminals.

Registration cannot be done in advance.

EES applies to **British passport holders and non-EU nationals** visiting EU and Schengen countries (including Iceland and Switzerland, but not Cyprus or Ireland). The system will be gradually introduced at EU borders from 12 October 2025. More information on the EES is available on [GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk)

EES ROLL OUT

The new system will be phased in from **12 October 2025**. After this date, each country has six months to introduce the new system across all its external border crossing points.

EES should be fully operational, across all EU borders, by **12 April 2025**. Until then, expect different experiences at each border crossing point. Look out for information signs advising what you need to do and follow the advice of border staff.

We have been advised EES booths will be introduced first for coach groups travelling through Dover and Folkestone from the **12 October** go-live date.

The Entry/Exit System is part of a broader range of new EU border controls.

WHO DOES THE EES APPLY TO?

All UK nationals and non-EU citizens travelling to the Schengen area will be required to undergo the EES biometric checks. Children and school groups are not exempt from EES checks.

EES registration applies to groups visiting all EU countries except Ireland and Cyprus, and non-EU school trip destinations such as Iceland and Switzerland.

Please also be aware of the **visa requirements for any students on your school trip who are not British nationals.**

All passengers are required to register with the EES border system on every visit to the EU. However, children under 12 years only need to have their picture taken and will not need to provide a fingerprint.

HOW EES IMPACT SCHOOL GROUPS TRAVELLING BY FERRY OR RAIL

School groups crossing into France via Dover, Eurostar or Le Shuttle must register their biometric data at EES kiosks before boarding their train or ferry. Read on for more about each crossing point:

Here's what to expect at Dover Ferry Port:

- Your coach driver will drop off your group at the registration hall where there are EES kiosks for the exclusive use of coach passengers
- Everyone must register their details at the EES kiosk before proceeding through French border controls
- Once everyone is successfully through, you can exit the hall and reboard the coach in time to catch your ferry

Here's how the process will work at Folkestone Le Shuttle Terminal:

- On arrival at the terminal, your group will disembark the coach and go through UK passport control
- Then, reboard the coach and drive to the French reception area for EES registration
- There are EES booths for the exclusive use of coach groups, each is staffed to ensure that passengers are registered quickly
- After passing through French passport control, your group then reboards the coach for Le Shuttle

TOP TIPS FOR GROUP LEADERS TO PREPARE FOR EES

- Brief students about the new checks at the borders and what to expect if they're in place when you travel.
- Ensure students passports are not packed in hold luggage
- Designate staff to manage queues, supervise students, and assist with kiosks

PASSPORT REQUIREMENTS

For British passport holders traveling to the Schengen area, your passport must be less than 10 years old on the date you enter and valid for at least three months after your planned departure date

HELPFUL LINKS

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/eu-entryexit-system>

<https://travel-europe.europa.eu/en/ees>

<https://travelaware.campaign.gov.uk/european-entry-exit-scheme/>

[The EU Entry / Exit System \(EES\) Explained](#) (video)