



INFORMATION REGARDING THE RIGHTS OF RESIDENCE OF CITIZENS OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY IN THE UNITED KINGDOM

Citizens of the European Community who decide to come to the United Kingdom need to follow a residence process in order to be able to obtain state aid.

During the first three months each citizen of the European Community has the right of mobility in the UK in order to seek work, study or come to visit the country. During this time the citizen is obliged to have his own insurance cover for the costs of accidents and health whilst he is in the UK; it is a practice which this government wants to implement as a requirement for people who want to visit the UK; meanwhile the person will only receive Emergency assistance in any hospital, but if specialist medical treatment is required, the people must assume responsibility for the costs of treatment or return to their own country for treatment.

After three months every citizen of the EU if he decides to remain in the UK has to start his process for residency which takes five years and at the same time he must be in the category of being Economically Active in work; it does not matter how many hours he is working or if he is receiving Jobseekers Allowance (JSA) as aid from the government in order to seek work. People who are from any part of the EU must not be receiving any type of aid from their country of origin if they want to have the benefit of JSA.

It is not recommended that any person who is without work remains more than two weeks unemployed; if in this time they do not find new work they must immediately apply for JSA in order not to lose their status as being economically active and to not lose the right of residency in the UK.

In order to complete his process to be resident each citizen of the EU has to meet the following requirements:

- 1- Obtain a National Insurance Number (Numero de Seguridad Social)
- 2- Register with a Family Doctor (Medico de Familia (GP)) in the area where he resides.
- 3- Open a bank account.
- 4- If he has children they must be registered in a school, college or nursery.
- 5- Maintain and demonstrate social and cultural links in the UK.
- 6- Have a tenancy agreement (contrato de arrendamiento).

People who are economically active already might be working or receiving JSA and have the right to seek the following help:

- 1- Help with the cost of rent and "Council Tax" (el impuesto de vivienda)
- 2- Filling in the HC1 form to have the right to costs of healthcare in terms of medicines, dentistry and eye tests besides some orthopaedic treatment if necessary.
- 3- Responding to the requirements of each "Borough" (localidad) people have the right to register themselves on the list of the Borough to access social housing (council houses). The lists are long due to the number of people registered; these houses are provided based upon vulnerability and need that people might have; families with children, old and disabled people or those with chronic or terminal illnesses will have greater priority.
- 4- If you work more than 30 hours per week you have the right to receive Working Tax Credit which supposedly must be used to help cover your costs of living and Council Tax.
- 5- If you have children from 0 to 19 years demonstrating that they are in education you normally have the right to claim Child Benefits and Child Tax Credit
- 6- Disabled people or those with chronic or terminal illnesses can apply for Disability Living Allowance (DLA) which is now called Personal Independent Payment (PIP)

People who claim JSA must present themselves every week or two to sign for and report the progress they have made in seeking work; if they do not attend any of these appointments or do not follow the recommendations for finding work they immediately become ineligible for this aid; this is prejudicial to their residency in the UK and they will lose any aid that they are currently receiving since they are not economically active and so they do not have the right to claim social assistance.

People who are receiving JSA also have the opportunity to receive classes in English or training and courses for preparation for work; this is to ensure they are competent to obtain work.

If people are married or have children their dependents benefit from the same rights of residency that they have as follows: father, mother, children and in certain cases brothers and sisters; for more information seek advice on this matter from people who are specialists in Social Benefits.

Remember that the situations of each person are very particular and individual and that they affect rights of access to the different types of help that you might be able to obtain whilst you are resident in the UK; that is why you should seek specialist help from organizations which work in the field of Social benefits.

Government organizations such as Jobcenter plus and the DWP are there to provide services and generally they are not dedicated to the analysis of detailed situations for each person; this is why you should approach independent organizations that specialize in providing advice and guidance in the area of Social Benefits so as to receive such help as you require and for which you are eligible depending on your family and personal circumstances.

From the 1st April 2014 EU citizen applying for JSA would no longer receive Housing Benefits, also the JSA will be revised every 6 months. From October 2014 JSA for EU citizens will be provided for just three months, this will continue if the applicants can show that he/she is genuinely have a chance to have a job and/or is looking for job with the prospect of getting it.

A partir del 1 de Abril del 2014 los ciudadanos de la EU que apliquen JSA no tendran ayuda con los costos de vivienda "Housing Benefits" y este sera evaluado cada 6 meses, A partir de Octubre del 2014 el JSA solo sedara por un periodo de 3 meses, este se puede extender siempre y cuando demuestre que las perspectivas de trabajo son genuinas.

If you want more information about these subjects and about more services from the organization please come to our office on Tuesdays or Thursdays to use our Drop-in service to see one of our advisors.

Jhon Marulanda
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