

Becoming a British Citizen

Please find below information you may find useful on the process of becoming a British Citizen within the Falkirk Council area.

Life in the UK Test

Before you apply for naturalisation as a British citizen to the Home Office UK Border Agency, you will have to take a 'Life in the UK' test.

This test is only available to book and pay online. You **must** register for an account in order to take a test. For more information on the test please visit:

<http://lifeintheuktest.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/>

This website is designed to provide you with all the information you need about taking the test. If, after reading this section, you still have questions, you can contact the 'Life in the UK' Test Helpline on 0800 0154245 for more help.

Additionally, you will have to pass an ESOL SELT test at Level B1.

Falkirk Council Community Learning and Development offer ESOL (English for Speakers of Other Languages) classes to help people meet the Home Office requirements for applying for British Citizenship. These classes are for people who do not speak English as a first language.

The current requirement as of September 2017 are as follows:

Non-EEA nationals will need to pass a Secure English Language Test (SELT) at Level A2 in speaking and listening after two and a half years in the UK in order to qualify for further leave to remain on a 5-year Partner or Parent route to settlement. This requirement will affect Partners and Parents whose current leave to remain under the current Family Immigration Rules is due to expire on or after May 2017.



Trinity College London's GESE Grade 3 (A2) SELT is approved by UK Visas and Immigration (UKVI) and is suitable for this purpose. The A2 test consists of:

- 7 minute listening and speaking test.
- Provisional results on the same day.
- Certificates usually within 7 days.

To apply for indefinite leave to remain and naturalisation, everyone must pass a Listening and Speaking test at Level B1.

Falkirk Council Community Learning and Development is approved by Trinity to provide preparation courses for this test and the B1 Test.

For more information about Trinity College London and the SELT tests please go to:

<http://www.trinitycollege.com/site/?id=263>

For more information about the ESOL classes run by Falkirk Council's Community Learning and Development please call:

Phone: 01324 503674 – leave a message with your name and number and someone will call you back.

Text: 07739328348 – text a short message with your name and number and someone will get back to you.

Email: Mary.scrimgeour@falkirk.gov.uk

Falkirk Council's Adult Learning team also offer support for native English speakers applying for Citizenship who are concerned about their reading and writing skills. Literacy classes are run throughout the Council area and are designed to meet the needs of adults who need to brush up their reading, writing or numeracy skills for personal, work or social purposes.

For more information on the above courses or to register for a class, please call 01324 504450 to arrange an informal chat with one of our tutors.

Nationality Checking Service

Nationality Checking Service is offered by a number of local authorities working in partnership with UKBA.

In return for a fee, the local authority officers will check your application is valid and complete with the appropriate fee. They will ensure you provide the right type and amount of supporting documents, take copies and return your originals at the appointment. For further details and information on how to book, please follow the link below:

http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/britishcitizenship/applying/checkingservice/checkingservice/locations/ncs_scotland/

The nearest National checking office is in Edinburgh and their details are listed below:

Nationality Checking Service Lothian Chambers

59-63 George IV Bridge

Edinburgh

EH1 1RN

Phone: 0131 529 2614

Email: NationalityCheckingService@edinburgh.gov.uk

Applying for British Citizenship

For details of how you can apply for British Citizenship you should read the relevant part of the eligibility section on the Home Office website before making your application. Please visit <http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/britishcitizenship/applying/> or for more information about British Citizenship (naturalisation) applications, telephone 0845 010 5200.

Contact Details for all enquiries/applications:

Home Office

Immigration and Nationality Branch

Third Floor

India Buildings

Water Street

Liverpool

L2 0QN

Citizenship Ceremony

Attending a citizenship ceremony is the final step in the process of becoming a British citizen. The ceremony is a formal occasion that welcomes those who wish to attain full citizenship of the United Kingdom.

If your application for British citizenship is successful, the UKBA will send you a letter confirming this and inviting you to attend a ceremony. Your ceremony will usually take place close to where you live. If you want your ceremony to take place somewhere else in the United Kingdom, you should tell the UKBA this when you make your application for naturalisation.

Becoming a British citizen is a significant event and should be celebrated in a meaningful way. At the ceremony, you will be welcomed into your local community and meet other people in the area who are British citizens.

When you receive your invitation to a ceremony, you have 90 days to attend one. Your invitation will include contact details for a Registrar within Falkirk Council's Ceremony Office

who will arrange your ceremony. These ceremonies are usually held at the Council Chambers, Municipal Buildings, Falkirk.

Falkirk Council arranges group ceremonies for everyone in the local area who is becoming a British citizen at that time. You will be able to take up to four guests with you to the ceremony. Attendance at the ceremony is by invitation only.

In special circumstances, you can arrange a private ceremony. You should discuss your requirements with the Registrar. You will have to pay an additional fee to arrange a private ceremony and it will not usually be attended by a dignitary.

Children are not required to take a citizenship oath or affirmation, and the accompanying pledge, or to attend a ceremony. If applications for children under the age of 18 have been made as part of a family group, they will be invited to attend the citizenship ceremony with their parents.

Contact Details

If you require any further advice or information regarding becoming a British Citizen within the Falkirk Council area, please contact the registration office on 01324 506580.