eGates – changes to how some nationalities can enter the UK

Information on how eGates may affect the way you enter the UK.

In May 2019, the Home Office has expanded the use of eGates to nationals from the following countries:

- Australia
- Canada
- New Zealand
- Japan
- Singapore
- South Korea
- United States of America

This means that nationals from these countries who use the eGates will no longer have to complete a landing card, and will no longer receive an entry stamp in their passport from an immigration officer on the border.

There are some situations when nationals from these countries MUST NOT use the eGates:

- **Permitted Paid Engagement (PPE) Visitors** – you must obtain a specific stamp from an immigration officer granting entry for one month. If you enter using the eGates and do not obtain this permission as a stamp in your passport, then you will not be able to carry out your intended activity in the UK
- **Family members of EEA nationals** who are seeking entry to the UK at the border
- **Short-term students** (for up to 6 months)
- **Holders of a Tier 5 Creative and Sporting Certificate of Sponsorship** (up to 3 months)
- **Holders of passports with no biometric chip**

PBS and other visa holders

- Nationals of the countries above who enter the UK via an eGate must have entry clearance/visa that is valid when they enter the UK (e.g. Tiers 1, 2 and 5, UK ancestry, etc.), in which case they will enter under that route.
- If you enter the UK using an eGate before the start date of your visa, then you will be granted entry as a visitor. If this happens, you would need to leave and re-enter the UK within the validity of your visa.
- If you have entered an eGate for the first time on your 30 day vignette, then please keep additional documentation to show you have entered the UK (e.g. flight ticket or boarding pass). **If you are sponsored by the College as a Tier 2 worker or Tier 5 sponsored researcher, we will be required to see this evidence when undertaking your pre-employment checks.**

If you have any questions, you can contact [HRCompliance@imperial.ac.uk](mailto:HRCompliance@imperial.ac.uk)

*HR Compliance team 2019*