

Muslim Migration to Europe:  
Cast Study: UNITED KINGDOM

**History of immigration/citizenship policies:**

- The UK has a slightly different history of immigration and citizenship due to the fact that it was a major imperial power and included many countries as part of the British Commonwealth.
- The British Nationality Act of 1948 allowed all subjects of the British Empire to live and work in the United Kingdom without a visa.
- In the 1950s, large numbers of immigrants from the British commonwealth began arriving in the United Kingdom, mostly as labor migrants and students.
- In 1962 the Commonwealth Immigrants Act was passed in response to public outrage at the increasing numbers of immigrants. The act tried to restrict immigration by requiring that immigrants have jobs in place before they arrived or possess special skills needed by British employers.
- The 1972 Immigrant Act further restricted new immigration by only allowing those with work permits and family members already in the United Kingdom.

Sources:

<http://www.migrationinformation.org/Profiles/display.cfm?ID=736>

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Immigration\\_to\\_the\\_United\\_Kingdom\\_since\\_1922](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Immigration_to_the_United_Kingdom_since_1922)

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/British\\_nationality\\_law](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/British_nationality_law)

[http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/english/static/in\\_depth/uk/2002/race/short\\_history\\_of\\_immigration.stm](http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/english/static/in_depth/uk/2002/race/short_history_of_immigration.stm)

**Recent immigration/citizenship policies:**

- Today, British nationality can be obtained through a number of ways: by *jus soli* (birth in Britain to a parent with British Citizenship), *jus sanguinis* (British parentage), naturalization, registration and adoption.
- In order to gain naturalization immigrants must have lived in the UK with legal status for five years, show “good character” and show sufficient knowledge of life in the UK through the [“Life in the United Kingdom Test”](#)

Source:

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/British\\_nationality\\_law](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/British_nationality_law)

<http://www.lifeintheuktest.gov.uk/>

<http://www.ind.homeoffice.gov.uk/policyandlaw/immigrationlaw/immigrationrules/>

**Key Issues:**

- Concerns on immigration in the UK focus on a perceived lack of integration by Muslim immigrants. In addition, the terrorist bombings of 2005 have added to the tensions surrounding Muslim immigration. For more see additional teaching modules on Muslims in Europe.

Source:

<http://www.migrationinformation.org/Feature/display.cfm?id=383>