# US citizens flee Trump era in record numbers to settle in the UK



Recent discussions regarding migration trends from the United States to the United Kingdom have drawn attention to the alarming number of American citizens seemingly abandoning their homeland due to the political climate cultivated by the previous administration. In a recent segment on GB News, host Stephen Dixon interviewed Jennifer Ewing from Republicans Overseas UK, who claimed a surge of US citizens is fleeing “Trump’s America” for what they perceive as a more welcoming environment in Britain. Official statistics from the Home Office reveal that from March 2024 to March 2025, over 6,000 US citizens applied for residency in the UK—the highest figure in over two decades. This migration surge, particularly notable since the previous administration's inception, raises serious questions about the socio-political environment that American citizens are desperate to escape.

Ewing spoke about the allure of British culture, highlighting events like Wimbledon and Ascot. However, such sentiments gloss over the harsh realities many Americans are facing at home, where growing political dissent has made citizens fearful—some even questioning whether they might be imprisoned for expressing their political views. This ongoing climate of fear, exacerbated by the polarising policies of the past, is causing alarm for countless Americans.

Statistics paint a grim picture: in the first quarter of 2025 alone, US applications for British citizenship surged by an astonishing 12% compared to previous quarters, largely driven by fears of political instability and economic uncertainty in the United States. High-profile professionals and communities such as the LGBTQ population seek refuge from the divisive politics that have left them vulnerable. In their pursuit of safety and security, interest in UK universities soared by 25%, as American students increasingly look for alternatives amidst a slow decline in confidence regarding US education.

Contributing to this exodus are legislative shifts in the UK, like eased citizenship eligibility for Americans with UK-born grandparents. By early 2025, the overall landscape of UK citizenship applications ballooned to a staggering total of 72,729, even as new, stricter requirements loom for prospective migrants. The real concern, however, lies not just in the numbers, but in the underlying message they convey about the political climate in the US—one marked by division and fear among liberals.

Personal accounts reveal the depth of this crisis. Erin Lytwyn, who opted to remain in London rather than return to the U.S., encapsulates the feelings of many: disillusionment with the political landscape forced her family to seek a more liberal environment. The chaotic interest in UK property by American buyers—traffic to relevant property websites increased fivefold around the last presidential election—attests to a desperate search for stability and community.

Michael Lark and his wife, once hopeful about reforming their home country, found themselves utterly disillusioned after navigating the failings of the healthcare system post-Covid. "It's not just about politics; it's the pervasive culture that fosters division,” he voiced, illustrating a sentiment echoed by many. Joshua Hickman, who returned to the UK after experiencing violent protests in the US, reinforces this theme of seeking safety in a country that offers a sense of community and stability.

In piecing together these narratives and statistics, we observe a troubling influx of Americans driven across the Atlantic, not simply for educational opportunities but out of stark necessity—yearning for a more politically stable and supportive environment. This rising tide of American expatriates is a wake-up call, underscoring the urgent need to rethink the UK’s approach to immigration and the political discourse that shapes it. The message is clear: while some see Britain as a refuge, the reality should serve as a damning indictment of what is happening at home.

Source: [Noah Wire Services](https://www.noahwire.com)

## Bibliography

1. <https://www.express.co.uk/showbiz/tv-radio/2059969/GB-News-Donald-Trump-Americans-flee-US-UK> - Please view link - unable to able to access data
2. <https://www.ft.com/content/83fd1107-86ce-4acf-a791-03037c80cbb4> - In the first quarter of 2025, US applications for British citizenship reached a record high, with over 1,930 applications—a 12% increase from the previous quarter. This surge coincided with the beginning of Donald Trump's second presidential term and reflects increasing political instability in the US. Immigration lawyers cite fear, frustration, and concerns about financial and personal security as the main drivers of this trend, especially among professionals and members of marginalized communities such as the LGBTQ population. Additionally, Trump's aggressive tariff policies and criticisms of elite American universities for promoting progressive values have prompted more Americans to seek stability and education opportunities abroad. Study visa applications from US citizens also increased by 9.6% compared to the same period in 2024. Experts believe this trend is partly influenced by earlier waves of US immigrants under Trump’s first term now becoming eligible to apply for British citizenship. Legislative changes in the UK have also broadened eligibility, including for Americans with UK-born grandparents. Total UK citizenship applications across all nationalities reached an all-time high of 72,729 in early 2025, just as the government announced stricter settlement requirements.
3. <https://www.ft.com/content/ebb2b7e7-5dea-47a2-8386-f12eda692c0f> - Interest among American students in UK universities has surged due to President Donald Trump's policies targeting elite US higher education institutions. According to Studyportals, a student search platform, U.S. interest in British degrees jumped 25% in March 2025 compared to the previous year, while international interest in US courses dropped 15%. The Biden administration's campaign against universities—including funding cuts, attempts to influence hiring and admissions, and visa cancellations—has contributed to declining domestic and global confidence in US higher education. Around 1,500 students have lost visa status, though the government later paused those revocations. Harvard and other top universities have pushed back legally. In contrast, UK universities are attracting more US students, partially due to more stable immigration policies compared to Australia and Canada. The UK saw a 23% increase in American interest during the first quarter of 2025, offering a potential financial boost to the nation’s tuition-dependent higher education sector. However, experts caution that future UK immigration policy decisions will be pivotal in determining whether interest translates into actual enrollments. American students are already the UK's fifth-largest international student group, with over 23,000 studying in Britain in 2023-24.
4. <https://www.ft.com/content/e20a2ea0-0fa0-4b6c-a487-05030f4a4c93> - In 2024, a record number of Americans applied for UK citizenship, influenced by Donald Trump's re-election and UK tax policy changes. There were over 6,100 applications, a 26% increase from 2023, coinciding with a 6% rise in overall UK citizenship applications, totaling 251,000. The last quarter of 2024 saw a particularly sharp rise in American applications by 40% year-on-year. Lawyers attribute this surge to uncertainties generated by Trump's political comeback and the abolition of the UK's non-dom tax status, prompting wealthy Americans to secure citizenship pre-emptively. Additional drivers include individuals seeking broader personal and financial flexibility. With the elimination of non-dom tax status, many affluent Americans hastened to apply for citizenship, seeking to preserve future options. Despite broader motivations for migration, the political and fiscal landscape has notably spurred interest from Americans in both UK and Irish citizenship.
5. <https://www.standard.co.uk/homesandproperty/property-news/americans-flee-trump-london-property-b1205535.html> - After Trump’s re-election, Democrats are flocking to more liberal destinations — and London is high on the list. Erin Lytwyn and her husband, Daniel, had planned to leave London and move back to the United States after welcoming their daughter, Charlotte, 10 months ago. “We were approved in the US to buy a house and get a mortgage,” she says. But when Donald Trump was re-elected in November last year the couple, who are 36 and 34, changed their minds and bought a house in Camden instead. “Trump started making several scary moves, like the people he’s appointed, and it made us think about what was important for us,” says Lytwyn, who works in cloud sales for Google and has lived in London for just over two years. She finds Trump’s policies on deportation and immigration particularly objectionable. “Daniel is from Colorado, which has a deeply rooted relationship with Mexico and El Salvador,” she says. Many Americans are doing just that though. US traffic to Knight Frank’s UK property website in November last year was five times higher than the same month the previous year. It peaked on November 5, the day of the election, when traffic was 20 per cent higher than on any other single day in 2024. According to the Office for National Statistics, there are currently about 71,000 Americans living in London, out of a total population of 8.8 million, and that number looks likely to increase.
6. <https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2025/mar/09/more-americans-are-now-seeking-uk-citizenship-three-of-them-tell-us-why> - Michael Lark, 58, grew up in Pennsylvania but spent most of his life in Texas. His wife and he always thought they’d stay in the US and work to make things better, but after a while, they realized some things just weren’t going to change. When his wife developed health issues after Covid, they started seeing just how much money they were spending on healthcare. That got them re-evaluating everything else. They always leaned more democratic and felt like when there were problems, they needed to stick around and try to help make everything better. But with his wife’s health issues and everything that was happening with Donald Trump, the more they looked at it, the more they realized that things weren’t going to get any better. But it wasn’t just about politics: the culture of gun violence, the resignation people have about it. He thinks polls show that something like 80% of people want stronger gun laws, but the government won’t change things. He remembers reading an interview with a parent in the US who told their kids: “Well, this is just the world we live in.” And he thought, no. It’s not the world we live in. It’s the world America lives in. They moved to the UK in 2023 and settled in Shrewsbury, which has a great community of comic book professionals – his industry. Within weeks, they knew they weren’t going back. With his particular visa, he has three years before he can apply for settlement and that’s what they intend to do. He already knows he wants to become a British citizen. They love it here and compared with where they lived in the United States, they just feel the quality of their life immediately improved dramatically. There’s a sense of we’re all in this together and that does not exist in the United States. In the United States, it’s every man for himself, and everybody wants to get ahead with the implication being you’ve got to get ahead of somebody else to do that. He’s sure there are people who have that sense here, but it’s not just an overriding cultural feeling. Joshua Hickman, 38, was born in Virginia and grew up in rural Texas. He originally came to the UK in 2010 for what was supposed to be a short stay, but once he was here, he realized he wanted to stay permanently. He just felt like something was off about the US, though he couldn’t put his finger on it at first. Then Snowden exposed NSA surveillance, and it all clicked – he knew America wasn’t going in a good direction. In 2016, after finishing his master’s degree, he had to return to the US because of visa restrictions. But by then, he’d been too, how should I say, anglicised, if you will. His viewpoints on life in the world have been changed by being over here. And eventually, he just got to the point where he realized that living in the US was never going to be an option. By that point, Trump was in power. He was involved in Black Lives Matter protests in Montana, where they had militia men pointing guns at them while police stood by, and that was when he knew he couldn’t stay in the US long term. It was never going to be the safe place he wanted it to be. And, it was only going to get worse. He came back to the UK in 2020 to study musical psychology, and now he works here on a visa. By 2028, he’ll be eligible for indefinite leave to remain. He always knew America had this in it. He just made sure he got out early. It takes a year before he can get a passport, so it’ll be by 2030 that he’s fully English.
7. <https://www.theatlantic.com/politics/archive/2024/11/americans-who-want-leave-country-election/680486/?utm_source=apple_news> - The article discusses the sentiment among some liberal Americans to emigrate if Donald Trump wins the 2024 presidential election. Amid fears of threats to physical safety, same-sex marriage, and potential large-scale violence, many are contemplating leaving the country. Over 5,000 responses were received by The New York Times from people considering or already planning to move abroad. While some may not follow through due to the complexities of emigrating, their fears underscore the current tumultuous and threatening atmosphere in the United States. Several interviewees, including activists, retirees, and same-sex couples, expressed concerns about Trump's policies and their potential impacts. The desire to leave is rooted in concerns over authoritarianism, media repression, political violence, and a lack of shared values. Despite the difficulties, including financial resources, language barriers, and career implications, some are seriously considering moving to countries like Canada, Spain, and Mexico. This movement highlights the polarizing political climate and deep anxieties within the U.S.