



Passenger Lists pre1890

Information from Archives D4

The crucial information needed for a search in the archives

The National Archives holds records which might contain the information you require and we can:

- either search for it on payment of a fee and supply you with the information (if found)
- or enable you to search for the information in other ways.

Please send as much information as you can. The following details are particularly important:

- The full name of the person*.....
- The date or year of arrival*.....
- The port of arrival*.....
- The person's place of origin.....

If you have all of the information marked with an asterisk*, the standard charges for our searches will apply and these are shown on this leaflet. If you do not have this information, the standard charges will not apply, as the search time will increase by a large amount, and therefore the search will require a very high fee to be paid. Please contact us if you still want to proceed at:

enquiry@nationalarchives.gov.uk

1. Board of Trade incoming passenger lists (1878 to 1887)

Standard charge: £60

Catalogue references: BT 26/1-5

These records list those passengers arriving in the United Kingdom from places outside Europe. Those coming from the Mediterranean Sea are excluded unless the vessels sailed originally from outside Europe and picked up passengers in a European or Mediterranean port en route.

Information that this source should reveal:

These records contain the names, age, and occupations of arriving passengers.

Factors affecting success of a search:

These records are not complete. They only survive for the arrival ports of Queenstown (1878; 1882-1887) and Liverpool (1885).

There is no name index to these records.

2. Lists of aliens arriving at English ports (August 1810 to May 1811)

Standard charge: £45

Catalogue references: FO 83/21-22

For arrivals between August 1810 and May 1811 this record series may be the best source to check.

Information that this source should reveal:

These records give the name of the person, port of arrival, month and year of the arrival, where they came from, and their profession.

Factors affecting success of a search:

It is not known whether these records are complete or not.

There is no name index to these records.

3. Home Office Aliens Act 1836: Certificates of Arrival of Aliens (1836-1852)

Standard charge: £30

Catalogue reference: HO 2

These records contain the original certificates of arrival of individual aliens arranged under ports of arrival.

Earlier certificates under the Aliens Act 1826 were destroyed in 1836, but an index of certificates from 1826 to 1849 (when registration in the Home Office was discontinued) is to be found in HO 5/25-32. – see 5 below.

Information that this source should reveal:

Each certificate gives the alien's full name and country of origin, nationality, profession, date and place of arrival, last country visited, and occasionally other particulars. There is a remarks column that often indicates whether they had a passport and, if so, from which government. Each certificate includes the signature of the alien.

Factors affecting success of a search:

These records are not arranged in surname order but by port of arrival and certificate of arrival number.

There is alphabetical index of alien certificates of some German, Polish and Prussian persons, 1847-1852, available in the Open Reading Room.

The Index to Alien Certificates of arrival for the period 1826 to 1849 is in HO 5/25-32 – see 5 below.

4. Home Office: Aliens Act 1836: Returns and Papers (1836-1869)

Standard charge: £90

Catalogue reference: HO 3

This records series was formerly known as Lists of Immigrants. It consists of returns of alien passengers made by masters of ships under s.2 of the Act. Included are a few papers, some earlier than 1836, on the drafting of the Act, its administration, and proposals for its revision.

Information that this source should reveal:

Each list gives date and place of arrival, name of ship, name of alien and country of origin and profession.

Factors affecting success of a search:

These records are arranged by port of arrival.

An alphabetical index of some German, Polish and Prussian persons on ships' lists of aliens, 1847-1852, is available in the Open Reading Room.

5. Index to Alien Certificates of Arrival (1826 to 1849)

Standard charge: £30

Catalogue references: HO 5/25-32

Information that this source should reveal:

These records give the name of the person; the port at which they arrived; their Alien Certificate Number together with details of when their passport was sent.

Factors affecting success of a search:

Entries are arranged alphabetically by name.

6. Accounts of aliens arriving in the ports of London and Gravesend

Standard charge: £30

London (July –November 1826): Catalogue references CUST 102/393-395

Gravesend (October 1826-August 1837): Catalogue reference CUST 102/396

Information that this source should reveal:

Each certificate gives the alien's full name and country of origin, nationality, profession, date and place of arrival, last country visited, and occasionally other particulars. There is a remarks column that often indicates whether they had a passport and, if so, from which government. Each certificate includes the signature of the alien.

Factors affecting success of a search:

The Index to Alien Certificates of arrival for the period 1826 to 1849 is in HO 5/25-32.



the national archives

Searching for information: your options

Our Search Service

This brand new service is being introduced in advance of the Freedom of Information (FOI) search service to be launched next January. We are beginning with a selection of popular subjects, and will gradually be extending the range. From January 2005 we shall offer paid searches in all The National Archives records, under the Freedom of Information Act.

The searches will be done in a prompt and professional manner and will reflect the expertise of The National Archives in the field of historical records. If you wish us to do the search we shall provide the information within ten working days of receipt of payment.

Our charge is £15 per 15 minutes.

Independent researchers

There are many independent researchers whom you can hire to carry out research for you. These researchers may charge significantly less than our 'full cost recovery' service. I enclose a list of some who undertake research in your area of interest. These lists are also available at our web site (www.nationalarchives.gov.uk)

Our on-site service

You are welcome to visit us - we can help you to do the search yourself, and admission is free.

If you visit us, you will need to register as a researcher. To do this, please bring with you some proof of identity. If you are a citizen of the United Kingdom or the Republic of Ireland, please bring either a driving licence, a banker's card or a passport. If you are a citizen of any other country, please bring your passport or national identity card. If you do not have this identification, please ring us on 020 8392 5200 before you visit. Please allow time at the beginning of your visit for familiarisation with our procedures. You can register in advance as a reader at www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/registration/

You can carry out some initial research by accessing the research guides and on-line catalogue on our web site (www.nationalarchives.gov.uk).