



## Guidance

# Advice for schools on how to prepare for Brexit

Updated 18 July 2019

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It is important that you plan now to prepare for the UK leaving the EU.

Please visit [Prepare for Brexit](#) to find further guidance on policy changes relevant to your sector and sign up for updates.

## Informing pupils and staff from the EU about the EU Settlement Scheme

Any pupils, employees and their families who are EU, EEA or Swiss citizens will need to apply to the EU Settlement Scheme to continue living in the UK after 2020.

Non-EU, non-EEA or non-Swiss family members of EU, EEA or Swiss citizens will need to apply to the EU Settlement Scheme to continue living in the UK after 2020.

If the UK leaves the EU with a deal, the EU Settlement Scheme will remain open to those living in the UK on or before 31 December 2020. The deadline to apply will be 30 June 2021.

If the UK leaves the EU without a deal, the EU Settlement Scheme will remain open to those living in the UK on the date of exit and applications will need to be

made by 31 December 2020.

You can find out who needs to apply by visiting the [EU Settlement Scheme page](#).

You can help your employees to apply by using the [toolkit for employers](#).

Irish citizens' right to live in the UK will not change when the UK leaves the EU, either with or without a deal. Irish citizens do not need to apply for the EU Settlement Scheme, but their family members who are not Irish or British citizens will need to do so.

## EU pupils and staff arriving after Brexit

The UK will introduce a new skills-based immigration system in 2021.

In the event that the UK leaves the EU without a deal, [EU, EEA](#) and Swiss citizens arriving after exit day will be able to enter the UK as they do now (for a temporary period of 3 months), until the new immigration system is introduced in 2021.

Those who wish to live, work and study in the UK for more than 3 months will need to apply for [European temporary leave to remain](#), and will be able to stay in the UK for 36 months if granted.

Those who wish to stay in the UK for longer than 36 months, will need to apply and qualify for an immigration status under the UK's new skills-based immigration system, which will take effect from 2021.

The [employing EU, EEA and Swiss citizens and their family members after Brexit](#) pages provide further information.

## School places for EU nationals and UK pupils returning to England from the EU after Brexit

Schools and local authorities cannot take into account nationality or immigration status when deciding which pupils to admit. There will be no change to this as a result of the UK leaving the EU.

EU, EEA and Swiss citizens, who are eligible for the EU Settlement Scheme, will continue to be entitled to attend a state-funded school. If the UK leaves the EU without a deal, EU, EEA and Swiss citizens who successfully apply for [European temporary leave to remain](#), will also be entitled to attend a state-funded school until their temporary leave to remain ends. After that time, the UK's new

immigration system will apply to them.

EU, EEA and Swiss children arriving after 31 December 2020, who are not dependents of UK residents - or of parents in the UK on a work or study visa - and who wish to study in the UK, will need to meet the requirements of the future immigration system. This will not permit non-dependent foreign national children to enter the country to attend a state-funded school.

State-funded schools that routinely recruit EU, EEA and Swiss nationals from overseas should reconsider their recruitment strategy in light of the above changes to the immigration system.

The right of Irish nationals to access education will continue to be protected under the [Common Travel Area](#) arrangements.

UK nationals with children who return from the EU after the UK leaves the EU will continue to be entitled to [apply for a school place](#).

## **Preparations as an employer, including the recognition of teaching qualifications for EEA and Swiss nationals**

The government has published [advice to inform employers of the potential implications of a no deal exit](#) and steps that can be taken to prepare. It covers issues such as workplace rights and protections that come from EU law. Read the guidance on [workplace rights if there's no Brexit deal](#).

## **Employing teachers with European qualifications**

### **Recognition of teaching qualifications**

If the UK leaves the EU with a deal, there will be no change for people who have received recognition of their EU, EEA or Swiss teaching qualifications through the award of Qualified Teacher Status (QTS) on or before 31 December 2020.

In the event that the UK leaves the EU without a deal, there will be no change for people who have received recognition of their EU, EEA or Swiss teaching

qualifications through the award of Qualified Teacher Status (QTS) by the date of exit.

Professionals who have applied for recognition before the date of exit, but have not yet received a decision, will be able to continue their application under the previous system as far as possible. Schools should bring this to the attention of EEA and Swiss national teachers they employ who do not currently hold QTS.

For those who have not already received or applied for a recognition decision by the date of exit, requirements will change.

However, the government will ensure that teachers with EU, EEA or Swiss qualifications will still have a method of seeking recognition for their professional qualifications through a new system from the point of exit.

Further information on recognition of qualifications in a no deal scenario is available on the [providing services including those of a qualified professional if there's no Brexit deal](#) pages.

We'll publish further details about recognition for teachers on the [qualified teacher status \(QTS\) page](#).

## Checking for EEA regulating authority teacher sanctions or restrictions

If the UK leaves the EU with a deal, the existing system for checking EEA sanctions will remain in place until at least 31 December 2020.

If the UK leaves the EU without a deal, schools must continue to carry out the same safer recruitment checks for applicants who have lived or worked outside the UK as for all other staff. In addition, schools must continue to make any further checks they think appropriate so they can consider any relevant events that occurred outside the UK.

However, the requirement for EEA professional regulating authorities to automatically share details of any sanction or restriction imposed on teachers with each other will no longer apply. This means the Teaching Regulation Agency will no longer automatically receive or maintain details of those teachers who have been sanctioned, post exit, in EEA member states.

If the UK leaves the EU without a deal, we will update the [keeping children safe in education statutory safeguarding guidance](#) to reflect these changes.

## Travel to the EU

There will be no immediate changes to travel if the UK leaves the EU with a deal. The rules would be the same until at least the end of 2020.

If the UK leaves the EU without a deal, you will need to take new action before arranging travel to an EU destination. You can find [information on the actions that you'll need to take if you are arranging trips to the EU](#), including guidance on passports, health cover and transport. You should also follow the NHS advice on [access to healthcare for UK nationals studying or travelling abroad](#). Collective passports will remain in force when the UK leaves the EU.

In the first instance, you should check the [foreign travel advice pages](#) for the latest updates on the relevant country. You can also sign up for an [email alert subscription for foreign travel advice](#) for your specific country.

If you are arranging school travel to the EU with sports, exhibitions or other equipment, please check the [taking equipment to the EU](#) guidance.

If you are preparing to travel to the EU by coach, please check the following guidance about [preparing to drive in the EU after Brexit for bus and coach drivers](#).

If the UK leaves the EU with a deal, EU member states will continue to accept UK school groups travelling on a [List of Travellers form](#) until the end of 2020.

If the UK leaves the EU without a deal, member states will be able to decide whether to continue to accept the List of Travellers form for UK school groups. We hope that EU member states will follow the UK's lead in deciding to continue to accept the List of Travellers form.

You can find further information on how to [apply for a List of Travellers form on the British Council website](#).

## Data Protection

You should read [Brexit guide: data protection for education providers](#) to find out what you need to do to remain compliant with data protection laws after Brexit.

## Food supplies

The government has been working to plan arrangements that ensure goods can continue to flow into the UK without significant delays from additional controls and checks. We are continuously engaging with a wide range of stakeholders to support industry preparedness. However, the government does not have control over the checks imposed by EU Member States at the EU side of the border.

The government, including the Department for Education, will continue to work with

food suppliers to prepare for a no deal departure from the EU. Schools have significant flexibilities within the school food standards.

Local authorities and schools must exercise their power to provide meals to all registered pupils who request one. Where the pupil meets the criteria for free school meals, the meal must be provided, free of charge.

We advise that you contact your food supplier(s) if your school procures food directly (or your local authority or academy trust, if they arrange food on the school's behalf) to ensure they are planning for potential impacts of a no deal scenario. For example, this may include plans to adapt menus to allow for product substitution.

This would also include seeking reassurance on the ability of suppliers to continue to meet nutritional standards and to accommodate special dietary needs and allergens when introducing any substitute products.

## Medical supplies

The government is working closely with the NHS and its suppliers to help ensure that supplies of medicines and medical devices can continue to flow into the UK without significant delays if the UK were to leave the EU without a deal. Schools should continue with their normal arrangements for medical supplies to support pupils with health conditions.

If you have any concerns about being able to meet statutory duties relating to SEND, health and safety, or safeguarding, you should work with your local authority or academy trust to ensure there are robust contingency plans are in place.

For more information read the guidance on [planning for a possible no-deal Brexit: information for the health and care sector](#).

## Erasmus+

If the UK leaves the EU with a deal, the UK will continue to participate in Erasmus+ until the end of 2020. Participation beyond the end of 2020 is dependent on the negotiations on our future relationship with the EU.

If the UK leaves the EU without a deal, you may no longer receive EU funding for Erasmus+ and European Solidarity Corps (ESC) projects and may need to make a claim against the HMG guarantee.

We recommend that Erasmus+ and ESC projects that are currently contracted

continue to be delivered. For more information, you should refer to the guidance on [registering to claim from the government guarantee](#).

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## Prepare for Brexit

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[Continue to live in the UK after Brexit](#)

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