



DEBATE PACK

Number CDP 2016-0224, 21 November 2016

Effect of exiting the EU on higher education

Sue Hubble
David Foster, Laura Abreu

Summary

A Westminster Hall debate on the, Effect of exiting the EU on higher education has been scheduled for Wednesday 23 November 2016 from 9.30 am - 11.00 am. Dr Rupa Huq will lead the debate.

This briefing provides a background summary and press and parliamentary coverage of the issues.

Contents

1. Summary	2
1.1 The Higher Education sector	2
1.2 Current arrangements Support for EU students	2
European research funding	2
EU student mobility programmes	3
The Bologna Process	3
1.3 Leaving the EU	3
Impact on students	3
Impact on research	4
Government statements on HE and Brexit	5
Scotland	6
2. Press articles	7
3. Parliamentary material	9
Select Committee Reports	9
PQs	9
Debates	17

The House of Commons Library prepares a briefing in hard copy and/or online for most non-legislative debates in the Chamber and Westminster Hall other than half-hour debates. Debate Packs are produced quickly after the announcement of parliamentary business. They are intended to provide a summary or overview of the issue being debated and identify relevant briefings and useful documents, including press and parliamentary material. More detailed briefing can be prepared for Members on request to the Library.

1. Summary

1.1 The Higher Education sector

Higher education in the UK is a major business and revenue generator and operates in a global market. Arguably the most significant consequences of EU membership on the UK higher education (HE) sector are the provision of support to EU students studying in the UK and access to European research funding and projects.

Membership of the EU also gives UK students access to European student mobility schemes such as *Erasmus+*. Furthermore, the UK is a signatory to the [Bologna Process](#) which aims to create a harmonised HE system across Europe.

The long-term implications of Brexit on the higher education sector and on EU students who want to study in the UK, will depend on what is agreed as part of the UK's exit negotiations.

1.2 Current arrangements

Support for EU students

Under EU legislation on free movement citizens moving to another Member State should have the same access to education as nationals of that Member State. With regard to higher education this means that every eligible EU student pays the same tuition fees and can apply for the same tuition fee support as nationals of the hosting EU country. UK higher education institutions therefore charge incoming EU students the same tuition fees as home students and the Government provides tuition fee loans to cover the cost of these fees on the same basis as loans to UK home students.

In 2013/14 there were 125,300 EU students at UK universities¹ and in that year £224 million was paid in fee loans to EU students on full-time courses in England - 3.7% of the total student loan bill.² A host Member State is not obliged, however, to provide maintenance support to citizens of other EU States, although some EU nationals who have lived in the UK for three years prior to the start of their course are eligible to apply for the full package of grants and loans for maintenance support.

European research funding

The European Research Area (ERA) was launched by the European Commission in 2000 with the aim of co-ordinating research and innovation activities across the EU. ERA initiatives are developed through periodic framework programmes; the current programme, [Horizon 2020](#), aims to allocate €80 billion for research and innovation from

¹ Higher Education Statistics Agency SFR 210 [Higher Education Student Enrolments and Qualifications Obtained at Higher Education Providers in the United Kingdom 2013/14](#).

² SN/SG/917 [Tuition fee statistics](#) 1 December 2014.

2014 to 2020. Funding is allocated on a competitive basis through the European Research Council. UK universities are predicted to receive about £2 billion from Horizon 2020 in the first two years of the programme.³

The 24 Russell Group universities receive about £400 million a year in EU research funds - some 11% of their research income.⁴

In addition to Horizon 2020 funding, €1.6bn of the UK's allocation of EU Structural and Investment Funds for 2014–2020 will be spent on research and innovation projects. This makes the UK one of the largest beneficiaries of EU research funding.⁵

In the run up to the referendum the Science and Technology Committees of both Houses of Parliament published reports on the impact of EU membership on UK science⁶. The evidence received by the committees pointed to the importance of the EU as a facilitator of collaboration and as a source of funding for research.

EU student mobility programmes

The [Erasmus+](#) scheme is an EU programme open to education, training, youth and sports organisations, and it offers opportunities for UK participants to study, work, volunteer, teach and train in Europe. The scheme will allocate almost €1 billion to the UK over seven years and it is expected that nearly 250,000 people will undertake activities abroad with the programme.⁷

The Bologna Process

In 1999 the UK signed the [Bologna Declaration](#), which set in train a process aimed at creating a European higher education area through the harmonisation of systems across Europe in matters such as credit transfer and comparability of degrees, and by promoting academic mobility.

1.3 Leaving the EU

Universities are highly concerned about their situation post Brexit – Universities UK have a webpage which outlines their issues, [Brexit FAQs for universities and students](#).⁸ Their concerns focus on two main areas: the impact on students and the impact on research.

Impact on students

Leaving the EU potentially means that the Government will not have to provide student loans, or maintenance funding for EU students, this

³ "[Horizon 2020: UK launch for EU's €67bn research budget](#)", *BBC News* 31 January 2014

⁴ "[UK's big guns make a stand for research in Europe](#)", *Times Higher Education* 23 April 2015

⁵ House of Commons Science and Technology Committee, [EU regulation of the life sciences](#), 11 June 2016, HC 158 2017-17 p6 para 3

⁶ House of Lords Science and Technology Committee, [EU membership and UK science](#), 20 April 2016, HL 127 2015–16 and House of Commons Science and Technology Committee, [EU regulation of the life sciences](#), 11 June 2016, HC 158 2017-17

⁷ Erasmus + [Key Erasmus+ facts and figures](#)

⁸ Universities UK, [Brexit FAQs for universities and students](#)

would save the Government money. However, the loss of student funding for EU students could have an impact on the numbers of EU students coming to study in the UK and this could consequently have a detrimental impact on fee income for universities and on the culture and diversity of universities.

Conversely it has been argued that situation post Brexit could be more nuanced and that Brexit could increase places for UK students and that this could maintain institutions' fee incomes. It has even been suggested that charging EU students higher fees as overseas students could increase fee income if UK higher education continued to attract EU students.⁹

The UK could also potentially lose access to the Erasmus + programme. This could be a particular difficulty for students whose degree courses include compulsory time abroad. For now UK students will continue to be allowed access to the Erasmus + programme and will be able to study overseas as part of that scheme. The UK's future access to the programme is undecided but it should be noted that some non-EU countries participate in the Erasmus + programme as partner countries.¹⁰

Impact on research

There is widespread concern that UK higher education may lose access to EU research funding post Brexit. Some universities are anecdotally already experiencing difficulties with grant applications and UK researchers are being dropped, or excluded from funding bids.¹¹

There are also concerns that the movement of staff and researchers could be affected and that this could detrimentally impact on the quality of research projects if the UK cannot continue to attract high calibre individuals from across Europe. Also UK research may be damaged if the UK is less able to work collaboratively on international projects. It has been suggested that the combined effect of these changes could lead to a decline in the status of UK higher education.¹²

However the Prime Minister stressed her support for UK science in a letter to Sir Paul Nurse director of the Francis Crick Institute in London¹³ Also Sir John Kingman chairman of the newly created UK Research and Innovation (UKRI) body has suggested that research could be at the heart of Britain's post-Brexit industrial strategy.¹⁴

The Commons Science and Technology Committee is conducting an inquiry to examine the implications and opportunities of leaving the EU for science and research.¹⁵ The Chair of the Committee, Nicola

"I would like to reassure you about the government's commitment to ensuring a positive outcome for UK science as we exit the European Union. While we negotiate a new relationship with our European partners, we are not turning our backs on European scientists."

Theresa May, Prime Minister, 28 July 2016

⁹ Higher Education Policy Institute, [Hepi director: Brexit may bring 'new opportunities' in sector](#), 12 July 2016

¹⁰ [Erasmus + Programme Guide](#) version (2) 2016

¹¹ "UK scientists dropped from EU projects because of post-Brexit funding fears", *The Guardian*, 12 July 2016

¹² "Post-Brexit uncertainty and long-term funding issues hit UK higher education, university rankings show", *The Independent*, 7 September

¹³ "PM wants positive outcome for science in Brexit talks", *BBC News* 28 July 2016

¹⁴ "Research head urges UK to seize Brexit opportunity", *BBC News*, 2 August 2016

¹⁵ House of Commons Science and Technology Committee, [Leaving the EU: implications and opportunities for science and research](#), 28 June 2016

Blackwood, has written to the Chancellor of the Exchequer “to highlight Brexit issues for science and research in the UK that should be addressed during negotiations with the EU.”¹⁶

The impact of Brexit on science research is discussed in library briefing CBP 7237, [Support for Science](#), 15 July 2016.

The Education Committee is also conducting an inquiry, [The impact of exiting the European Union on higher education](#).

Government statements on HE and Brexit

On 28 June 2016 Jo Johnson, Minister of State for Universities and Science issued a [statement on higher education and research following the EU referendum](#) setting out the position for universities and students post Brexit. The statement said that current arrangements would apply for this coming academic year, 2016-17, and future access to the Erasmus+ programme and research funding would be determined as a part of wider Brexit negotiations with the EU.

In October 2016 the UK Government confirmed that qualifying EU students applying to HE or FE institutions in England for the 2017-18 academic year would continue to be eligible for home student fees and tuition fee support for the duration of their courses:

The decision will mean that students applying to study from 2017 to 2018 will not only be eligible for the same funding and support as they are now, but that their eligibility will continue throughout their course, even if the UK exits the European Union during that period.¹⁷

Similar announcements were made in relation to Wales¹⁸ and Scotland.¹⁹

Government EU Research Funding Guarantee

On 13 August 2016 the Government issued a [statement](#)²⁰ announcing that successful bids for European Commission research funding, including the Horizon 2020 programme, made while the UK is still a member of the EU would be guaranteed by the Treasury. This will apply even when the project continues beyond the UK's departure from the EU. A [letter](#)²¹ from the Treasury to the Secretary of State for Exiting the European Union gave the following assurances:

.. a number of UK organisations bid directly to the European Commission on a competitive basis for EU funded multi-year projects. Partner institutions in other EU countries have raised concerns about whether to collaborate with UK institutions on EU funding projects,

¹⁶ Science and Technology Committee letter, [Protecting and promoting science after the EU referendum result](#), 28 June 2016

¹⁷ DfE press release, [‘Funding support for EU students’](#), 11 October 2016.

¹⁸ [‘EU nationals and student finance in Wales’](#), Student Finance Wales website article, 11 October 2016

¹⁹ Scottish Government press release, [‘Swinney demands student immigration guarantee’](#), 14 October 2016

²⁰ Gov.Uk, [Chancellor Philip Hammond guarantees EU funding beyond date UK leaves the EU](#), 13 August 2016

²¹ [Letter from the Chief Secretary to the Secretary of State for Exiting the European Union](#), 12 August 2016

such as universities and businesses participating in Horizon 2020, and some UK participants are concerned about longer-term participation.

The Commission have made it clear that the referendum result changes nothing about eligibility for these funds. UK businesses and universities should continue to bid for competitive EU funds while we remain a member of the EU and we will work with the Commission to ensure payment when funds are awarded. The Treasury will underwrite the payment of such awards, even when specific projects continue beyond the UK's departure from the EU. The UK will continue to be a world leader in international research and innovation collaboration, and we expect to ensure that close collaboration between the UK and the EU in science continues.

On 3 October 2016, the Treasury extended its [guarantee](#) to European Structural and Investment (ESI) Funds, funding will now be guaranteed up until the point that the UK leaves the EU.

Further details about Government guarantees for research funding are given in written evidence submitted by HM Treasury to the Science and Technology Committee's inquiry, [Written evidence from HM Treasury. Note on HM Treasury's funding guarantee for research and science funding \(LEA0286\)](#) October 2016.

Scotland

The Scottish Parliamentary Information Centre (SPICe) has published a briefing on the implications of Brexit for HE in Scotland: SPICe briefing paper, [Brexit: Higher education in Scotland](#), 12 October 2016.

Please note that this was published before the Scottish Government's announcement that EU students' home fee status and entitlement to tuition fee support would continue to be protected in 2017-18.

2. Press articles

General

[Brexit: What will it mean for universities, students and academics?](#), *Telegraph*, 1 July 2016.

[Hepi director: Brexit may bring 'new opportunities' in sector](#), *Times Higher Education*, 12 July 2016.

[UK universities draw up plans for EU campuses ahead of Brexit](#), *Guardian*, 22 September 2016.

[Confronting Brexit: the perks and pitfalls of plausible moves](#), *Times Higher Education*, 6 October 2016.

Higher education staff

[Foreign universities 'to poach EU academics after Brexit vote'](#), *Times Higher Education*, 19 July 2016.

[Brexit fears may see 15% of UK university staff leave, group warns](#), *Guardian*, 25 September 2015.

[Keep freedom of movement for academics post-Brexit, says Willetts](#), *Times Higher Education*, 21 October 2016.

[Academics 'turning down UK jobs' after Brexit vote](#), *Times Higher Education*, 24 October 2016.

[UK politicians demand Brexit guarantee for EU scientists](#), *Nature*, 18 November 2016.

[UK warned of brain drain to rivals if it exits EU research](#), *Times Higher Education*, 3 November 2016.

Research

[Brexit: future EU research money for UK may rely on free movement](#), *Times Higher Education*, 27 June 2016.

[Jo Johnson says he has no 'hard' proof of EU funds block](#), *Times Higher Education*, 13 July 2016.

[Could 'free movement for scientists' preserve EU funding access?](#), *Times Higher Education*, 27 July 2016.

[Jo Johnson urged to guarantee Horizon 2020 funding post-Brexit](#), *Times Higher Education*, 9 August 2016.

[Treasury to 'guarantee' post-Brexit funding for EU research projects](#), *Times Higher Education*, 13 August 2016.

[Post-Brexit funding gap 'will threaten impartiality of university research'](#), *Independent*, 28 August 2016.

[Brexit: Government guarantee for post-EU funds](#), *BBC News*, 13 August 2016.

[UK could miss out on EU science grants post-Brexit](#), *Telegraph*, 5 November 2016.

[Beyond Brexit: Scottish prominence in health research could be wrecked by Brexit](#), *Herald Scotland*, 16 November 2016.

[Research 'needs strong voice' in Brexit negotiations, say MPs](#), *Times Higher Education*, 18 November 2016.

[Call for science to escape Brexit migration rules](#), *Financial Times*, 18 November 2016.

[What does UK science do about Brexit?](#), *BBC News*, 18 November 2016.

Students

[Erasmus scheme may exclude British students after Brexit](#), *Guardian*, 24 July 2016.

[Erasmus university international exchange scheme may ban British students after Brexit](#), *Independent*, 24 July 2016.

[British students could be excluded from Erasmus scheme after Brexit](#), *Telegraph*, 24 July 2016.

[David Davis Refuses To Guarantee Future Of Erasmus Scheme](#), *Huffington Post*, 30 July 2016.

[Universities head: EU students need urgent Brexit reassurance](#), *BBC News*, 7 September 2016.

[Government urged to protect EU Erasmus student exchange scheme](#), *Guardian*, 13 September 2016.

[EU students will still be eligible for UK university loans despite Brexit](#), *Independent*, 11 October 2016.

[SNP promises EU students free tuition in Scotland after Brexit](#), *Guardian*, 14 October 2016.

[EU applications to UK universities down 9 per cent after Brexit vote](#), *Times Higher Education*, 27 October 2016.

[Early fall in EU student applications to UK universities](#), *Telegraph*, 27 October 2016.

[Brexit blamed for rise in foreign student 'no-shows' at top business schools](#), *Independent*, 16 November 2016.

3. Parliamentary material

Select Committee Reports

Science and Technology Committee (Lords), [EU membership and UK science](#), 20 April 2016, HL 127 2015-16.

Science and Technology Committee (Commons), [Leaving the EU: implications and opportunities for science and research](#), 18 November 2016, HC 502 2016-17.

PQs

- [Universities: EU Grants and Loans](#)

Asked by: Lord Storey

To ask Her Majesty's Government how much in research grants UK universities received from the EU in the last year for which figures are available.

Answering member: Baroness Neville-Rolfe | **Department:** Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy

In 2014/15 UK universities and other higher education institutions received £836,388,000 in research grants from EU sources.

28 Sep 2016 | Written questions | HL1968

- [Higher Education: Finance](#)

Asked by: Eagle, Ms Angela

To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, what discussions he has had with the university sector on the level of future additional sources of Government funding after the UK leaves the EU.

Answered by: Mr David Gauke | **Department:** HM Treasury

Treasury Ministers and officials have meetings with a wide variety of organisations in the public and private sectors as part of the process of policy development and delivery. Details of ministerial and permanent secretary meetings with external organisations on departmental business are published on a quarterly basis and are available at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/hmt-ministers-meetings-hospitality-gifts-and-overseas-travel>

The government is committed to maintaining the position of our world-class universities. The Chancellor stated in August that, to ensure stability in the period leading up to our departure from the EU, we will guarantee: multi-year contracts from the structural and investment funds signed by government before we leave and successful bids from competitive EU funds, for example Horizon 2020, submitted while the UK is a member of the EU. The Treasury will underwrite these payments even when specific projects continue beyond departure from the EU.

In addition, the government has announced that it will guarantee access to loans and grants for EU students starting in the academic year 2017-18. These will be available throughout the duration of their course.

17 Oct 2016 | Written questions | 47547

- [Higher Education: EU Nationals](#)

Asked by: Goodman, Helen

To ask the Secretary of State for Education, what recent discussions she has had with the Home Secretary on work permits and immigration rules for EU citizens working in higher education, research and academia after the UK leaves the EU.

Answered by: Joseph Johnson | **Department:** Department for Education

Department for Education officials meet regularly with Home Office officials to discuss a range of issues regarding EU students and staff. The two departments will continue to work closely as these issues progress.

18 Oct 2016 | Written questions | 47297

- [Higher Education: Brexit](#)

Asked by: Gethins, Stephen

To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, if the Government plans to remain a signatory of the Bologna Declaration after the UK leaves the EU.

Answered by: Joseph Johnson | **Department:** Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy

The Bologna Process, which created the European Higher Education Area in 2010, is an intergovernmental agreement among 28 countries in the European region. It is not an EU body and therefore UK membership will not be affected by the UK's departure from the EU.

20 Oct 2016 | Written questions | 47399

- [Higher Education: EU Nationals](#)

Asked by: Murray, Ian

To ask the Secretary of State for Exiting the European Union, pursuant to the Answer of 13 October 2016 to Question 47818, what the Government's policy is on changes to the rights of UK universities and their students and staff from other EU countries.

Answered by: Mr Robin Walker | **Department:** Department for Exiting the European Union

We want to continue to attract the brightest and the best to the UK after exit. UK researchers can still apply for Horizon 2020 projects, with the certainty that any funding will be guaranteed by the UK Government for the cycle of the programme. The government has recently announced that EU students applying for a place at an English university or further education institution in the 2017 to 2018 academic year will continue to be eligible for student loans and grants – and will be for the duration of their course. The Prime Minister has been clear that during negotiations she wants to protect the status of EU nationals already living here, and the only circumstances in which that would not

be possible is if British citizens' rights in European member states were not protected in return.

20 Oct 2016 | Written questions | 48877

- [Overseas Students](#)

Asked by: Cunningham, Mr Jim

To ask the Secretary of State for Education, what estimate she has made of the financial contribution made by international students to UK universities in each of the last three years; and if she will make a statement.

Answered by: Joseph Johnson | **Department:** Department for Education

Information on the finances of UK higher education institutions (HEIs) is collected and published by the Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA). The table below summarises the total income from the tuition fees of non-EU domiciled to UK HEIs in the last three academic years. HESA finance data does not distinguish between UK and EU students, therefore data on EU fee income is not available.

UK Higher Education Institutions

Total HEI income from Non-EU Course Fees

Academic Year 2012/13 – 2014/15

Academic Year	Total HEI income from Non-EU Tuition Fees
2012/13	£3.5bn
2013/14	£3.9bn
2014/15	£4.2bn

20 Oct 2016 | Written questions | 49043

- [Higher Education](#)

Asked by: Elliott, Julie

To ask the Secretary of State for Exiting the European Union, what steps he plans to take to consult representatives of the higher education sector as part of his Department's preparations for the negotiations on the UK exiting the EU.

Answered by: Mr Robin Walker | **Department:** Department for Exiting the European Union

The Department for Exiting the EU has engaged with a number of higher education institutions and groups including Universities UK. Over the next few months the department will continue to engage with key stakeholders in business and civil society, including universities, through a series of roundtables, bi-laterals and visits across the UK.

We have been clear that we want to create an environment in which the UK as a whole can continue to be a world leader in research, science and the tertiary education sector more broadly.

21 Oct 2016 | Written questions | 49137

- [Higher Education](#)

Asked by: Cunningham, Mr Jim | **Party:** Labour Party

To ask the Secretary of State for Exiting the European Union, what steps he is taking to ensure that the UK leaving the EU does not have a deleterious effect on the operation of UK universities; and if he will make a statement.

Answered by: Mr Robin Walker | **Department:** Department for Exiting the European Union

The Department for Exiting the EU has engaged with a number of higher education institutions and groups including Universities UK and Royal Academies. Over the next few months the department will continue to engage with key stakeholders in business and civil society, including universities, through a series of roundtables, bi-laterals and visits across the UK.

We have been clear that we want to create an environment in which the UK as a whole can continue to be a world leader in research, science and the tertiary education sector more broadly. The government has already announced that UK researchers can still apply for Horizon 2020 projects and the Treasury will underwrite the payment of such awards, even when specific projects continue beyond the UK's departure from the EU. Equally, EU students applying for a place at an English university or further education institution in the 2017 to 2018 academic year will continue to be eligible for student loans and grants – and will be for the duration of their course.

24 Oct 2016 | Written questions | Answered | House of Commons | 49429

- [Overseas Students](#)

Asked by: Streeting, Wes

To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, what estimate his Department has made of the net contribution made by international students to the UK economy in each of the last five years.

Answering member: Simon Kirby | **Department:** HM Treasury

International students make an important contribution, economic and otherwise, to the world-leading Higher Education system in the UK. The latest available figures show that in 2011, EU and non-EU students in Higher Education were estimated to have contributed £9.7 billion to the UK economy through tuition fees and living expenditure.

27 Oct 2016 | Written questions | 49818

- [Overseas Students](#)

Asked by: Cunningham, Mr Jim

To ask the Secretary of State for Education, pursuant to the Answer of 20 October 2016 to Question 49043, what estimate she has made of

the financial contribution to be made by international students to UK universities in each of the next five years.

Answered by: Joseph Johnson | **Department:** Department for Education

In autumn 2015, as part of the Spending Review and Autumn Statement, the following estimates were published, based on forecasts by English universities.

English Higher Education Institutions

Forecasts of student numbers and associated income

Academic Year 2015/16 – 2019/20

	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	Total growth
Home and EU students (FTE)	1,300,000	1,340,000	1,370,000	1,400,000	1,440,000	130,000
Home and EU students (£m)	9,200	9,700	10,000	10,200	10,400	1,300
Non-EU students (FTE)	260,000	280,000	300,000	310,000	320,000	55,000
Non-EU income (£m)	3,800	4,200	4,600	4,700	4,900	1,000

Source: English universities' forecasts, Higher Education Funding Council of England (HEFCE). Figures may not sum due to rounding.

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/479749/52229_Blue_Book_PU1865_Web_Accessible.pdf

04 Nov 2016 | Written questions | 49914

- [Universities: Competition](#)

Asked by: Debbonaire, Thangam

To ask the Secretary of State for Education, what steps she is taking to ensure that UK universities remain globally competitive after the UK leaves the EU.

Answering member: Joseph Johnson | **Department:** Department for Education

UK universities are home to both world-class teaching and life-changing research, and exiting the EU will not change this. The Government has already announced that EU students applying for a place at an English university or further education institution in 2017/2018 (or before) will continue to be eligible for student loans and grants for the duration of their course, even if the UK exits the EU during that period. To support research and innovation, we have also announced that HM Treasury will underwrite funding for approved Horizon 2020 projects applied for before the UK leaves the EU, including where specific projects continue beyond the UK's departure.

Future arrangements for EU students and staff, funding and also UK students studying abroad will need to be considered as part of wider discussions about the UK's relationship with the EU. The Government is fully committed to ensuring that we get the best possible outcome for the higher education sector from its negotiations with the EU.

04 Nov 2016 | Written questions | 51362

- [Higher Education: Finance](#)

Asked by: Timms, Stephen

To ask the Secretary of State for Education, what plans she has to provide extra funds to higher education institutions after the UK leaves the EU in the event of a reduction in income from tuition fees paid by students from other EU countries.

Answering member: Joseph Johnson | **Department:** Department for Education

The publicly-funded higher education sector currently receives 2% of its total income from the fees of EU students, with some individual institutions receiving higher levels of funding. EU students make an important contribution to our universities and we want that to continue. Future arrangements for EU students and any effects on higher education institutions following the UK's exit from the EU will need to be considered as part of wider discussions about the UK's relationship with the EU.

07 Nov 2016 | Written questions | 51575

[Topical Questions](#)

Asked by: Stuart Blair Donaldson

In 2014-15 the EU-funded Erasmus scheme meant that 1,600 students from Scottish higher education institutions were able to enrich their learning and gain greater understanding of different European people and cultures by studying abroad. What assurance can the Minister give to young people across Scotland that they will be able to continue to benefit from the Erasmus scheme following the UK leaving the EU?

Answered by: Joseph Johnson | **Department:** Education

We welcome student mobility schemes in both directions: the ability of international students and EU students to come to this country and the ability of our students to go and experience the higher education systems of other countries. Clearly, our membership of Erasmus will be part of the broader discussions on our future relationship with the EU.

14 Nov 2016 | Oral answers to questions | 617 c21

- [Higher Education](#)

Asked by: Dr Blackman-Woods

As the Minister knows, the higher education sector contributes a massive £73 billion to the UK economy, including £11 billion of export earnings, yet the Department for Education has no representation on the EU Exit and Trade Committee or Sub-Committee. What reassurances can he give the House that the priorities for the sector, such as growing the number of students and sustaining research funding, are being identified and protected in the Brexit negotiations?

Answered by: Joseph Johnson | **Department:** Education

The Department has moved rapidly to provide significant reassurances to the sector in a number of respects, particularly on the continuity of the funding arrangements for Horizon 2020 resources. The Treasury will make up the continuing obligations on payments that fall due after we have left the EU. We have made it clear that EU students will be able to access our loan book and home fee status for the duration of their course of study if they start in the 2016-17 or 2017-18 academic year.

14 Nov 2016 | Oral answers to questions | 617 c11

[Higher Education](#)

Asked by: Dr Philippa Whitford

Some 15% of Scottish academics in higher education institutions are EU nationals. That rises to 25% in institutions such as Edinburgh University. Some universities already report having lost advance staff who were due to come from Europe. Will the Minister speak to the Home Secretary and try to get a guarantee of rights for EU staff before we lose any more talent?

Answered by: Joseph Johnson | **Department:** Education

We fully value the contribution that EU staff make to the success of UK institutions. The higher education sector has a long-established tradition of attracting brilliant academics and students at all stages of their careers, and we are working hard to ensure that that continues. The Prime Minister has given assurances that she has every expectation of being able to guarantee the status of such academics, provided that other countries reciprocate for British nationals in their countries.

14 Nov 2016 | Oral answers to questions | 617 c12

- [Higher Education](#)

Asked by: Dr Roberta Blackman-Woods

What priorities her Department has identified for higher education in the negotiations on the UK's withdrawal from the EU.

Answered by: The Minister for Universities, Science, Research and Innovation (Joseph Johnson) | **Department:** Education

The Government are fully committed to ensuring that our universities get the best possible deal from the negotiations with the EU. We recognise the key issues for the sector as being the ability to recruit EU students, the student financial support to which they have access, EU programmes and funding streams and the status of UK students studying abroad. The future arrangements on all those issues will have to be considered as part of the wider discussions about our future relationship with the EU.

14 Nov 2016 | Oral answers to questions | 617 c11

- [Higher Education: Research](#)

Asked by: Murray, Ian

To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, pursuant to the Answer of 20 October 2016 to Question 48877, whether higher education institutions in (a) Scotland and (b) the UK will be able to continue to apply for (i) EU research funding and (ii) the Horizon 2020 project after the UK leaves the EU; and whether HM Treasury plans to continue to underwrite the payment of such awards.

Answering member: Joseph Johnson | **Department:** Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy

Until our departure from the EU, we remain a fully paid up Member State, with all the rights and obligations that entails. All UK-based researchers, wherever they are located within the UK, can continue to apply for competitive EU research funding, such as the Horizon 2020 programme, while we remain a member of the EU. We will work with the European Commission to ensure payment when funds are awarded. The Treasury will underwrite the payment for such awards, even when specific projects continue beyond the UK's departure from the EU. Access to apply for Horizon 2020 after we leave the EU will be a matter for the negotiations that will follow the triggering of Article 50.

14 Nov 2016 | Written questions | 52160

- [Higher Education](#)

Asked by: Whitford, Dr Philippa

To ask the Secretary of State for Education, what assessment she has made of the effect of the UK's decision to leave the EU on student and staff numbers in the higher education sector.

Answered by: Joseph Johnson | **Department:** Department for Education

EU students and staff make an important contribution to our world class Higher Education sector, and we want that to continue.

Any effects on student and staff numbers following the UK's exit from the EU will be considered as part of wider discussions about the UK's relationship with the EU.

15 Nov 2016 | Written questions | 907243

- [Higher Education: Finance](#)

Asked by: Blomfield, Paul

To ask the Secretary of State for Education, pursuant to the Answer of 3 November 2016 to Question 50332, what assessment she has made of the effect of (a) the UK leaving the EU and (b) proposed changes to the student and work route of entry on fee income estimates.

Answered by: Joseph Johnson | **Department:** Department for Education

Any effects on higher education institutions following the UK's exit from the EU will be considered as part of wider discussions about the UK's relationship with the EU.

17 Nov 2016 | Written questions | 52097

Debates

[Next Steps in Leaving the European Union](#)

Parliamentary proceedings | 10 Oct 2016 | 615 cc39-69

[UK Exit from the European Union](#)

HC Debate | 17 Oct 2016 | 615 cc197-238WH

[Brexit: Domestic and International](#)

HL Debate | 27 Oct 2016 | 776 cc330-377

[Brexit: Impact on Universities and Scientific Research](#)

HL Debate | 03 Nov 2016 | 776 cc771-824

[Technical and Further Education Bill](#)

HC Debate | 14 Nov 2016 | 617 cc40-99

[Immigration Rules \(International Students\)](#)

HC Debate | 16 Nov 2016 | 617 cc126-151WH

[Immigration: Overseas Students](#)

HL Debate | 17 Nov 2016 | 776 cc1593-1631

About the Library

The House of Commons Library research service provides MPs and their staff with the impartial briefing and evidence base they need to do their work in scrutinising Government, proposing legislation, and supporting constituents.

As well as providing MPs with a confidential service we publish open briefing papers, which are available on the Parliament website.

Every effort is made to ensure that the information contained in these publically available research briefings is correct at the time of publication. Readers should be aware however that briefings are not necessarily updated or otherwise amended to reflect subsequent changes.

If you have any comments on our briefings please email papers@parliament.uk. Authors are available to discuss the content of this briefing only with Members and their staff.

If you have any general questions about the work of the House of Commons you can email hcinfo@parliament.uk.

Disclaimer

This information is provided to Members of Parliament in support of their parliamentary duties. It is a general briefing only and should not be relied on as a substitute for specific advice. The House of Commons or the author(s) shall not be liable for any errors or omissions, or for any loss or damage of any kind arising from its use, and may remove, vary or amend any information at any time without prior notice.

The House of Commons accepts no responsibility for any references or links to, or the content of, information maintained by third parties. This information is provided subject to the [conditions of the Open Parliament Licence](#).