



## Guidance

# Advice for higher education institutions in England 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 students and staff from the EU about the EU Settlement Scheme

Any students, 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 for your students and staff 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 students 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, for example to complete a 4-year course, 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.

Visit the [guidance on employing EU, EEA and Swiss nationals after Brexit](#) for further advice.

## Student finance

Higher Education institutions should advise prospective and current students how they can find out if they are [eligible for student finance](#) and how they can make an application.

EU, EEA and Swiss nationals, within the scope of the EU Settlement Scheme, will continue to be eligible for student financial support on broadly the same basis as now

Irish nationals will continue to be able to access further and higher education courses in England. This includes access to home fee status and student support, subject to meeting the relevant eligibility criteria, on terms no less favourable than those for UK nationals.

EU, EEA and Swiss citizens and their family members, starting courses in England in the 2020 to 2021 academic year or before, will remain eligible for undergraduate and postgraduate financial support and Advanced Learner Loans from Student Finance England for the duration of their course, provided they meet the residency requirements.

We will provide sufficient notice for prospective EU students on fee arrangements ahead of the 2021 to 2022 academic year and subsequent years.

Devolved administrations in [Scotland](#), [Wales](#) and [Northern Ireland](#) have given similar assurances. However, as funding for higher education is devolved, students living in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland should contact their relevant student funding body for more information.

UK nationals studying and living in the EU, EEA or Switzerland can find more information on the support available to them in the guidance on [rights of UK nationals](#) and in the guidance on [student finance arrangements in a no deal scenario](#).

## Data protection

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

## EU Funding

### 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](#).

## Horizon 2020

UK universities and businesses who currently receive funding from Horizon 2020 or are considering submitting a bid to the programme should refer to the [Horizon 2020 technical notice](#) for information on the government's no deal plans, including the guarantee and extension.

The Horizon 2020 technical notice may also be of interest to EU organisations who work with UK participants on Horizon 2020 projects.

## Mutual recognition of professional qualifications

If the UK leaves the EU with a deal, there will be no change for people who have received recognition of their professional qualifications on or before 31 December 2020.

You should read the guidance on [qualified professional services](#) that sets out arrangements for more information on recognising professional qualifications if the UK leaves the EU without a deal.

The UK has reached agreements on citizens' rights with the 4 EFTA countries (Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway and Switzerland) which will apply if the UK leaves the EU with no deal.

These agreements include recognition of professional qualifications held by these countries' nationals and UK nationals:

- the [EEA EFTA No Deal Citizens' Rights Agreement](#) covers Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway
- the [Swiss citizens' rights agreement covers Switzerland](#)

## 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](#).

In the first instance, you should check the GOV.UK [foreign travel advice](#) pages for the latest updates on the relevant country and [you can also sign up to receive email alerts](#) for the country you are travelling to.

If you are arranging travel to the EU with sports, exhibition or other equipment, please read the advice for [organisations, businesses and individuals in the creative, cultural, and sport sectors](#).

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](#).

## Study in the EU

We have also published [advice for students and citizens who want to study higher education in any EU country](#) after the UK leaves the EU.

Is this page useful? [Yes](#) [No](#)

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