



## Guidance

# Advice for further education institutions and apprenticeship providers 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 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 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.

## **Eligibility for places and funding in relation to academic year 2019 to 2020 and 2020 to 2021**

## Further education (19+) and apprenticeship providers

This covers adults aged 19+ in further education and those seeking apprenticeships.

EU, EEA and Swiss nationals, within the scope of the EU Settlement Scheme, will continue to be eligible for funding for further education 19+ and apprenticeships on broadly the same basis as now.

Irish nationals will continue to be able to access further education 19+ and apprenticeships in England, subject to meeting the current eligibility criteria. This will be on terms equivalent to those for UK nationals.

EU, EEA and Swiss citizens and their family members, starting further education 19+ and apprenticeships in England in the 2019 to 2020 and 2020 to 2021 academic years will remain eligible for FE and apprenticeship support, whether a deal for leaving the EU is in place or not. This will be for the duration of their further education and apprenticeships providing they continue to meet the eligibility requirements. These groups will also be able to access Advanced Learner Loans from Student Finance England during this time.

You should advise prospective and current students where they can find more information about the eligibility rules.

For more information see:

- [adult education budget \(AEB\) funding rules 2019 to 2020](#)
- annex A of the [apprenticeship funding rules](#) sets out information on eligibility for apprenticeship providers and employers - the 2018 to 2019 rules are the most recent version of the rules
- '[become an apprentice](#)', which gives students information about what's involved and where to go for help and support

We will update the funding rules, advice and guidance for prospective EU, EEA and Swiss students and apprentices on access to funding ahead of the 2021 to 2022 academic year and subsequent years in good time before any changes take effect.

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](#).

## Access to funding for 16 to 19 education and training

16 to 19 education and training funding, including student financial support to help

with participation costs is provided to those who have the right of abode, right to work, or who have recently settled status, including those with leave deriving from being subject to humanitarian protection or having refugee status. This will continue after we leave the EU.

The published document [funding guidance for young people 2019 to 2020: funding regulations](#) sets out the eligibility rules that apply for all of the funding year 1 August 2019 to 31 July 2020, whether we leave the EU with or without a deal.

## **Devolved administrations**

The devolved administrations in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland have given similar assurances. As funding for further education and apprenticeships is devolved, students living in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland should contact their relevant student funding body or provider for more information.

## **Checking for EEA regulating authority teacher sanctions or restrictions**

Keeping children safe in education recommends that colleges obtain information from the Teaching Regulation Agency as to any sanctions imposed on teachers by EEA professional regulatory authorities as part of the requirement to undertake appropriate further checks on those who have worked outside of the UK.

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, colleges must continue to carry out the same safer recruitments checks for applicants who have lived or worked outside the UK as for all other staff. In addition, colleges 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, post-exit, automatically receive details of those teachers who have been sanctioned in EEA member states.

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

## 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. Colleges have significant flexibilities in terms of how they provide food for students that are eligible for free meals.

We advise that you contact your food supplier(s) if your college procures food directly 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 provide nutritious meals and to accommodate special dietary needs and allergens when introducing any substitute products.

## 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.

## European Social Fund

If the UK leaves the EU with a deal, the UK would continue to participate in the European Social Fund (ESF) programmes financed by the current EU Budget until their closure. This means that all ESF programmes would be fully funded until the end of 2020.

If the UK leaves the EU without a deal, the government guarantee would cover all ESF projects that would have been funded by the EU until the end of 2020. Organisations in receipt of EU funding should refer to the guidance on [European Social Fund grants in a no deal Brexit](#).

## 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](#).

## 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 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 [preparing to drive in the EU after Brexit: bus and coach driver](#) guidance.

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

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[Prepare for Brexit if you live in the UK](#)

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

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