

BREXIT AND UNIVERSITIES FAQ

What will happen to university collaboration in Europe after Brexit? With Europe's research and mobility heavyweight leaving the European Union, many are understandably worried about what will happen in the future. The United Kingdom is a valued and active partner in research collaborations and a favourite student destination. Will Brexit change this? What do we know, and what do we have to guess? EUA has gathered a few questions that members often raise and provides the answers based on the most up-to-date information available to the Association.

The answers below assume that negotiations will end with an agreement and not break down, they are based on official statements of agreement between the EU and the UK, but nothing will be finally agreed until everything is agreed.

1 Can my institution continue to work with the UK in Horizon 2020 and Erasmus+?

Yes! The UK and the EU has agreed that the UK will benefit from, and pay for, participation in these programmes until they end. This means that projects granted until the end of the programme period in 2020 will continue to receive funding until they end, also for UK partners.

2 Can the UK participate in future research programmes and Erasmus?

Yes. Rules for participation are made under the regulations for each programme period; they provide the legal basis for participation of non-EU countries. The UK can negotiate association agreements on this basis, where it pays into the programmes and has the right to participate.

3 What about the freedom of movement – is that a problem?

No. Formally, there is no connection between the freedom of movement and the participation of a country individual programmes. Freedom of movement is connected to the Single Market, which the UK at present does not want to be part of after Brexit. Different rules apply for Switzerland, but this is a unique type of agreement.

4 What will student mobility look like?

We do not know. Until the UK leaves the EU, EU students will have the same rights as UK students, importantly with access to grants and loans. The UK Government has guaranteed that this will continue for EU students who start in 2017-18 and 2018-19 for the duration of their studies. It is not clear what will happen after this.

In terms of **UK students going to the EU**, they will at least be covered by an EU directive for students from third countries that gives them the right to move freely in Europe, bring their family, and stay to find a job after their studies.

5 Can and will UK universities set up branch campuses in the EU?

It will probably be different from country to country. The topic would likely be dealt with by a trade agreement to be negotiated after the UK has left the EU. In other trade agreements, and in the Single Market, individual member states can make their own, national requirements for foreign higher education providers.

6 What about recognition of qualifications?

Recognition of academic qualifications can continue. Academic qualifications fall under the European Higher Education Area through the Lisbon Recognition Convention, which the UK is part of and which is not linked to EU membership, so it will not be formally affected by Brexit. This means that there will be no change to academic recognition in general, including joint diplomas, double degrees or similar documents.

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