

Joint press release

London and Brussels, 13 October 2016

Brexit: Funding confirmed for EU students applying for 2017-2018

On 11 October 2016, government officials in the UK announced that EU students applying for entrance into an English higher education institution for the 2017-2018 academic year will continue to be eligible for student loans and grants for the duration of their degree course. This means that EU students will be able to access the same funding they are entitled to now. Officials also stressed that the arrangement will be valid even if the UK exits the Union during the coursework period.

Responding to the news, Universities UK (UUK) President Dame Julia Goodfellow said, “Students from other EU countries can now apply for places in undergraduate courses starting in autumn 2017 with the certainty that they will not have to pay up-front tuition fees and now have a guarantee that they will receive government-backed loans to cover their tuition fee for the duration of their courses. This announcement also guarantees that EU students commencing courses in autumn 2017 will continue to pay the same tuition fees as UK students.”

This is reassuring news for both universities and students. Rolf Tarrach, President of the European University Association (EUA) said, “The announcement gave the higher education sector much-needed clarity and has shown that the government acknowledges the value of EU students. We hope that this points to an understanding that we need to preserve student mobility between the UK and the rest of Europe.”

EUA and UUK agree that European and international students are a valuable part of cultural and academic life on British university campuses. As plans develop for a post-Brexit Britain, a commitment is needed to ensure that students, from Europe and beyond, are able to continue to study in the UK without unnecessary bureaucratic burdens.

The announcement was followed by a confirmation from the Welsh government that EU students applying for entry at Welsh universities in 2017-2018 would also be eligible for current levels of loans and grants. EUA and UUK urge the leaders of Scotland and Northern Ireland to issue similar reassurances.

For more information from EUA, please contact:

Jessica Carter; mobile: +32 (0)473 74 87 85; email: jessica.carter@eua.be

For more information from UUK, please contact:

Miranda Thomas; mobile +44 (0)7469 353 445; email: miranda.thomas@international.ac.uk

For more information on the implications of Brexit on universities, please see the UUK’s [Brexit FAQs](#) and the EUA factsheet, “[After the Brexit Referendum: Possible outcomes for Horizon 2020 and Erasmus+](#)”.

The European University Association (EUA) is the representative organisation of more than 800 universities in 47 European countries and 36 national rectors’ conferences (NRCs). The Council of EUA is comprised of the President, the members of the Board, and of the presidents of all of Europe’s NRCs. EUA works closely with its members to ensure that the voice of European universities is heard.

Universities UK is the representative organisation for the UK’s universities. Founded in 1918, its mission is to be the definitive voice for all universities in the UK, providing high quality leadership and support to its members to promote a successful and diverse higher education sector. With 135 members and offices in London, Cardiff (Universities Wales) and Edinburgh (Universities Scotland), it promotes the strength and success of UK universities nationally and internationally. Visit: www.universitiesuk.ac.uk