

## **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 has been 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.

### **1 Can the UK participate in future research programmes and Erasmus?**

Yes. Rules for participation are made under the regulations for each programme period. **For research programmes** UK would already be able to participate: Association to Horizon 2020 is open to a number of third countries, including countries that participated in the former research programme (FP7), which would open the door for the UK.

**For Erasmus**, being a full 'programme country' would require a small change in the future regulation that explicitly includes the UK under countries that can participate fully.

### **2 What about the freedom of movement – is that a problem?**

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

### **3 Will UK continue in Horizon 2020 and Erasmus+ after it leaves the EU in March 2019?**

**Not necessarily.** Both programmes are part of the Settlement of Accounts (or Brexit Bill), which will be dealt with early in the negotiations. If the UK agrees that it has committed to pay into these programmes until the end by agreeing to the 2014-2020 EU budget, it will continue to both pay and benefit. The same would go for structural funds.

If there is no agreement on the accounts, most UK participants can continue in the programmes, paid directly by the British government. However, consortia with too many British members would not be able to continue, projects with UK coordinators would have to change coordinator, and ERC grant holders in the UK would have to move to the EU.

#### 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 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?

**There is hope for professional qualifications. Recognition of academic qualifications can continue.** During the present negotiations, there have been reports of progress on the recognition of professional qualifications of EU citizens living in the UK and vice versa. The UK has indicated that it will continue to recognise EU professional qualifications, also after March 2019.

For academic qualifications, this falls under the European Higher Education Area, a voluntary commitment of which the UK is part and which is not linked to EU membership, so it will not be formally affected by Brexit.

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