

Changes for EEA and EFTA students in the UK

FAQs on fees, immigration, Erasmus+

Information accurate as of 21 January 2021

The UK left the European Union on 31 January 2020. The subsequent transition period, during which the future relationship between the UK and the EU was negotiated, ended on 31 December 2020.

While arrangements for EEA and EFTA students remained the same during the transition period, as of 1 January 2021, there are changes for these students who wish to study in the UK. These FAQs contain information about the transitional and future arrangements between the UK and the EU.

For clarification, EEA students are nationals of EU member states and the European Economic Area (Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway), and EFTA students are EU, EEA, and Swiss nationals.

There has been no change to the rights of Irish citizens at the end of the transition period, as their residence and right to study and to access benefits and services will be preserved under the [Common Travel Area \(CTA\)](#) arrangements. References to 'EEA and EFTA students' therefore exclude Irish citizens.

There is a range of scenarios for EEA and EFTA students, depending on when they arrive in the UK and the academic year that their courses start. More details can be found further down in these FAQs, but to summarise, the scenarios are:

1. EEA and EFTA students who have started a full degree course in 2020-21 and have arrived in the UK before 31 December 2020, are:
 - Eligible to apply for the UK's EU Settlement Scheme, allowing them to continue studying in the UK without a visa after the transition period has ended and remain in the UK after studying, provided they have applied by 30 June 2021
2. EEA and EFTA students starting a full degree course in 2020-21 and arriving in the UK after 31 December 2020:
 - Will need to apply for a student visa through the new Student route
 - Will be eligible to apply for the Graduate route
3. EEA and EFTA students starting a full degree course in 2021-22 and arriving in the UK after 31 December 2020:
 - Will need to apply for a student visa through the new Student route
 - Will be eligible to apply for the Graduate route

EU, EEA and Swiss nationals who are covered by the Withdrawal Agreement will continue to have access to home fee status and tuition fee support on generally the same basis as now. Broadly, this means, those with pre-settled or settled status under the EU Settlement Scheme who meet residency will be eligible for home fee status and tuition fee loan in England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland. Check here for full details in [England](#), [Scotland](#), [Wales](#) and [Northern Ireland](#).

Student fees

2020-21 Academic year

Many EEA and EFTA students are required to pay international student fees, which vary across different universities and courses. Some EEA and EFTA students may be eligible for the same fees as home students under specific conditions. Those conditions currently vary depending on whether you would like to study in England, Northern Ireland, Scotland, or Wales. Find out if you are eligible for home fees by checking the UKCISA website:

- [England](#)
- [Northern Ireland](#)
- [Scotland](#)
- [Wales](#)

If you meet the requirements for home student fees, you are likely to be eligible for funding support.

2021-22 Academic year and onwards

All EEA and EFTA students not covered by the Citizens' Rights Agreements who start a course in England, Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales during the 2021-22 academic year, and the following years, will have to pay international fees.

However, broadly speaking, EEA and EFTA students who have settled or pre-settled status in the UK and have three years' continuous residence in the UK, EEA or Switzerland may be eligible for home fee status and tuition fee loans.

International fees depend on the type of degree and will vary between institutions. You can find the fees for each course listed on university websites, or by getting in touch with the university directly.

Will I have to apply for a visa?

Short-term stay: Up to six months

Arrival in the UK on or before 31 December 2020

You can study a course of up to six months, at an accredited institution, as a visitor, which means you will not need to apply for a visa.

Arrival in the UK after 31 December 2020

EEA and EFTA students will be able to study for up to six months in the UK without applying for a visa through the new [Visitor route rules](#) (see Appendix V: Visitor). They will be able to apply for leave at the border using their e-passport and will not need to pay an application fee. There are different arrangements for [visa nationals](#) (see Appendix 2).

Long-term stay: More than six months

Arrival in the UK on or before 31 December 2020

You will not need a visa if you already live in the UK or if you have arrived in the UK on or before 31 December 2020, but you should apply for 'settled' or 'pre-settled' status under the EU Settlement Scheme. You have until 30 June

2021 to make an application. More information about the EU Settlement Scheme can be found [here](#).

Arrival in the UK after 31 December 2020

If you arrive in the UK after 31 December 2020, you will need to apply for a visa under the Student route as part of the new points-based system. The application system is now open, and you may apply up to six months in advance. You will need to demonstrate that you meet specific requirements. UK universities offer help to guide their students through the application process. You can find out more information [here](#) and apply to the Student route [here](#).

Short-term work and clinical placements (up to 12 months):

UUK are currently in the process of getting clarification on the arrangements for those coming to the UK for short-term work or clinical placements after 1 January 2021. These FAQs will be updated when we have further information.

Will I be able to stay in the UK after graduating?

Arrival in the UK on or before 31 December 2020

Any student who has arrived in the UK on or before 31 December 2020 should apply for 'pre-settled status' as part of the EU Settlement Scheme. This will allow you to continue to travel between the UK and EU without having to apply via the Student route even after 1 January 2021, and allow you to stay in the UK for five years and then apply for 'settled status', if desired. Once you have settled status, you'll be able to remain in the UK indefinitely. If you have already been in the country for five years, you can apply for settled status straight away.

Once you are in the UK, you can apply for pre-settled status or settled status for free [here](#).

Arrival in the UK after 31 December 2020

If you arrive in the UK after 31 December 2020 to start your course, you will have had to make an application under the Student route under the new points-based system. This allows you to stay in the UK for the duration of your course. After graduation you will be eligible to apply for the Graduate route (provided you meet the eligibility requirements of the route). The Graduate route, launching in summer 2021, will allow those who have completed a degree at a UK higher education provider with a track record of compliance to stay in the UK for two years (three years for PhD graduates) after graduation to work at any skill level. You may switch into skilled work visa routes if you find a suitable job.

For more information about the Graduate route, please see [here](#).

Can I still come to the UK with Erasmus+?

The UK will continue to [participate fully in Erasmus+](#) until the end of the current programme. This means that EU and Erasmus+ programme country students can

study or work in the UK as part of the current Erasmus+ programme up until the end of 2021-22 academic year. This is subject to the individual arrangements at each sending university. From 1 January 2021, students will be subject to immigration or visa requirements as outlined above.

From the 2021-22 academic year, the [Turing scheme](#) will continue to provide opportunities for UK students to study abroad. Opportunities for EU students to participate in exchange programmes in the UK may be agreed between individual universities, subject to the immigration and visa requirements set out above

The UK currently participates in the Swiss-European Mobility Programme (SEMP). Although the UK will not participate in the future Erasmus+ programme, a [regulation](#) passed by the Swiss Federal Council earlier this year will allow exchanges to continue between the two countries.

Will my UK degree still be recognised in the EU?

UK degrees are recognised in many countries around the world, and there are several agreements between different countries that support this. Some of these are not related to the European Union which means that most UK academic qualifications will still be recognised in the EU now that the UK has left.

From 1 January 2021 onwards, a few professional qualifications will need to be recognised by the appropriate regulator for your profession in each country where you intend to work. If, prior to 31 December 2020, your qualification has already been recognised by the relevant regulator in the EU, Norway, Switzerland, Iceland or Liechtenstein, you do not need to do anything. This also applies if you have submitted your request for recognition by 31 December 2020. Refer to [this page](#) for further details.

You can find out if your chosen subject is academic or professional by speaking to your university.