

BREXIT FAQs FOR EEA AND SWISS STUDENTS

By 31 October 2019, the UK is due to leave the European Union. Brexit will likely lead to changes to the system for EEA and Swiss students coming to the UK to study. (In this document EEA students means any students from Norway, Iceland or Lichtenstein)

The situation will be different depending on whether the UK leaves the EU with a deal or not. These FAQs contain all the information universities have so far about what will happen if the UK leaves the EU with the **current withdrawal agreement**, or with **no deal at all**. Both the UK and the EU are working very hard to ensure that a no-deal scenario is avoided.

Depending on future discussions between the EU and UK, it is also possible that the UK may leave the EU with a different deal, or that the UK's departure from the EU may be delayed.

FEES AND FUNDING

WHAT'S THE SITUATION AT THE MOMENT?

Many EEA and Swiss students are required to pay international student fees, which vary across different universities and courses. You can find the fees for each course listed on university websites, or by getting in touch with the university directly.

Some EEA and Swiss 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 Scotland, Wales, England or Northern Ireland.

Find out if you are eligible for home fees by checking the UKCISA website:

Fee status for EEA/Swiss students studying in:

Wales: ukcisa.org.uk/Information--Advice/Fees-and-Money/Wales-fee-status

England: ukcisa.org.uk/Information--Advice/Fees-and-Money/England-fee-status

Northern Ireland: ukcisa.org.uk/Information--Advice/Fees-and-Money/Northern-Ireland-fee-status

Scotland: ukcisa.org.uk/Information--Advice/Fees-and-Money/Scotland-fee-status

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

WHAT WILL HAPPEN AFTER BREXIT?

International student fees are always subject to change, regardless of Brexit. You should refer to university websites for international student fees for courses you are interested in.

For those eligible for home student fees under the current system:

WITHDRAWAL AGREEMENT: If you are currently eligible for home student fees, you will still be eligible if your course begins in the academic year 2019/20. If you are studying in Scotland, you will still be eligible if you are starting your degree in 2020/21. We are waiting for similar guarantees from other UK governments.

NO DEAL: This will be the same, even in the case of a no-deal Brexit.

ukcisa.org.uk/Information--Advice/EU

WILL I HAVE TO APPLY FOR A VISA?

WITHDRAWAL AGREEMENT: You will not need a visa if you are arriving before 1 January 2021.

NO DEAL: If you are arriving in the UK between the official Brexit date and 31 December 2021, you should apply for European Temporary Leave to Remain, which will allow you to remain in the UK for three years.

If you will arrive in the UK from 2021 onwards, you should apply for a student visa. Applying for a visa is not something to worry about: hundreds of thousands of students from across the world successfully apply for student visas every year. UK universities offer lots of help to guide their students through the application process.

For more information about visas, visit:

www.ukcisa.org.uk/studentnews/1272/Home-Office-guidance-for-EEA-and-Swiss-nationals-if-no-deal-gov.uk/browse/visas-immigration/eu-eea-commonwealth

WILL I BE ABLE TO STAY IN THE UK AFTER GRADUATING?

WITHDRAWAL AGREEMENT: Any student arriving in the UK before January 2021 will be able to apply for 'pre-settled status'. This will allow you to stay in the UK for five years and then apply for 'settled status'. 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:

apply-for-eu-settled-status.homeoffice.gov.uk/start/eu-settlement

If you are starting study from January 2021, you will need a visa to stay in the country.

NO DEAL: If you arrive in the UK any time after Brexit date and have applied for European Temporary Leave to Remain, you will need to apply for a visa after three years when your Leave to Remain expires.

CAN I STILL COME TO THE UK WITH ERASMUS+?

WITHDRAWAL AGREEMENT: You will still be able to study in the UK through the Erasmus+ scheme up to and throughout 2020/21.

NO DEAL: If no deal is finalised, the EU Commission has said it will seek to continue funding Erasmus+ students who are in the UK at the point of Brexit.

While we wait for clarification beyond this, UK universities are working with their partner universities across the EU to make sure that student exchange can still take place regardless of the Brexit outcome.

This is just a summary on Brexit. If you'd like to know more, visit the UKCISA website: ukcisa.org.uk.