Brexit planning: FAQs for students

Fees and funding

I’m planning to start studying at the University in 2019, what fee will I pay?

On 1 February 2018, the Scottish Government confirmed it would meet the cost of tuition fees for eligible EU students starting their degrees in 2019-20, for the duration of their degree programme. This applies if the UK leaves the EU with a withdrawal agreement and also in the event of a no-deal Brexit.

I’m planning to start studying at the University in 2019, will I be eligible for SAAS funding support?

Yes, you can apply to SAAS for funding for the duration of your degree programme. This applies if the UK leaves the EU with a withdrawal agreement and also in the event of a no-deal Brexit.

Will my fee status change from what’s on my offer? (if holding an offer for 2019 entry or deferred entry for 2020)

If you start your studies in 2019, your tuition fee status will not change. We do not yet know what tuition fee status, and what tuition fees, will apply to EU students starting their studies in 2020. This will depend on the outcome of ongoing negotiations between the UK and the EU. We will provide updated information as soon as more details are confirmed.

Will my fee status change part way through my degree?

If you start your studies in 2019 or earlier, your tuition fee status will not change during your degree programme. We do not yet know what arrangements will be in place for students starting in 2020.

The longer-term implications for EU students who want to apply to study in the UK after the end of the transition period will depend on the outcome of the negotiations and what kind of future relationship is agreed between the UK and the EU.

We are working with other UK universities to influence policy in this area. We will update this information as more details are confirmed.

What if I am an EU student already based in the UK – what will my fees be?

If you are an EU national already living in the UK and you start your studies in 2019 you will be charged the Scotland/EU/Home tuition fee rate irrespective of whether you are living in England, Wales, Northern Ireland or Scotland. We do not yet know what arrangements will be in place for students starting in 2020.

Can I apply for student loans?

Yes. Depending on where you live you will apply to either Student Finance England, Student Finance Wales, Student Finance Northern Ireland or Student Awards Agency Scotland. Please see the Student Funding pages for more information: https://www.ed.ac.uk/student-funding.

Are there any scholarships available for EU students?

EU students are eligible for a range of scholarships. See the Student Funding pages for more information: https://www.ed.ac.uk/student-funding.
As a citizen of the EEA countries (Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway) or Switzerland, how will Brexit affect me?

As a citizen of Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway or Switzerland your rights to live and study in the UK will be the same as what has been outlined for EU citizens.

EEA/Swiss nationals typically pay the international student fee rate and this will vary at the University of Edinburgh depending on your programme of study.

Some EEA/Swiss nationals may be eligible for the same fee as home/EU students and more information on eligibility can be found on our website. If you are found to be eligible for the home/EU fee then the Scottish Government will meet the cost of tuition fees for eligible students starting their degrees in 2019-20 and for the duration of their degree programme. This applies if the UK leaves the EU with a withdrawal agreement and also in the event of a no-deal Brexit.

Living and studying in the UK after 29 March

Will I still be able to study at the University of Edinburgh in the event the UK leaves the EU without a deal?

Yes. The University of Edinburgh has a long tradition of welcoming students and staff from across Europe and the rest of the world to join our vibrant academic community. We are committed to continuing to make this possible, regardless of Brexit.

If the UK leaves the EU with a deal, will I need a visa?

If you are resident in the UK before 29 March 2019 or arrive between 29 March and 31 December 2020 you will be able to live and study in the UK. You will need to apply for settled status in the UK under the EU Settlement Scheme.

If you arrive by 31 December 2020 but do not qualify for settled status you will be eligible for pre-settled status enabling you to stay until you have reached the five-year threshold.

All EU Settlement Scheme applications must be submitted by 30 June 2021.

If the UK leaves the EU without a deal, will I need a visa?

If you come to live in the UK after 29 March 2019, you may enter visa-free for up to 3 months. If you wish to stay for longer than 3 months, you will need to apply for European Temporary Leave to Remain in the UK during your initial 3 months of residence. You will be granted permission to stay for 3 years, after which you will need to apply for a visa within the UK immigration system in place at that time.

Anyone living in the UK before 29 March 2019 can still apply via the EU Settlement Scheme, and must make an application prior to 31 December 2020.

Do I need to apply for the EU Settlement Scheme?

Only if you wish to stay in the UK after 31 December 2020. However, you may still want to apply anyway as the process is straightforward and free of charge. Having pre-settled or settled status will give you formal recognition of your status and rights in the UK. In the event the UK leaves the EU without a deal, this will only apply to those who are already in the UK by 29 March 2019.
What support will the University provide if I need to apply for a visa or settled status?

The University is providing support to help you register your right to live and work in the UK post-Brexit. You can find further information regarding the EU Settlement Scheme on our website: https://www.ed.ac.uk/news/eu/advice/eu-settlement-scheme

If you have any queries that are not covered by the content on the website then please contact studentimmigration@ed.ac.uk.

I’m planning to study for a degree with professional accreditation. Will this still be recognised in the EU?

Yes, if you gain your qualification during the Brexit transition period. We do not yet know whether, or how, professionally accredited qualifications gained in the UK will be recognised within the EU after the transition period, or in the event the UK leaves the EU without a deal. Continued mutual recognition is a priority for UK professional bodies and universities.

Will I be able to work in the UK while I am studying at the University?

The rights of EU citizens and their family members currently living in the UK will remain unchanged from the EU exit date of 29 March 2019 until 31 December 2020. This means that you can continue living, working and study in the UK, as you do now.

However, if you intend to remain in the UK after 31 December 2020 you will need to apply and secure either pre-settled or settled status under the EU Settlement Scheme. In the event of a no deal, if you arrive after 29 March 2019, you will be able to work in the UK for an initial 3-month period during which time you will need to apply for European Temporary Leave to Remain. This will give you the right to continue living, working and studying in the UK for 3 years.

Will I still be able to go on an Erasmus+ exchange?

Information on the Erasmus+ exchange scheme is available on our website.

Can I stay in the UK after my studies have finished?

The UK Government intend to implement a new immigration system in 2021. If you have settled or pre-settled status or have European Temporary Leave to Remain, you will be able to continue living in the UK. If you arrive after December 2020, you will need to meet the requirements of the new immigration system in place at that time. In the event the UK leaves the EU without a deal, if you arrive between 29 March 2019 and 31 December 2020, you can apply for European Temporary Leave to Remain, which will allow you to remain in the UK for up to 3 years. After that time, you will need to apply under the new immigration system.

Will I be able to work in the UK after I finish my studies?

The UK Government intend to implement a new immigration system in 2021. If you have settled or pre-settled status or have European Temporary Leave to Remain you will be able to work in the UK. If you arrive after December 2020, you will need to meet the requirements of the new immigration system in place at that time; whether you can work will depend on the conditions of the immigration permission you obtain. In the event the UK leaves the EU without a deal, if you arrive between 29 March 2019 and 31 December 2020, you can apply for European Temporary Leave to Remain, which will allow you to live, work and study in the UK for up to 3 years. After that time, you will need to apply under the new immigration system if you wish to continue working in the UK.
Will studying outside of the UK (for example, study abroad year, overseas field work etc.) affect my continuous residence for the purpose of the EU Settlement Scheme?

Being continuously resident in the UK generally means that you have not been absent from the UK for more than six months in total (in a single period of absence or more than one) in any given 12-month period.

There are some exceptions:

- A single period of absence of more than six months but which does not exceed 12 months is permitted, where this is for an important reason, such as pregnancy, childbirth, serious illness, study, vocational training or an overseas posting.

As ‘study’ is included in the list of exceptions, you should be able to apply for the EU Settlement Scheme on the basis of continuous residence without having to 'restart the clock'.

**Health and wellbeing**

**Will I need to have private health insurance?**

If agreed, the transition period (between 29 March 2019 and 31 December 2020) will mean that EU and UK citizens will continue to enjoy many of the same rights as at present, including reciprocal health insurance. However, if the UK leaves the EU with no deal, your EHIC will no longer be valid, and you will need to arrange private health insurance.

**Can I go to a doctor/dentist in the UK?**

Yes. All full-time students in Scotland have access to the NHS until one month after their programme ends, regardless of their nationality or immigration status. Information about healthcare is available from the [New Students website](#).

**Can I/do I need to open a bank account?**

Information about banking in the UK is available from the [New Students website](#).

**Leaving and re-entering the UK after 29 March**

I will be flying outside of the UK prior to 29 March, and will not be returning until after a decision is made on Brexit. If the UK leaves the EU without a deal, is there a risk of flying outside the UK during this period?

Your re-entry to the UK is always at the discretion of UK Border Force. However, the government have stated that the rights of EU Nationals currently living in the UK will not change with Brexit. You therefore should not have any problems re-entering the UK with an EU passport as long as you have been resident in the UK prior to 30 March 2019. It is advisable to carry documents with you to prove your residence and studies in the UK when travelling - for example, you could download a certificate of matriculation from your MyEd channel.
I only have an EU ID card and not a passport - can I travel during the transition period?

Under the current rules, you are allowed to travel in and out of the UK provided you have a valid EU ID card. This is due to continue until January 2021.

Remember that your re-entry to the UK is always at the discretion of UK Border Force. However, the government have stated that the rights of EU Nationals currently living in the UK will not change with Brexit. You therefore should not have any problems re-entering the UK with your EU ID card. However, if you travel after 30 March, it is advisable to carry any documents with you as proof of your residence and studies in the UK when travelling - for example, you could download a certificate of matriculation from your MyEd channel.

**Studying in 2020/21**

I'm planning to start studying at the University in 2020, what fee will I pay?

We do not yet know what tuition fee status, and what tuition fees, will apply to EU students starting their degree studies in 2020. This will depend on the outcome of ongoing negotiations between the UK and the EU. We will provide updated information as soon as more details are confirmed.

I'm planning to start studying at the University in 2020, will I be eligible for SAAS funding support?

SAAS have not yet confirmed whether they will be able to fund EU students beginning their studies in 2020, as this depends on the outcome of negotiations between the UK Government and the EU. As soon as we have more information, we will share it here.

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**Useful definitions**

**Withdrawal agreement**

This establishes the terms of the UK’s withdrawal from the EU. It offers legal certainty once the Treaties and EU law will cease to apply to the UK.

**Transition period**

The transition period will help in particular administrations, businesses and citizens to adapt to the withdrawal of the United Kingdom. During this period the EU will treat the UK as if it were a Member State, with the exception of participation in the EU institutions and governance structures.

**EU student**

A full list of EU countries and those in the European Economic Area (EEA) can be found on the Government website at [https://www.gov.uk/eu-eea](https://www.gov.uk/eu-eea).