

Brexit Knowledge Base

Updated February 2021

What's the situation at the moment?

The UK left the EU at 11pm (GMT) on 31 January 2020 on the basis of an agreement made between the UK and the EU known as the Withdrawal Agreement. The UK made separate agreements with the EEA EFTA states (Norway, Iceland, Lichtenstein) and Switzerland.

Will I have to apply for a visa to go to the UK?

Under the government's new Student Route, students from the EU are able to apply for a student visa to study in the UK, which you can apply for up to 6 months before you arrive in the UK. The student visa costs £348 if applied for from outside the UK, and you must pay the same amount for any dependents.

Will I be able to work while I study?

Depending on the level of study and your sponsoring institution, you may be able to take up part time work in the UK alongside your studies. If you are enrolled in a full-time course at degree level you are able to work up to 20 hours a week during term time.

Will my UK degree still be recognised in the EU?

UK degrees are recognised in many countries around the world, and there are a number of agreements between different countries that support this. Some of these are not related to the European Union which means that after the UK leaves the EU, most academic qualifications will still be recognised. Recognition of some professional qualifications is more complicated, but UK universities are hoping that the mutual recognition of professional qualifications will continue. You can find out if your chosen subject is academic or professional by speaking to your university.

Will I be able to stay in the UK after my degree?

If you successfully complete a degree at undergraduate level or above in the UK, you will be able to apply for a Graduate visa to stay and work or look for work for a maximum period of two years (three years for PhD students) after completing your studies. This visa route will open in summer 2021 to international students who complete a course at a higher education provider, with a track record of compliance with the UK Government's immigration requirements. You will also be able to move into different visa routes if you have a suitable job offer from a sponsor and can meet the requirements of the route.

Can I still come to the UK with ERASMUS+?

The conclusion of the Withdrawal Agreement means that higher education institutions and other bodies from programme countries other than the UK can continue to send their students and staff on Erasmus+ mobilities to the UK with funds from the 2019 and 2020 Calls, until the projects finish or until the funds have been exhausted.

Can I still apply for research council funding for my PhD?

If you are starting your PhD after August 2021 then you are not eligible for student finance, however, All EU students will be eligible to apply for full UKRI PhD studentships for programmes beginning after 1 August 2021. You will also be able to access other international Masters funding or international PhD funding.

Will I still be eligible for health care in the UK?

You will need to pay the Immigration Health Surcharge as part of your application, which gives you access to the UK's National Health Service on generally the same basis as a UK permanent resident. As a student, you will receive a 25% discount on the Immigration Health Surcharge. The discounted Immigration Health Surcharge is £470 for Student visa holders.

Will the tuition fees change?

From the 1st of August 2021 all EU/EEA students will pay international fees for their course. This includes undergraduate and postgraduate degrees.

Changes to family status (immigration)

If you are studying at master's level or above on a course lasting nine months or more, or you are a UK Government sponsored student on a course lasting six months or more, you are entitled to bring dependants when you apply to study in the UK. A dependant may include: your spouse, your unmarried partner with whom you have a subsisting relationship, your child under 18 years old. A separate application must be made for dependants. The same fees and Immigration Health Surcharge apply.