

Inverness College UHI

Brexit help for our EU students



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Our position

The University of the Highlands and Islands, along with the rest of the UK education sector, is concerned about the continuing uncertainty around the UK departure from the European Union (Brexit) on 31 January 2020.

The University of the Highland and Islands is an outward looking university and we will continue to work closely with our partners in Europe and the wider world, whatever the eventual outcome of Brexit.

Leaving the European Union will have an impact on our research and knowledge exchange activities as well as our role in economic regional development for the Highlands and Islands.

Brexit is already having an impact on our existing and highly valued European Union students and staff, as well as affecting the decisions of future applicants wanting to study in our partnership.

At Inverness College UHI, we deeply value the contribution that EU students make to our society, our culture and our economy. Whether you have lived here for months or many years, Scotland is your home, you are welcome here, and we want you to stay.

We have prepared this guide to reassure you and provide you with the information that you may need if the UK leaves the European Union.

Brexit will likely lead to changes to the system for EU students coming to the UK to study, or for EU students who are already studying here.

The University has pledged to maintain an international outlook regardless of the outcome of Brexit, and to continue their academic collaboration with partners in Europe. The University has also promised to contribute to government policy discussions with the aim of protecting links with EU students and academic partners.

Nationally, the National Union of Students (NUS) Scotland have pledged to do everything possible to support EU nationals studying in Scotland. They are currently campaigning for the rights of EU nationals to enjoy the same fee status and the right to stay in Scotland after they complete their studies. However, the situation is subject to change. Please check latest updates on relevant websites.

Fees for EU students

What's the situation at the moment?

In Scotland, undergraduate students do not usually pay any fees. This is the case for Scottish students and most EU nationals who come to study in Scotland.

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What's going to change with Brexit?

The University of the Highlands and Islands, along with the rest of the UK education sector, is concerned about the continuing uncertainty around the UK departure from the European Union (BrEU students who begin their degrees in or before the academic year 2020-21 will still be eligible for home student fees and financial support – and nothing will change for them throughout their full degree). The funding information for students starting a degree in 2021-22 is still under review pending the outcome of the Brexit negotiations between the UK government and the EU, and decisions on how students applying to Scottish institutions will be affected from 2022-23 onwards. You can check https://saas.gov.uk/full_time/brexit/index.htm for updates on this situation.

Will I have to apply for a visa?

You will not need a visa if you are arriving before the UK leaves the EU on 31 January 2020. You may need to register on arrival in the UK if you will be staying for more than three months. If the UK leaves the EU without a deal and you are arriving before 31 December 2020, you should apply for European Temporary Leave to Remain which allows you to stay in the UK for three years.

In order to remain in the UK after 30 June 2021 (in the event of leaving the EU with a deal, without a deal the deadline will be 31 December 2020), you must apply to the EU Settlement Scheme. This is free and applications can be completed online: <https://www.gov.uk/settled-status-eu-citizens-families>.

If the UK leaves with no deal and you arrive in the UK from 2021 onwards, you should apply for a student visa. The University will be able to advise on this and it should not affect your opportunity to study here.

Will my UHI qualification still be recognised in the EU?

University of the Highlands and Islands qualifications 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 after the UK leaves the EU, most UHI academic qualifications will still be recognised.

Can I still come to the UK with Erasmus+?

You will still be able to study in the UK through the Erasmus+ scheme up to and throughout 2020/21, when the current scheme ends. The EU has said it will seek to continue funding Erasmus+ students who are in the UK at the point of Brexit. UHI is working with our partner universities across the EU to make sure that student exchanges can still take place regardless of the Brexit outcome. NUS Scotland is also campaigning to ensure that the UK government continues to provide the amount of Erasmus+ funding which currently comes from the EU.

For the most up-to-date information on the Erasmus+ programme, please visit: <https://www.erasmusplus.org.uk/brexit-update> or speak to the Student Support team.

Can I still apply for Research Council funding for my PhD?

Yes, currently EU students remain eligible to apply for UKRI-funded PhD scholarships starting in the academic year 2019/20 and UHI are seeking confirmation that this will be the case under any Brexit scenario.

Will UHI still be a good choice for me after Brexit?

The University is in the relatively unique position of offering the opportunity to study via VC from your own country. Given the uncertainty surrounding freedom of movement regulations after Brexit, you may have more security through studying with UHI than with other more traditional universities.

The situation is constantly changing, please check relevant websites, for up-to-date information.

Sources:

<https://www.universitiesuk.ac.uk/International/Documents/Promote/brexit-faqs-for-eu-students.pdf>

<https://www.uhi.ac.uk/en/about-uhi/impact-of-brexit/>

https://saas.gov.uk/full_time/brexit/index.htm

<https://www.nusconnect.org.uk/nus-scotland/policy/brexit>

<https://www.erasmusplus.org.uk/brexit-update>

<https://www.gov.uk/settled-status-eu-citizens-families>

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