# Brexit FAQs

# The following FAQs are based on questions which have been raised by staff at one of the regular Brexit briefings or through other channels. They are updated regularly to reflect our current knowledge about Brexit.

# Political environment

# What do we know about the Scottish Government plans post Brexit?

The Scottish Government published “[Scotland’s Place in Europe](http://www.gov.scot/Resource/0051/00512073.pdf)” in December 2016 in which it sets out proposals to the UK Government to consider ahead of the start of negotiations on the UK’s withdrawal from the EU. The [Scottish Government](https://beta.gov.scot/brexit/) is in discussion with Universities Scotland and other stakeholders on all of the issues arising from Brexit which affect the HE sector.

# What potential complications could arise from the involvement of both the UK and Scottish governments?

The negotiation of the UK’s departure from the EU is a matter for the UK Government.

The Scottish Government controls the majority of the public funding received by the University. The UK’s departure from the EU will be only one of the factors affecting overall public funding for Higher Education in Scotland.

# To what extent does the fall in value of Sterling mitigate the impact of Brexit?

So far there is little direct evidence of a significant currency effect on either the University’s income or on student recruitment. The exchange rate is only one factor. The University has limited exposure to foreign exchange transactions. Future movements in exchange rates, inflation and interest rates are always considered in reviewing the University's financial planning.

Impact on our strategy

# What plans is the University making to mitigate the impact of Brexit?

The University took [early steps](https://www.napier.ac.uk/study-with-us/implications-of-leaving-the-eu) to reassure potentially affected students and staff and to provide guidance on the possible impact and timescales. The Scottish Government has since provided a guarantee that current fee arrangements will remain in place for all EU students currently studying in Scotland and those commencing study up to and including 2019/20 for the duration of their studies.

The University continues to work in partnership with other institutions across Europe and to build relationships. E.g. the University Joined the [Urban Research and Education Knowledge](http://www.ureka.eu/) [Alliance](http://www.ureka.eu/) (U!REKA) consortium. We are not reducing our engagement and involvement with European partnerships and projects.

The University is working with [Universities Scotland](https://www.universities-scotland.ac.uk/) and [Universities UK](https://www.universitiesuk.ac.uk/) to make representations to government at Holyrood and Westminster on the issues of greatest near-term importance to higher education, particularly:

* Student fees and loans
* The immigration status of staff and students following Brexit
* Horizon 2020
* Mobility programmes (Erasmus +)

The University Leadership Team has established an [Advisory Group](https://staff.napier.ac.uk/services/principal/Pages/Europe.aspx) to monitor developments and to advise on such further actions as may be required as the future relationship between the UK and the EU becomes clearer.

# What impact will Brexit have on our Strategy 2020 targets?

At this time, there is no clear evidence of the likely long term impact of Brexit on the University’s income and student recruitment. Brexit is only one of many factors that could affect the University’s performance. The University’s Senior Leadership Group keeps progress towards the [Strategy](https://www.joomag.com/magazine/strategy-2020-building-success/0536670001429606029?short) [2020](https://www.joomag.com/magazine/strategy-2020-building-success/0536670001429606029?short) targets under review.

# What would the impact of a no deal Brexit on students, staff and research?

The existing guarantees for [student funding](https://news.gov.scot/speeches-and-briefings/ministerial-statement-supporting-people-to-study-in-scotland) and [EU funding for research](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/erasmus-in-the-uk-if-theres-no-brexit-deal) will continue to apply in the event of no deal. It is thought likely that EU nationals already working in the UK [will continue to have the same rights](https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-politics-45258343) post March 2019, at least for the immediate future, although the UK government has not said what the longer term situation would be.

**What do we anticipate the impact of Brexit to be on Transnational Education (TNE)?**

There will be no direct impact. The University is developing ambitious plans to expand its TNE provision and Brexit will not affect these plans. If the European Market for Higher Education changes following the UK’s departure from the EU there may be new opportunities to deliver TNE in Europe (the University already delivers TNE in Switzerland).

# Impact on students

# How will targets for EU students be affected?

All student number targets are reviewed annually in the light of demand and market intelligence and are considered in the round rather than on a category-by-category basis. The University is taking steps to boost Scottish domiciled student recruitment to address the risk of declining EU applications and entrants.

# What guarantees have been made to EU students and who has made them?

Commitments were given by the Scottish Government to meet the cost of tuition fees for EU students commencing their studies in 2017/18 and 2018/19 and on 1 February 2018 this was extended to students starting their studies in 2019/20. The fees guarantee applies for the duration of the degree programme even where the course continues after the UK has left the EU.

# Is funding for student fees the responsibility of Westminster or Holyrood?

A Scottish Statutory Instrument regulates EU student fees in Scotland. It will be for the Scottish Government to decide when and in what form to bring forward proposals for any changes following the UK’s departure from the EU.

# What is the fee status for EU students starting in 2019/20?

The Scottish Government has [confirmed](https://news.gov.scot/news/eu-student-status-confirmed) that free undergraduate tuition will continue for those already enrolled or preparing to study in Scotland for academic year 2019/20. EU domiciled Taught Postgraduate students commencing their studies in Scotland swill also continue to have access to tuition fee loan funding.

# What will the fees status be for EU students after we leave the EU?

There is currently no information available about the fee status for EU students after the UK leaves the EU. We don’t know whether EU students will pay the same level of fees as overseas students or if another option will be developed.

# Would lower numbers of EU students impact on the quality of the student experience?

The University values the talent and diversity EU students bring to the student body and their contribution to the wider student experience. After the UK leaves the EU, the University will continue to be an international institution and will continue to seek out and welcome talent from across Europe and around the world.

# Do we know how many students have decided not to come to the University because of the Brexit vote?

Applications from EU domiciled undergraduate students fell to UK Universities by 4.4% in 2017, with acceptances nationally down 2.1%. At Edinburgh Napier, Applications were down 9% in 2017 although as a proportion of the application pool this still represented 16% of applications in 2017 compared to 17% in 2016. Taught Postgraduate application numbers to Edinburgh Napier fell by a similar rate. Whilst the final end of cycle reporting for 2018 is yet to be verified, application numbers nationally and to Edinburgh Napier recovered much fo the decline seen in the previous year.

The Higher Education Policy Unit has estimated that EU student demand at Undergraduate level is likely to fall by up to 80% post-BREXIT, and it can be concluded that the fall in demand will be even greater in Scotland with the likelihood that BREXIT will lead to the ending of access to tuition fee funding support.

**I’ve heard the University is not accepting any students from the EU now. Is that true?**

No. In September 2018, 12% of Undergraduate entrants to the University were EU domiciled nationals. This meant we had the 6th largest number of EU domiciled acceptances amongst all Scottish HEIs, with a further estimated 5-10% of our intake made up of EU nationals already living in Scotland.

So far in the 2019 admissions cycle we have made 170 offers to EU domiciled applicants with processing ongoing. The University is however seeking to grow recruitment from Scottish domiciled students at Undergraduate level as it is anticipated that post-Brexit EU students will become liable for international fees with modelling suggesting this will result in an 80% fall in student EU demand.

At Taught Postgraduate level more than half of our home funded places are filled by EU domiciled students. Post Brexit they are likely to no longer have access to Tuition Fee loans however the University will seek to manage its Tuition Fee Scholarships and Discounts strategy to ensure our Taught Postgraduate provision remains attractive to EU students.

# What information is available for students on programmes that include a year abroad in the third year and prospective students considering applying for one of these programmes?

The UK Government has confirmed it will [underwrite payments](https://www.erasmusplus.org.uk/news/%E2%82%AC22m-boost-for-erasmus-in-2018) for Erasmus contracts that are signed while the UK is still a member state, even if payments continue beyond the point of the UK’s EU exit date. The University Leadership Team keep the situation and the requirements of our students under ongoing review, including the potential need for alternative and contingency arrangements should the UK cease to participate in the Erasmus scheme.

# Impact on staff

**What support is the University providing for staff who are affected?**

The situation for staff who are EU nationals remains unchanged until the point at which the UK leaves the EU. The UK government has introduced a [settled status scheme](https://www.gov.uk/settled-status-eu-citizens-families/applying-for-settled-status) which will give EU nationals who arrive in the UK by a specified date most of the same rights, including employment rights, as they enjoy at the moment.

Even in the event of no deal the UK government has said that it will continue to recognise the rights of EU nationals who are already resident in the UK at the date of withdrawal. Staff who have personal concerns about the implications are encouraged to contact their line manager or [HR Partner](http://staff.napier.ac.uk/services/hr/Pages/TheHRTeam.aspx) in the first instance. Further information about visas and immigration can be found on the [UK Government website.](https://www.gov.uk/browse/visas-immigration/eu-eea-commonwealth)

The University believes and is committed to being an international university in both our outlook and our actions, and will continue to seek out and welcome talent from across Europe and beyond.

**How quickly can I apply for British Citizenship once I have settled status?**

This is not clear. The rational assumption would be that as you can apply for citizenship one year after attaining Permanent Residence and that as Settled Status has equivalence to Permanent Residence then you could apply one year after securing Settled Status. But this is not spelt out in Home Office guidance.

**What’s the difference between Settled Status and Permanent Residence?**

Non EEA nationals have to apply for Permanent Residence; EU nationals can only apply for Settled Status.

**What is the impact of Settled Status on dual nationality?**

This is only an issue if you subsequently decide to apply for British Citizenship as some countries don’t permit dual nationality. Settled Status does not confer British nationality.

**Impact on research**

# What is the impact on EU funded projects and programmes?

The UK treasury has provided a [guarantee](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/erasmus-in-the-uk-if-theres-no-brexit-deal) of any Erasmus+ funding received by UK organisations including Universities up until the end of 2020. . Universities UK have also issued a [Statement on Continued](http://www.universitiesuk.ac.uk/news/Pages/European-university-leaders-call-for-continued-collaboration-after-Brexit-vote.aspx) [Collaboration Among Universities in Europe.](http://www.universitiesuk.ac.uk/news/Pages/European-university-leaders-call-for-continued-collaboration-after-Brexit-vote.aspx)

The UK’s status as a full participating member of the Horizon 2020 programme has not changed as a result of the referendum vote and you can keep applying. Existing project grants and contracts will be honoured unless or until advised otherwise. There are currently no changes to the [COST programme](https://www.cost.eu/who-we-are/about-cost/) or [Creative Europe](http://www.creativeeuropeuk.eu/news/update-creative-europe-and-outcome-eu-referendum) funding .

Please contact [Julia Gillam](mailto:j.gillam@napier.ac.uk) from the Research & Innovation Office if you have any questions.

# Impact on Erasmus programmes

# Will we be able to continue participating in Erasmus when the UK leaves the EU?

The University will continue to participate in the [Erasmus](http://erasmusprogramme.com/) scheme until further notice. The immigration status of EU students studying in the UK under the Erasmus programme has not changed, and they continue to be eligible for their Erasmus grant until at least as long as the UK remains a member of the EU. Likewise, the immigration status of UK students studying in the EU and elsewhere under the Erasmus programme has not changed, and they continue to be eligible for their Erasmus grant until at least as long as the UK remains a member of the EU. The future participation of the UK in the Erasmus programme will be determined by the negotiations on the UK’s departure from the EU.

**Erasmus+. Have we been in touch with Kino Eyes?**

Our priority has been to communicate with our Erasmus Exchange partners whom we potentially have students studying with at the present time. We will work with colleagues in Schools to craft tailored communications in relation to our other European partnership activity.