

Changes for EU students in the UK

FAQs on fees, immigration, Erasmus+

Information accurate as of 11 September 2020

On 31 January 2020, the UK left the European Union. Currently, the UK and EU are in the transition period, which will end on 31 December 2020.

During the transition period, everything stays the same for EU students. The specific arrangements for the future relationship between the UK and the EU are part of the free trade agreement negotiations. Leaving the EU means that there will be changes for EU students coming to the UK to study. These FAQs contain all the information universities have about the transitional and future arrangements between the UK and the EU.

There is a range of scenarios for EU students, depending on when they arrive in the UK and the academic year that their course starts. More details can be found further down in these FAQs, but to summarise, the scenarios are:

1. EU students starting a full degree course in 2020-21 and beyond, who are arriving in the UK before 31 December 2020, are:

- Eligible for home fee status in all nations and the tuition fee loan in England, Wales, and Northern Ireland
- Eligible to apply for the UK's EU Settlement Scheme, allowing them to remain in the UK after studying, provided they have applied by 30 June 2021

2. EU students starting a full degree course in 2020-21 and arriving in the UK after 31 December 2020:

- Are eligible for home fee status and tuition fee loan
- Will need to apply for a student visa through the new Student route
- Will be eligible to apply for the Graduate route

3. EU students starting a full degree course in 2021-22 and arriving in the UK after 31 December 2020:

- Are not eligible for home fee status and tuition fee loan in England, Northern Ireland, Scotland, and Wales
- Will need to apply for a student visa through the new Student route
- Will be eligible to apply for the Graduate route

Irish citizens are eligible to apply for status under the EU Settlement Scheme. However, the UK Government has advised that they are not required to apply for status as their residence is guaranteed under the Common Travel Area (CTA) after Brexit. The change in fee status will not apply to Irish nationals living in the UK or Ireland. The right to study and to access benefits and services will also be preserved on a reciprocal basis for UK and Irish nationals under the CTA arrangements.

EU student fees

2020-21 Academic year

EU students who start a course in the UK during the 2020-21 academic year are eligible for UK home student fees and financial support, in the form of the tuition fee loan in England, Wales, and Northern Ireland. Nothing will change for them throughout their degree.

2021-22 Academic year and onwards

EU students not covered by the Withdrawal Agreement who start a course in England, Northern Ireland, Scotland, and Wales during the 2021-22 academic year, and the following years, will no longer be eligible for home fee status and tuition fee loans.

International fees depend on the university and the type of degree and will vary between institutions. We advise EU students to reach out to the universities they are interested in with specific questions on international fee levels for the degree they have in mind.

Will I have to apply for a visa?

Short-term stay: Up to six months

Arrival in the UK on or before 31 December 2020

You can study a course of up to six months, at an accredited institution, as a visitor, which means you will not need to apply for a visa.

Arrival in the UK after 31 December 2020

Further details about short-term study and work placements for up to six months are available [here](#).

Long-term stay: More than six months

Arrival in the UK on or before 31 December 2020

You will not need a visa if you already live in the UK or if you arrive in the UK on or before 31 December 2020, but you should apply for 'settled' or 'pre-settled' status under the EU Settlement Scheme. You have until 30 June 2021 to make an application. More information about the EU Settlement Scheme can be found [here](#).

Arrival in the UK after 31 December 2020

If you arrive in the UK after 31 December 2020, you will need to apply for a visa under the Student route as part of the new points-based system. Applicants will be able to apply from 5 October 2020 and, in the future, will be able to apply six months in advance. You will need to demonstrate that you meet specific requirements. UK universities offer help to guide their students through the application process. For more information about the Student route, please see [here](#).

Will I be able to stay in the UK after graduating?

Arrival in the UK on or before 31 December 2020

Any student arriving in the UK on or before 31 December 2020 should apply for 'pre-settled status' as part of the EU Settlement Scheme. This will allow you to continue to travel between the UK and EU without having to apply via the Student route even after 1 January 2021, and allow you to stay in the UK for five years and then apply for 'settled status' if desired. Once you have settled status, you will 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.

Arrival in the UK after 31 December 2020

If you arrive in the UK after 31 December 2020 to start your course, you will have had to make an application under the Student route under the new points-based system. This allows you to stay in the UK for the duration of your course. After graduation you will be eligible to apply for the Graduate route. The Graduate route, launching in summer 2021, will allow those who have completed a degree at a UK higher education provider and who have a track record of compliance to stay in the UK for two years (three years for PhD graduates) to work at any skill level, and to switch into skilled work routes if they find a suitable job. For more information about the Graduate route, please see here.

Can I still come to the UK with Erasmus+?

The UK will continue to participate fully in Erasmus+ until the end of the current programme. This means that EU students can study or work in the UK as part of the current Erasmus+ programme up until the end of 2020-21 academic year. This is subject to the individual arrangements at each sending university. From 1 January 2021, EU students may be subject to new immigration or visa requirements. The UK and the EU are currently negotiating the UK's access to the next Erasmus+ programme, which is due to start in 2021.

Will my UK degree still be recognised in the EU?

UK degrees 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 UK academic qualifications will still be recognised in the EU.

Recognition of a few professional qualifications is part of the negotiations for the future relationship between the UK and the EU, and how they will be recognised is yet to be determined. You can find out if your chosen subject is academic or professional by speaking to your university.

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

UKRI will confirm EU student eligibility for PhD scholarships in due course. This FAQ will be updated as soon as more information is available.

For more information about PhD scholarships, please visit the UKRI website.