

EU and UK research and higher education bodies remain united post Brexit

On the day that the United Kingdom leaves the European Union, higher education and research organisations from across the UK and Europe have reaffirmed their commitment to working together.

Alongside Universities UK, a total of 29 major domestic and international organisations, which includes the European University Association (EUA), the Guild of European Research-Intensive Universities, the Confederation of British Industry (CBI), Wellcome Trust and many national rectors' conferences across Europe, have committed to maintaining their current relationships. These groups are asking governments and the European Commission to ensure full association to Erasmus+ and Horizon Europe before the end of 2020.

The statement reads:

“We, the major bodies representing science and higher education across the UK and Europe, are united in agreeing that we wish to continue to work together following the departure of the UK from the European Union. We call on our national governments and the European Commission to act on the commitments of the political declaration and work swiftly to agree a basis for continued collaboration through the UK’s full association to Horizon Europe and Erasmus+. Swift agreement in this area of clear mutual benefit would be good for all of us and should be reached before the end of 2020.”

The UK and EU now enter a transition period that will last until 31 December 2020. During this transition period the UK will remain a full member of Erasmus+ and Horizon 2020. UK and European institutions are encouraged to continue to exchange staff and students through the Erasmus+ programme, and to continue to collaborate through Horizon 2020. There will be no changes to the UK’s participation in these programmes, including for projects and mobilities that run past 31 December 2020.

The UK’s participation in Horizon Europe and Erasmus+, starting 1 January 2021, will be part of the negotiations between the UK and the EU. UK universities are pressing the UK government to prioritise negotiating continued participation in these programmes and, if that cannot be achieved, to explore putting into place national replacement schemes.

The full list of signatories:

EUA - European University Association
The Guild of European Research-Intensive Universities
ECIU – European Consortium of Innovative Universities
Aurora Universities Network
Wellcome Trust
CBI – Confederation of British Industry
CaSE - Campaign for Science and Engineering
Universities UK International
Universities Norway
Irish University Association
Universities Denmark
Flemish Interuniversity Council
CREF - Rectors conference of the Belgian French universities
HRK – The German Rectors' Conference
VSNU - The Association of Universities in the Netherlands
CRASP - Conference of Rectors of Academic Schools in Poland
CRUI - The Conference of Italian University Rectors
Crue - Universidades Españolas
Icelandic Rector’s Conference
Universities Lithuania

University of Luxembourg
Universities Austria
Council of Rectors of Latvia
CRC - Czech Rectors' Conference
HRC - Hungarian Rectors' Conference
Universities Estonia
CRUP - Portuguese Rectors' Conference
swissuniversities
SUHF – The Association of Swedish Higher Education Institutions

Notes

1. More information about what the Brexit transition period means for universities can be found [here](#)
2. General FAQs about Brexit and universities is available [here](#)
3. To see what universities would like to see from a post-Brexit settlement between the UK and the EU, see [here](#)
4. To arrange an interview or to request further information, please email [Annie Bell](#) or call +44 20 7419 5470
5. Universities UK is the collective voice of 137 universities in England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland. Its mission is to create the conditions for UK universities to be the best in the world; maximising their positive impact locally, nationally and globally. Universities UK acts on behalf of universities, represented by their heads of institution. Visit: www.universitiesuk.ac.uk
6. Universities UK International (UUKi) represents UK higher education institutions (HEIs) globally and helps them flourish internationally. To do this we actively promote UK HEIs abroad, provide trusted information for and about them, and create new opportunities through our unique ability to act at sector level. We draw on UK university expertise to influence policy in the UK and overseas, delivering information, advice and guidance to facilitate mutually beneficial collaboration between UK HEIs and a broad range of international partners. Visit: www.international.ac.uk