



STUDYING IN THE UK

FAQS AND KEY MESSAGES

2016-17



**Universities UK
International**



WHY STUDY IN THE UK?

• We come recommended

The UK is the most recommended English-speaking destination by overseas students.

The UK has the highest international student experience satisfaction ratings for English-speaking countries.

The UK is one of the two most popular global study destinations.

• For your future

A UK higher education qualification is highly regarded by employers across the globe.

Overseas students gain a world-leading education, but they also make life-long friends and lasting personal and professional connections with people from all over the world.

• For high quality education

UK higher education sector is among the best in the world and consistently performs well in world rankings. For example, in Times Higher World University rankings, UK universities have:

- 3 in the top 10
- 7 in the top 50
- 32 in the top 200
- 58 in the top 500

The UK is a world leader in the quality and impact of its research. The UK has a world-class reputation in terms of standards and quality.

Students at UK universities express the highest levels of satisfaction regarding their learning experience.

• We are international

One in every six students at UK universities are from outside the UK – that's over 436,000 students.

This includes over 125,000 EU students currently studying at UK universities, making up 5% of the entire student body.

More than 25% of the UK's university academic staff are from outside the UK - that's around 55,000 people from over 180 countries supporting a global, outward-looking culture on campuses.

• A good investment

Studying in the UK is more affordable than studying in the USA or in Australia – other popular English-language choices.

Current exchange rates make the UK an even more attractive choice financially.

But what about Brexit?

- Regardless of whether the UK is in or outside the European Union, UK universities are international communities, welcoming and benefiting from students from all over the world. EU and international staff and students are and will always be an integral part of university life.
- The UK's relationship with the European Union is changing as a result of the UK vote to leave, but it is not ending – staff and students from the EU will continue to be welcome.
- Any changes as a result of the UK vote to leave the EU won't happen overnight. Until the exit negotiations have been completed, the UK will continue to be a member of the European Union, meaning it will maintain the same rights and obligations as all the other member states. Once the exit negotiation process starts (predicted to be by spring 2017), it is expected that it will take around two years for negotiations to conclude, meaning the UK would leave the EU in 2019.
- While the UK remains a member of the EU, students studying at UK universities will continue to pay the same fees as UK students and will be eligible for tuition fee loans and grants.

What about fees after Brexit?

- **Current EU students and 2016–17 starters**

Across all UK nations, current EU students, including those that started courses this academic (2016–17) year will continue to pay the same fees as UK students (free undergraduate tuition in the case of Scotland) and will be eligible to receive loans and grants for the full duration of their courses. This will be the case even if their course finishes after the UK has left the EU.

- **2017–18 starters**

Those applying to courses starting in the next academic year (2017–2018) will also continue to pay the same fees as UK students (free tuition in the case of Scotland) and will be eligible to receive loans and grants to fund their studies for the full duration of their courses in England, Wales, Northern Ireland and Scotland. As with 2016–17 students, this will be the case even if the course finishes after the UK has left the EU.

- **2018–19 starters**

We are seeking clarity and hoping for confirmation on EU student fees and loans for 2018–19 courses as soon as possible.

- **Those starting once the UK has left the EU**

The fees that EU students starting courses at UK universities after the UK has left the EU (likely to be from 2019 onwards) are required to pay and their entitlement to loans will depend on what is agreed as part of the UK's exit negotiations. UK universities will continue to highlight the value of EU students to UK higher education and to British students. Regardless of the outcome of the negotiations, students from all corners of the world will continue to be welcome.

Can EU students continue to come to the UK on the Erasmus+ exchange programme?

Yes. Current Erasmus students, including those taking part this academic year (2016-17) at UK universities will not be affected by the UK's vote to leave the EU.

In the longer term, Universities UK will be urging the UK Government to prioritise negotiating continued access to the Erasmus+ programme.

Will there still be opportunities for students from the EU to come to UK universities once the UK has left the EU?

Yes. UK universities have always and will always welcome staff and students from across the world. Leaving the EU does not change this.

The UK's future relationship with the EU will depend on negotiations between the UK Government and the EU. However, UK universities are committed to promoting the value of EU students, student exchange programmes, as well as the importance of ensuring EU students can continue to study in the UK without unnecessary burden in the future.