

## **Brexit – contingency planning**

A great deal of contingency planning is taking place to prepare for whatever form of Brexit may eventually take, including a potential no-deal scenario. With the situation changing on an almost daily basis, we are keeping a constant watch on developments. We are also maintaining close contact with bodies such as Universities UK and UCEA (the employers' association), which provide us with up-to-date advice and support.

The paper covers:

1. Settlement scheme for EU citizens
2. Outward student mobility
3. European students studying at Glasgow
4. Travel advice
5. Research funding
6. Relations with universities in the European Union
7. Dialogue with UK and Scottish governments
8. Financial issues
9. Stocks and supplies
10. Construction issues

### **1. Settlement scheme**

HR and Student Services colleagues have been providing guidance and support to staff and students since the EU referendum took place, including dedicated email addresses for affected staff and students to contact the University and a dedicated website that includes FAQs. In November, we advised affected staff that the Home Office had confirmed they can now register to take part in the EU Settlement Scheme pilot.

We have supplied colleagues with details on the new EU Settlement Scheme that will replace the current Treaty rights of EU citizens once the UK leaves the EU. The Scheme covers the right to live and work here, along with providing access to public services such as healthcare and benefits. Information was also issued on the transition phase that will extend until 30 June 2021.

The EU Settlement Scheme, which the University supports, is currently in a pilot phase with plans in place for the scheme to open in full on 30 March 2019, the day after Brexit. Non-UK EU staff affected by these proposed changes have been informed of the University's participation in the pilot.

On 30 January, the Government announced that if the UK leaves the EU without agreeing a deal, it will seek to end free movement as soon as possible. Time-limited transitional arrangements will be put in place between the end of free movement and the introduction of a future border and immigration system. In the event of a no-deal scenario, for the period from 30 March 2019 until 31 December 2020, EEA citizens and their EEA family members, will still be able to come to the UK to work, study or visit without a visa for up to three months. However, if they wish to stay any longer, they will need to apply online for European Temporary Leave to Remain within three months of arriving.

The Guidance on European Temporary Leave to Remain confirms that if there is a no- deal Brexit:

- EEA citizens arriving in the UK who wish to stay longer than three months and apply for European Temporary Leave to Remain will be subject to identity, criminality and security checks before being granted permission to stay for three years (including permission to work and/or study).
- European Temporary Leave to Remain will be non-extendable and temporary. It will not give indefinite leave to remain (ILR), lead to EU settled status or make EEA citizens eligible to stay in the UK indefinitely. Those who wish to stay for longer will need to apply for an immigration status in due course under the future border and immigration system arrangements, which will come into effect from 1 January 2021.
- The initial three months' leave to enter for EEA citizens will be free of charge but there will be a fee for applications for European Temporary Leave to Remain. The fees have not yet been determined.
- Citizens of the Republic of Ireland will not need to apply for European Temporary Leave to Remain and will continue to have the right to enter and live in the UK under the Common Travel Area.

The 30 January announcement does not affect EEA citizens who are currently residing in the UK before the UK's exit from the EU – they will still be able to apply for settled or pre-settled status. In addition, EEA citizens who arrive in the UK after 29 March 2019 but were previously living in the UK before 29 March 2019, can also apply for EU settled status.

## **2. Outward student mobility**

The UK Government has committed to allowing students from the EU who commence their studies in 2019 to access funding on the same basis as at present for the duration of their degree programmes.

Erasmus+ provides students in higher education with the opportunity to study abroad in Europe for three to 12 months as part of their degree. Eligible students receive an Erasmus+ grant provided by the European Commission – this is paid through the University. This grant contributes towards the extra costs they may encounter from studying abroad.

In a Technical Notice issued on 30 January 2019, the Government recommended that students continue to apply for Erasmus+ funding. If the UK leaves the EU with no agreement in place, the Government is committed to covering the payment of awards to all successful applicants – including those who are informed of their success after the date of the withdrawal. However, the EU has yet to confirm that UK organisations can continue to participate in Erasmus+ in the event of no-deal. If the EU refuses, the UK Government is committed to negotiating with individual countries to seek to ensure that UK participants can continue with their planned activity.

At this stage it is unclear whether a substitute programme will be put in place if the EU does not allow the UK to participate in Erasmus+ post-Brexit. Universities UK has launched a campaign aimed at persuading the Government to commit to funding study abroad opportunities in case of a no-deal Brexit.

## **3. European students studying at Glasgow**

The UK Government has committed to allowing students from the EU who commence their studies in 2019 to access funding on the same basis as at present for the duration of their degree programmes. Applications for 2019 are strong, but it may be that this is the last cohort of UG students from EU countries who benefit from free tuition in Scotland. Together with other

Scottish universities, we are in dialogue with the Scottish Government and the Scottish Funding Council about the use of funds currently deployed to support those students. Our interest is not only financial – we wish to maintain diversity in the student population and to ensure that Glasgow remains a destination of choice for students from across the world, regardless of background.

#### **4. Travel Advice**

The Clerk of Senate recently issued travel advice on what to do in the period up to and immediately after 29 March 2019.

On 19 December 2018, the EU Commission agreed that UK airlines would be able to operate flights into and over the EU for 12 months if there is a no-deal Brexit. Therefore, we do not advise cancelling trips to the EU. There may, however, be delays at airports due to additional passport and security checks. We have advised that:

- If it is possible to avoid travel in the period immediately after Brexit, it would be better to do so.
- Travellers should leave extra time for journeys in case of additional checks
- Where possible, travellers should book direct flights to destinations, as delays may compromise the time for transfer to internal flights.

At this stage, it is also unclear whether the EU will permit British carriers (or British-owned carriers) to travel between stops in the EU in the event of no deal.

We have also advised that University travel insurance including health insurance should be arranged, as it is not yet clear if UK citizens will be eligible for free EU healthcare for any period after Brexit.

The University of Glasgow webpages provide links to additional information and we will add more as it becomes available. We are also planning future events including a Facebook live webcast on what Brexit will mean for staff and students.

#### **5. Research Funding**

The UK Government has committed to replacing funding for any EU-funded project running at the date of UK exit. The University has in the region of 250 live EU projects, with awards continuing to arrive. With the UK Government commitment, the University can be confident that EU-funded research projects will continue to completion.

We have reassured researchers at Glasgow that projects will be funded to completion and that if necessary, the University will cover any cash flow issues that may arise. Advice for holders of research grants under the Horizon 2020 programme has also been shared across the University.

UK Research & Innovation (the UK Government's main research body, which brings together the seven research councils, Innovate UK and Research England) will handle the UK payments and is reported to be making thorough preparations for all Brexit scenarios. UKRI has yet to issue guidance on when payments might be paid and whether they will be made in advance (like EU funding) or in arrears, as is standard for UK funding. However, we have advised staff that if there is a delay in finalising replacement awards from UKRI, the University will underwrite applicable projects, thus ensuring that research work can continue uninterrupted.

In order to make any transition to UK funding as smooth as possible, the University has submitted details of all existing Horizon 2020 grants held to a portal created by UKRI. The submission will be updated prior to 29<sup>th</sup> March for recent awards.

## **6. Relations with universities in the European Union**

As a University with a global reputation, we greatly value the links we have with universities in Europe and around the globe. Our reputation as a world-leading institution is underpinned by the strong academic links we maintain with other universities; we recognise the importance of sustaining these following the UK's withdrawal from the EU. To this end, we remain a very active partner in the Guild of HE, which Glasgow was instrumental in establishing; we are forging deeper partnerships with specific institutions, such as Leuphana in Germany and Radboud in the Netherlands; and we maintain a high profile at conferences and events on the Continent.

## **7. Dialogue with UK and Scottish Governments**

The University is working closely with the Russell Group, Universities UK and Universities Scotland on joint positions, and we are lobbying both Westminster and Holyrood on the most pressing issues of student and staff mobility, access to research funding and fees. The Principal and other senior colleagues have been very active in offering views on what Brexit will mean for Higher Education in general and the University of Glasgow in particular.

## **8. Financial issues**

We are giving careful attention to the implications of Brexit for the University's overall financial position. This could be negatively impacted through, *inter alia*, the loss of SFC-funded EU students; the loss of EU-funded research grants; a decline in the value of the pound; currency fluctuations; inflationary pressures; a recession in the wider economy; and a potential decline in global standing, which in turn might affect international student recruitment. We will continue to scrutinise these and related risks at Senior Management Group, Finance Committee and Audit & Risk Committee, and consider their implications in the budget round for 2019/20 and beyond.

## **9. Stocks and supplies**

On a more general level, colleagues in procurement are giving detailed consideration to logistical matters, including what stocks and supplies we currently hold and what we will need over the coming months. A number of purchase orders have been issued to try to secure supplies of materials and supplies which may be disrupted in the event of a no-deal Brexit. However, there remains an exposure on items with short shelf lives and/or storage issues. These items are predominantly reagents and gases mainly used in research; there are relatively few of these and we will manage them on an exception basis as required.

## **10. Construction issues**

We are maintaining close contact with our main construction partner, Multiplex and various other contractors, regarding the possible implications of Brexit for our campus development programme. Besides the issue of currency fluctuations, there is a risk of inflationary pressures in imported materials and of labour shortages in certain trades (some 30% of the workforce on our

building sites is international). At present, the contractors are not reporting any major difficulties but we will continue to monitor the situation closely.

David Duncan  
5 February 2019