

What UCL is doing to mitigate the impact of Brexit

1. UCL is committed to supporting our EU and overseas staff and students

Help and advice UCL has provided:

- Immigration loan scheme: we are offering an interest-free loan of up to £10,000 for staff to obtain immigration law advice and make certain immigration applications such as citizenship for staff and their immediate dependents. So far, 55 applications have been received and 51 approved.
- Clinics with an immigration specialist, delivered by HR. We held 19 sessions, with up to 60 people attending each. Based on these, we published FAQs focused on the immigration process, application and criteria for British Citizenship, PR or QP status.
- Two town hall meetings, hosted by the Provost and senior leadership team. Both were recorded and live streamed; one was attended by an immigration specialist.
- The [UCL and Brexit](#) site, with FAQs about immigration status and funding.
- A dedicated HR EU mailbox – so far we have responded to more than 1,700 emails.
- Details of the pilot scheme to apply for Settled Status were shared with all EU staff and UCL offered to cover the cost of the £65 application fee (which the Government has now waived). We have provided access to Android devices for staff to use to submit their applications, and put on a guidance session hosted by an external legal firm.
- Guidance for students considering applying for settled or pre-settled status has been published on the [current student website](#). Information sessions and talks are being arranged to support students with making an application.
- UCL will continue to support staff when the EU Settlement Scheme opens fully in March, and would like to extend this support to their families.

2. UCL access to EU programmes until the end of 2020

The UK Government and the EU have confirmed that UK researchers can apply for Horizon 2020 funding until the end of 2020

In the event of a 'no deal' Brexit the UK Government will underwrite existing European research grants

- UCL is the most successful HE institute in collaborative research in Europe according to the European Commission's own data. Currently, our academic staff are involved in 167 collaborative research projects with funding totalling over €94 million under Horizon 2020. The breadth of our collaborations across Europe is huge, with UCL researchers producing journal articles with colleagues from over 1,000 European organisations, including more than 475 universities in 2016 alone.
- In order to access the Government's underwrite funding, for H2020, ERC and Marie Skłodowska-Curie grants, UCL's European Research and Innovation Office is providing all the necessary information to UKRI.

UK universities should be allowed in principle to participate in the Erasmus scheme until 2020

- For the academic year 2018/19, UCL students undertook nearly 350 Erasmus+ study placements and 100 Erasmus+ work placements.
- We have written to all of our active Erasmus partners, that's more than 145 - offering assurances for their students studying at UCL and seeking assurances for our own students studying overseas. The Study Abroad team have a detailed plan in place to set up new bilateral exchange agreements, should they become necessary.
- In the event of 'no deal', the UK Government has committed to underwrite 19/20 Erasmus+ funding for successful bids approved but only where these have been ratified by the European Commission. We have additional contingency plans in place should this underwrite be delayed, minimising any disruption to students. We are monitoring the situation closely and developing further plans should payment be withdrawn.

3. UCL's triple track European strategy

UCL is consolidating existing partnerships

- In addition to our Brexit mitigation actions, our proactive measures include nurturing and sustaining our European partnerships, both long-standing and new, to help us to maintain our academic excellence and ensure UCL keeps its position in the global top 10 for years to come.
- The initial focus is on priority European HE partners including:
 - o KU Leuven, with a joint appointment and new partnership framework in Brain Sciences

- The Max Planck Society, with the recent renewal of the Max Planck UCL Centre for Computational Psychiatry and Ageing
- Paris Sciences et Lettres, including a recently launched joint funding scheme
- Sorbonne Université, with the renewal of our Dual Masters in Brain and Mind Sciences
- Sciences Po Paris, with whom we share a Dual Bachelors in European Social and Political Studies
- TU Delft, a member of the Bartlett's BauHow5 consortium
- Utrecht University, an important partner on numerous major research grants and with whom we share a joint appointment
- These developments are in addition to the range of existing programmes, dual degrees, joint appointment and research partnerships that have been in place across many European HE Institutions for some time.

UCL launched the Cities partnerships Programme

- Last year, UCL announced our new [Cities partnerships Programme](#) which was created in direct response to Brexit. It sets out to achieve many of the outcomes signalled for other UK universities' initiatives. Launching in a new city each year, initially all in Europe, the programme is designed to invest in and extend our research and teaching collaborations – not just with a single partner, but in multiple locations across the continent.
- Our first two cities will be Rome and Paris. Activity in Rome is led by Dr Florian Mussnug, from the School of European Languages, Culture & Society, and in Paris by Dr Claire Colomb from The Bartlett School of Planning.
- The programme consists of three main strands: seed-funding for academic collaborations in research, teaching and learning; a series of public-facing events co-created with institutional partners; and activities engaging the wider UCL network of students, alumni, schools and other partners.

UCL has stepped up advocacy and engagement in networks, platforms and policy

- UCL has a rich history of academic collaboration across Europe and we are redoubling our efforts to ensure that this will continue by engaging with existing research partners, advocating effectively through networks and platforms and supporting UCL academics in their funding bids, which has helped UCL to become the top-ranked HEI in all of Europe for Horizon 2020 collaborative projects.
- We have increased our advocacy and lobbying on European issues which most affect the HE sector and the UK's economy and society.
- These efforts are led by the Provost, not least in his role as a member of LERU, chair of the Russell Group's EU Advisory Group, and the UK Universities Minister's high level stakeholder

working group on EU exit, universities, research and innovation.

4. UCL has developed Brexit mitigation plans

Since Oct 2018, UCL's Brexit Mitigation Group's (BMG) principal focus has been 'no deal' contingency planning

- As much as is practicable, UCL is centralising our strategic responses to Brexit. BMG, chaired by the Provost, with senior representatives from academic and professional services staff, has met nearly 40 times and has assessed in detail how a range of Brexit scenarios (from 'soft' to 'hard') could affect UCL – from the recruitment, retention and status of EU staff and students to mobility, fees, access to research funding and partnerships.
- BMG members have created seven 'no deal' work plans drawing on analysis of over 100 Technical Notices issued by Government, identifying any gaps in guidance, and proposing actions UCL should take in advance - or in the event of a 'no deal' Brexit.
- UCL has written to all its major suppliers for assurances and assessments of capacity to continue service and supply.
- UCL is taking the necessary steps to ensure continuity of EU clinical trials by establishing a legal representative in the EU.

Brexit and Beyond Steering Group closely involved in UCL's many responses to Select Committees

- The cross-UCL group was set up to identify priority areas and develop strategies for engaging academic research and expertise with policy challenges related to the UK's withdrawal from the EU.
- It regularly liaises with UCL academics working on Brexit-related areas of expertise, who can inform and advise on specialist questions, and who already regularly consult and prepare analysis for government, parliament and industry.

EU students are very important to UCL and continue to be welcome here

- Applications for undergraduate and postgraduate taught courses from EU students remain buoyant:
 - Undergraduate applications from EU students increased by 13% from 2016/17 to 2017/18
 - Modest increase in postgraduate taught applications from EU students
- There are variances within EU countries, attributed to Brexit uncertainties and additional activity has been planned to mitigate.
- The diversity of our student body is an asset to UCL and we will continue to focus on delivering activity in support of this.

Find out more: www.ucl.ac.uk/brexit