



What UCL is doing to mitigate Brexit

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

Help and advice UCL has provided for EU and overseas staff:

- Immigration loan scheme: we are offering an interest free loan of up to a maximum of £10,000 for eligible employees to obtain immigration law advice and make certain immigration applications such as citizenship for staff and their immediate dependants. So far, 16 applications have been received and 13 approved.
- Immigration clinics with an immigration specialist, led by HR. We held 10 sessions, with up to 30 people attending each. Based on these, we published FAQs, focused on immigration processes/applications and the criteria for British citizenship, PR or QP status.
- Two 'town hall' meetings, hosted by the Provost and the senior leadership team. Both were recorded and live streamed; one was attended by an immigration specialist.
- The [UCL and Europe website](#), with FAQs for staff and students about their immigration status and funding, and an HR EU mailbox. HR has so far responded to more than 700 emails.

2. UCL is working with EU programmes available to apply for until the end of 2020

The UK government and the EU have now confirmed that UK researchers can apply for Horizon 2020 funding until the end of 2020, extending across the full range of grants from early career researchers to European Research Council (ERC) consolidator awards.

- It is critical that the UK and UCL continue to participate in and, where appropriate, lead projects supported by Horizon 2020.
- UCL will continue to promote and encourage Horizon 2020 fellowship programmes (ERC and Marie Curie), and will encourage relevant stakeholders to remain engaged and profiled in and across the European Research Area through open innovation platforms.

- Since the start of Horizon 2020, UCL has been awarded 347 projects totalling €216 million. UCL's annual research income from the EU amounted to £48.9m last year (10.82% of UCL's research income).
- Since the referendum, UCL's participation and success rates under Horizon rates have remained high averaging at 21%, which is more than double the European average.
- ERC awards are recognised as the EU's beacon for funding excellent researchers with outstanding ideas and they are also ones where UCL has performed strongly. It emerged recently that the UK is the best performing member state in the EU.
- ERC funding at UCL totals €98 million – around 45% of all Horizon 2020 funding at UCL. It is worth noting, in the context of Brexit, that around 80% of all ERC grant-holders at UCL are not from the UK.

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

- There are two existing routes by which current applicants can register: a central platform and a departmental one. For the academic year 2017/18, approximately 350 students were part of the Erasmus UCL scheme.
- Grants available for universities to apply for have increased: UCL will be looking at further promoting this project and hopes to increase the number of applications with the support of a new Erasmus Coordinator role.
- EU students remain very important to UCL and continue to be welcome here.

3. UCL is shaping the Brexit debate

UCL has campaigned for a Brexit deal that will protect staff, students and UK research:

- The Provost and other senior members of staff have led debates, seminars and events and held meetings with key figures in the government and the EU, as well as producing reports and writing articles to promote a Brexit that will protect staff, students and UK research.
- As chair of the Russell Group of Universities' Europe group, the Provost has played a key role

in presenting the case for a Brexit that minimises damage to the UK research base and protects EU staff and students. He is arguing for:

- maintaining freedom of movement and minimal bureaucracy for EU academics, staff and students
 - retaining full access to and influence over EU research and innovation programmes
 - warning that it is unrealistic to include overseas students in the net migration figures.
- UCL hosted a session of the Commons Education Committee on Brexit and has also made submissions on Brexit to the Commons Foreign Affairs Committee, the Commons Science and Technology Committee, the Migration Advisory Committee, to the Royal Society/Wellcome Trust future partnerships project and to the Commons Education Committee. We continue to engage with the Russell Group and CASE.

How our academics are informing the policy debate:

- The European Institute is UCL's hub for research, collaboration and information on Europe and the EU, and it has been particularly active. It has held roundtable discussions with the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, led by executive director Dr Uta Staiger; managed the UCL Brexit Hub; and coordinated Brexit work across the university, including blogs, policy papers, academic publications and various public events and conferences.
- Across UCL, there have been academically-driven (rather than institutionally-driven) select committee submissions and evidence; significant working papers and commentaries
- UCL Laws has more than 30 academics with expertise on EU law and UK constitutional law, who have published original research on topics such as Article 50, transitional arrangements and citizens' rights. UCL lawyers played a crucial role in instigating and informing the successful Miller case on Article 50 and parliamentary approval.
- The Constitution Unit has published widely on Brexit, and is spearheading projects such as the Citizens' Assembly on Brexit and the Independent Commission on Referendums.
- UCL Political Science is also home to several experts in UK and EU politics, including prominent scholars of EU institutions and external relations.

- We have more than 50 researchers with relevant country-level expertise, including experts in defence and security, EU foreign policy and migration at the School of Slavonic and East European Studies; and experts in French, German and Scandinavian politics at UCL's School of European Languages, Culture and Society.
- The Centre for the Research and Analysis of Migration publishes influential research on migration policy and the economic impact of EU migration.
- UCL has world-leading authorities policy areas inextricably tied to Brexit, including EU environmental and energy policy, economics, finance and trade as well as fisheries and agriculture.

UCL's internationally renowned Institute of Education and UCL Public Policy are also of particular note, and the Centre for Global Higher Education, is currently undertaking a major research project on the impact of Brexit on universities.

4. UCL and EU members – beyond Brexit

UCL is continuing to develop and invest in new partnerships with key European institutions (bilateral relations) and those around the globe, expanding the message of UCL as London's Global University

- UCL's Global Engagement Office has established a new series of region-specific funds aimed at fostering new partnerships or further developing existing links. Under the Rome Regional Partnership Fund, 10 UCL academics are set to receive up to £3,500 in funding for their projects.

Applications for UCL undergraduate and postgraduate taught courses from EU students remain buoyant:

- Applications from EU students for undergraduate courses at the start of January are up by 12% at 4,750, compared with the same time two years ago, and up almost 15% on last year.
- In September, applications from EU students for undergraduate courses remained at the same level for 2016/17 and 2017/18 at around 7,300.
- Applications from EU graduates for postgraduate taught courses rose marginally, from 3,977 for entry in 2016/17 to 4,215 for 2017/2018 entry.

Find out more

www.ucl.ac.uk/ucl-and-europe