



EUROPEAN UNION

DELEGATION TO THE UNITED KINGDOM

The Ambassador

London, 18 November 2020

A(2020) 7722122

Dear Sir or Madam,

UK universities and colleges offer an extensive array of learning opportunities, as well as a culturally rich learning environment, which attracts students from all over the world. Hundreds of thousands of EU students have come to the UK each year to benefit from its diverse and world-leading education system.

As you are aware, the situation for EU students will change significantly from 2021 onwards in terms of their immigration status. We appreciate the work that the Home Office and Department for Education have done so far to ensure that this is communicated to students. We also recognise that UK universities have carried out significant outreach to EU students to ensure that they are not caught by surprise by the new immigration requirements that will enter into force on 1 January 2021.

2020 has been a challenging year for everyone, and students in particular have had to endure additional stress in undertaking their studies due to covid-related restrictions. Many may not have even realised that the changes that are entering into force in 2021 will have an impact on them, especially if they have already commenced their studies. Our discussions with several UK organisations that represent students demonstrate that knowledge of these upcoming changes is low. We therefore believe that additional awareness raising to current and prospective students might be beneficial, and that the universities, with their extensive networks, are the best placed to communicate this information.

How the UK's withdrawal from the EU affects an EU student largely depends on when they come or came to the UK to obtain higher education. They should therefore be reminded of the most important upcoming changes, for example:

- **The right of permanent residency and the right of freedom of movement for EU citizens will end in the UK after the Brexit transition period ends on 31 December 2020. Therefore, the immigration status for current or prospective EU students in the UK will change.**
- **EU students – including those enrolled in the current 2020-21 academic year - are eligible to apply for the EU Settlement Scheme, but only if they are physically present in the UK before 1 January 2021**
- **EU students who intend to come to the UK to study after 31 December 2020 - including those enrolled in the current 2020-21 academic year who have not been resident in the UK - must apply for a student visa before they arrive.**

The EU Delegation to the UK has been working closely with the EU27 embassies to reach out to the student population with these messages. We are also working with various organisations, such as Universities UK, to raise awareness on these issues. Our aim is to make sure that EU students get the information in time and to draw your attention to the fact that both Universities UK and the EU Delegation to the UK have an array of communication materials available that you can distribute to your students, including the following:

- [Universities UK FAQ](#)
- General [leaflet](#) about the EU Settlement Scheme in all EU languages (which the EU Delegation can send anywhere in print)
- A recording of a webinar organised by EU Delegation [targeting students](#) with lots of useful questions answered by immigration lawyers
- Q&A videos with questions from students to immigration lawyers, such as [this](#)
- The EU Delegation's website www.eurights.uk

The next generation of talent will undoubtedly continue to come from all over the EU to the UK to obtain higher education. We hope that, together, we can make sure that they are all well informed about the changes that come into force in 2021.

We would be happy to collaborate with you in raising the awareness of current and prospective EU students in the UK and remain at your disposal for further information.

We look forward to hearing from you.

Nicole Mannion

Deputy Ambassador
EU Delegation to the UK