

Dear Customer

Thank you for your enquiry about the effects of Brexit and what this may mean for you. Since the outbreak of COVID-19 in the UK, the department has received unprecedented levels of correspondence. I would like to take this opportunity to apologise that we have been unable to respond to your query as quickly or as personally as we would have hoped.

As the Prime Minister previously indicated at Prime Minister's Questions in January 2020, we will continue to participate in the 2014-2020 Erasmus+ programme, as negotiated in the Withdrawal agreement. This means that the projects successfully bid for during the current programme will continue to receive EU funding for the full duration of the project, including those where funding runs beyond 2020 and the end of the transition period.

We sought to secure terms which would allow the UK to participate in the next Erasmus+ programme while representing value for money for the UK taxpayer. The UK already contributes significantly more than we get out in the form of receipts and the only terms on offer for continued participation would have required an annual gross contribution in the region of £600 million or a net contribution of £2 billion over the course of the programme, given the significantly increased budget for the next Erasmus+ programme. We fully respect the EU's prerogative to set the terms for its programmes but, ultimately, participation on those terms was not in the interests of the UK taxpayer.

Thousands of students will be able to study and go on work placements across the world through a brand-new scheme that replaces the UK's participation in Erasmus+. The Turing scheme will be backed by over £100 million, providing funding for around 35,000 students in universities, colleges and schools to go on placements and exchanges overseas, starting in September 2021.

The new scheme will target students from disadvantaged backgrounds and areas which did not previously have many students benefiting from Erasmus+, making life-changing opportunities accessible to everyone across the country.

The programme will provide similar opportunities for students to study and work abroad as the Erasmus+ programme but it will include countries across the world and aims to deliver greater value for money to taxpayers. Full details can be found on the Turing Scheme's website at: <https://www.turing-scheme.org.uk/>.

Following the UK's exit from the EU, we amended our regulations so that EU nationals domiciled in the UK, EEA or Switzerland (other than those with citizens' rights) starting courses in academic year 2021/22 and beyond will no longer have access to home fee status and student finance. Amendments are also required so that other groups (again, other than those covered by citizens' rights) will similarly no longer be eligible under our regulations, such as EEA and Swiss migrant and frontier workers, children of Swiss nationals and children of Turkish workers.

We have agreed with the EU that current EU principles of equal treatment will continue to apply for those covered by the citizens' rights provisions in the

Withdrawal Agreement. This means that EU nationals resident in the UK before the end of the transition period on 31 December 2020 will be eligible for support on a similar basis to domestic students. They have until 30 June 2021 to apply to the EU Settlement Scheme.

EU nationals (and their family members) living in the UK and Islands (Channel Islands and Isle of Man) before the end of the transition period who are migrant or frontier workers, or who are self-employed, as well as those who have the right of permanent residence (settled status), will also be eligible for maintenance support, subject to meeting the usual residence requirements.

Further information on eligibility rules for home fee status and student finance for the 2021 to 2022 academic year can be found in the following guidance on GOV.UK: https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/956894/New_eligibility_rules_for_home_fee_status_and_student_finance_for_the_2021_to_2022_academic_year.pdf.

Guidance for the education sector relating to the COVID-19 outbreak, including dedicated guidance for students and universities, can be found at <https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus/education-and-childcare>.

Thank you for writing on this important matter.

Yours sincerely

Department for Education