

EUA calls for comprehensive view on academic cooperation in Brexit negotiations

European universities want to keep cooperating after Brexit. International research collaboration and student and staff mobility are great achievements of European integration that must be safeguarded and sustained after the UK has left the European Union. The UK is Europe's undisputed leader in research and the most popular destination for European mobile students. Losing ties with the UK would damage Europe as a whole and must be prevented.

The links between the UK and the rest of Europe reinforce research, mobility, and our common development of higher education. All these areas are interdependent: research requires mobility for international cooperation; higher education needs research-based learning; mobility requires common structures in higher education, etc. For this reason, Europe needs a comprehensive deal on academic cooperation between the EU and the UK after Brexit, covering all areas including:

1. association of the UK to the Framework Programme for Research and Innovation and the Erasmus+ Programme;
2. clarity about the status of the UK in relation to other European research initiatives, such as Copernicus, the European Open Science Cloud, and the European Education Area;
3. clarity on the status and rights of mobile students and university staff in the UK and in the EU.

Such a deal should feature strongly in the conclusions of Phase 2 of the Brexit negotiations with broad political support to guarantee the research and higher education community that an agreement will be reached despite potential political changes in the EU or in the UK. Moreover, the outline and the goals of the comprehensive agreement should be communicated as soon as possible to allow for the long-term planning necessary to sustain the links between the UK and the EU.

The European University Association (EUA), therefore, calls on the European Commission, the Council and the European Parliament to ensure that such a comprehensive agreement covering academic cooperation as a whole is included in the negotiation guidelines for Phase 2 to be adopted in March.

With more than 800 members, the **European University Association (EUA)** is the representative organisation of universities and national rectors' conferences in 47 European countries.

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