

Information for EU, EEA or Swiss students

The UK Government started the two-year negotiation process for leaving the European Union on 29 March 2017. The process was due to be complete in two years, but following two approved extension requests from the UK, the agreed date of the UK's departure from the EU is **31 January 2020**, or earlier if the Withdrawal Agreement is agreed before this date.

The UK's relationship with the EU will change as a result, but it is not ending – students from the EU will continue to be welcome at the ICR. Professor Paul Workman, Chief Executive of The Institute of Cancer Research (ICR), says:

“The referendum vote will not change the ICR’s international outlook or our passionate belief in the need for researchers to collaborate across borders to solve the biggest problems in science, and in our case to understand and defeat cancer. Nor will the vote alter our commitment to maintain a global workforce at the ICR of the brightest minds and most talented scientists and clinicians.”

Although we are in a period of much uncertainty, some of the facts are detailed below which we hope will provide some reassurance.

The UK remains a member of the European Union at present. Therefore, there is no change to the position of EEA nationals (EU, non-EU EEA and Swiss citizens) and their family members in the UK during this time which means students can continue to exercise their residency rights in the UK.

Immigration status (position at 4th November 2019)

The UK government has not yet made the Withdrawal Agreement into UK law, which can only be done through Parliamentary process. Instead there will be general election in the UK on **12 December 2019**, after which the elected government will decide the next stages of the UK's relationship with the European Union.

If the Withdrawal Agreement is made into UK law, there will be a transitional/ implementation period from the day after the UK leaves the EU. This is a period of time (likely to continue until **31 December 2020**, but which can be extended) during which EU citizens and their family members can come to, or remain in, the UK on the same basis as they can now. Once in the UK (or those already here), EU citizens can apply for immigration permission in the UK under a scheme designed by the UK government known as the EU Settlement Scheme.

For current students, we encourage you to apply for settled or pre-settled status in order to protect your right to live and work in the UK beyond that date (if you have Irish citizenship, you do not need to apply.) For more details of the EU Settlement Scheme, visit www.gov.uk/settled-status-eu-citizens-families. It is free to apply to the scheme.

If an agreement between the UK and the EU is not reached, the settlement scheme will operate in much more restricted capacity, and there will be separate provisions for those coming to the UK the day after the UK leaves the EU.

Fees

You or your funder will pay the same tuition fees as UK students. This guarantee for EU students starting a degree in 2019-20 or 2020-21 will apply for the full duration of your course. This is the case whatever the outcome of negotiations, including in the event of no deal.

It is subject to any annual increase in accordance with the applicable terms and conditions.

Funding

EU students who begin a PhD before the end of the 2020-21 academic year will be eligible for Research Council funding throughout their course (subject to meeting the normal residency requirements). Other sources of studentship funding are not affected.

For further detail, please see the UK government's website has the latest guidance on Brexit for EU students: www.gov.uk/guidance/brexit-guidance-for-eu-students-in-the-uk. The UKCISA website has helpful guidance and is also updated regularly: <https://www.ukcisa.org.uk/Information--Advice/>.

As a student at the ICR (including students who have been offered a place), ICR's Registry will inform you of any requirements once known and support you to fulfil these.