

What we currently know about Brexit conditions for EU students

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*Based on 'Lakossági fórum' held on the Embassy of Hungary, London
and governmental publications*

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Abstract

The UK will leave the EU on 29 March 2019 and will move to a transition period until 31 December 2020. If you arrived to the UK before the end of this period, you will be able to apply for staying here and can finish your studies in peace with fees and student loan as now. The application process will be simple and cheap (<£100). There is no need for you to do anything now, but it is advised to do the application as soon as possible after it will be open. For useful links, please see the reference (end) of the document.



1 Introduction

Brexit is something everyone knows about, but no one is sure what will happen actually. It is an essential for young EU citizens studying in the United Kingdom, to know how they will be able to finish their studies as they started.

The Embassy of Hungary held a discussion evening with British officials invited on 26/4/2018 to inform the interested citizens from first hand. The Cambridge University Hungarian Society (CUHS) was represented by myself and Sára Mándoki, general member of the CUHS Committee. We asked a great amount of questions relevant for EU students.

The following people from UK governmental organisations were present on the event to explain the government's standpoint and answered questions:

- Lord Callanan, Minister of State, DExEU [1]
- Hillary Bagshaw, Home office [2]
- John Pye, Citizens' Rights team DExEU [1]

For useful links, please see the reference (end) of the document.

2 Disclaimer

All the information in this document is as of my best understanding of the discussion ('Lakossági fórum') I have attended in the Embassy of Hungary on 26 April 2018 and the current information provided on governmental websites [3, 4, 5]. My interpretation might be wrong or incomplete and too can the standpoint of the UK government and the agreements with the EU change.

Therefore I, Tamás K. Stenczel and the Cambridge University Hungarian Society disclaim all liability and take no responsibility for providing information in this document which is not valid in the future for whatever reason.

3 Dates

- *29 March 2019*: official date of the UK leaving the EU
- *between 30 March 2019 and 31 December 2020*: implementation period
- *30 June 2021*: end of application period for settled status

There is no need to do anything now, there will be no change until the date of leaving.

4 Settled status

For staying in the UK for extended periods of time, EU citizens will need to register for 'Settled status'. This will grant you the same access to healthcare, pensions and other benefits in the UK as currently.

You can apply if you have lived in the UK for 5 years by 31 December 2020. If you have not lived in the UK for 5 years, but arrive by 31 December 2020, you will be able to apply for temporary residence status to stay until you reach the 5-year threshold and get the settled status. [3, 4]

Final deadline of application will be 30 June 2021, but whichever group you are in, it is advised to do it as soon as possible.

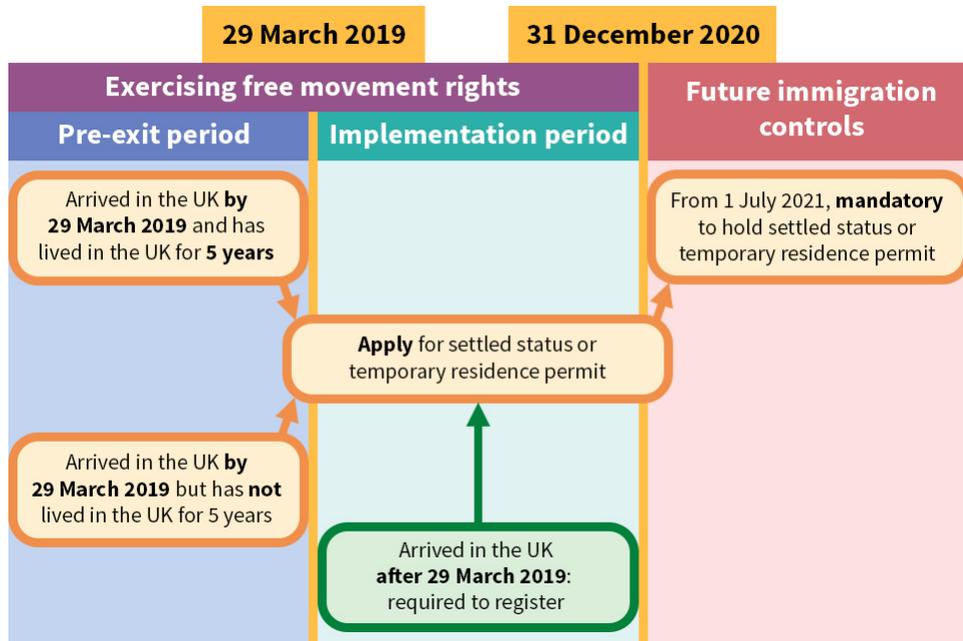


Figure 1: Settled status flowchart. *source: gov.uk*

5 Application process

It will be possible to apply online, there will be a phone number to call and they will be generally accessible. This was explicitly stated by Mrs. Bagshaw, upon questions because some applications for the Home Office are only available by post now.

It will also be simple and cheap, will not be refused for 'minor mistakes' in the submitted forms. The application fee will be no more than the cost charged to British citizens for a UK passport (<£100). [3, 5]

They will use existing governmental data to make the application process smoother. This means that if possible, they will ask other governmental organisations for data they already have about you (tax, employment, etc). They emphasised that they are only asking if these exist, not the amount of tax/health insurance one paid.

What you will need to do: 1. provide an identity document and a recent photograph to confirm your identity and nationality, 2. declare any criminal convictions.

You will not have to provide: account of trips in and out, show evidence of health insurance, give your fingerprints.

6 Fees and student loan

They explicitly stated that in case you arrive before 31 December 2020 to the UK and apply for the appropriate status (see section 4) you will be entitled for the Home fees (now £9250/year) for your studies that you started.

I have asked what will happen if you finish your undergraduate degree after 2020 and want to apply for PHD: Get the application done and everything will work as it does now, you can stay and have the home/EU fees.

To be clear, I asked about the maintenance loan, which would be a step up for us to be able to apply for. In a follow up email, I have got the following from John Pye:

"As now, those who have five years legal residence will be eligible to apply for student maintenance loans on a comparable basis with UK nationals. As an example, if you have been resident since 2016, you would be eligible to apply for a UK maintenance loan in 2021."

This does not change anything for most of the students, but good to keep in mind for later.

7 Healthcare

The EHIC cards will be in use until the end of the implementation period (31 December 2020).

Health insurance in the United Kingdom will be provided for individuals with settled status or temporary permission to stay after 31 December 2020. As of now, there is no agreement on what this will grant us in our home countries, if anything at all.

8 Email updates

The Home Office offers email updates about with the latest information for EU citizens, for which you can sign up here: [6]

References

- [1] *DExEU - Department for Exiting the European Union*, <https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/department-for-exiting-the-european-union>
- [2] *Home office* <https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/home-office>
- [3] *Status of EU citizens in the UK: what you need to know* <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/status-of-eu-nationals-in-the-uk-what-you-need-to-know>
- [4] *Example case studies: EU citizens' rights in the UK* <https://www.gov.uk/government/case-studies/example-case-studies-eu-citizens-rights-in-the-uk>
- [5] *Passport fees* <https://www.gov.uk/passport-fees>

[6] <https://gov.smartwebportal.co.uk/homeoffice/public/webform.asp?id=67&id2=627DF7>