

## **Advice to students studying independently in the EU (No deal preparedness)**

### **Staying in the EU or returning to the UK?**

As Brexit approaches you may be considering a return to live and study in Wales, part way through a course of study in another EU country.

Before you make your decision you should consider all the options, including what's right for you and how affordable each option might be.

Remember the university or institution where you are already studying will be able to help you think about your options and provide you with advice and support regarding fees and continuing your course. We suggest they should be your first point of contact.

To help, you may want to think about the following:

#### **1. Immigration requirements**

It is unlikely that you will need to leave the EU Member state where you are studying. The EU Commission has provided assurances that in a “no-deal” scenario, the entitlements of those people who exercised their right to free movement before the UK's withdrawal are safeguarded.

Many Member states have also given political assurances to UK nationals about their residency and citizen rights after Brexit.

Check if you are eligible to stay - Gov.UK <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/advice-for-british-nationals-travelling-and-living-in-europe>

You will need to check that you are eligible to stay and what things you need to do to stay. This might include registration or visa applications and you should do that as soon as possible.

#### **2. Affordability of tuition fees**

You should consider the cost of tuition fees.

Tuition fees to study as an undergraduate at university in Wales as a home student are up to £9,000 per year.

#### **3. Student Finance**

You may be able to apply for student finance depending on your personal circumstances.

Visit [Student Finance Wales](#) for further advice.

#### **4. Enrolment**

If you are planning on returning part way through a course, you may not be able to simply transfer onto the same course at the same point in your studies.

You will need to think carefully about which course is right for you and where you would like study. You should contact the admissions office of the university you wish to study at and they will be able to help.

You should consider collecting all the possible information about your current course including transcripts and marked assessments. You should also ask for an ECTS credit transfer and transcript.

You can also visit the [UCAS](#) website.

You can also visit [Unistats](#) for further advice on choosing a course.

#### **5. Access to health care**

For advice on access to healthcare in Wales visit [Preparing Wales - health and social services](#).

If the UK leaves the EU without a deal on 29 March 2019, your access to healthcare when visiting or studying in an EU country is likely to change.

If you're planning to study in another European Economic Area (EEA) country, you'll need to apply for a time-limited [European Health Insurance Card, or EHIC](#) (a "student EHIC").

To apply, you'll need to download the [EHIC application form \(PDF, 435kb\)](#) and return it to the NHS Business Services Authority. You can't apply for a student EHIC online or over the phone. If you have any dependents, you'll also need to include them on your application.

Your student EHIC will be valid for the duration of your course. If you already have a regular EHIC, you'll need to return it when you apply for a student EHIC.

You may lose your entitlement to a UK EHIC if your circumstances change (for example, if you start working in the EEA country where you're studying). In those circumstances, you may need to register for state healthcare in the country where you're studying or obtain private healthcare insurance.

If you decide to return to Wales to complete your studies then you will be able to access healthcare free of charge provided you are ordinarily resident in Wales. This means that your residence in Wales has a sufficient degree of continuity to be properly described as "settled".

## **6. Housing**

The EU has stated that the rights of individuals from the UK living in the EU at exit date will not change. However, you should check with the [EU Commission website](#) and the advice relating to the country where you live.

This means that you should not be discriminated against and that where you have the right to remain in the EU Country, you should be eligible to rent accommodation as you do now.

### **What happens if I can't stay?**

If you are unable to remain in the EU country where you are studying due to immigration rules, your university may be able to help you discuss your options including availability of an ECTS credit transfer and transcript.

You should contact the admissions office of the institution in Wales where you want to study as they may be able to help.

You can also contact [UCAS](#) for help and advice and to discuss your application.

Remember the university or institution where you are already studying may be able to help you think about your options and provide you with advice and support.

### **If you are a UK national living in the EU but have never lived in the UK**

**You should contact the relevant student funding body within the UK country where you wish to study for further information on your eligibility for student finance support.**

- Wales: <https://www.studentfinancewales.co.uk/>
- England: <https://www.gov.uk/student-finance>
- Scotland: <https://www.saas.gov.uk/>
- Northern Ireland: <https://www.studentfinanceni.co.uk/>