



### The EU referendum and Futureworks – update August 2018

The United Kingdom (UK) is scheduled to leave the European Union (EU) on 29<sup>th</sup> March 2019. We are aware that some of our current students have concerns about what this could mean for their ability to study at Futureworks and have produced this document in order to allay these concerns, alongside the concerns of our applicants for the following academic year.

Futureworks is committed to the pursuit of academic excellence, to equality of opportunity and to a pro-active and inclusive approach to equality. We are committed to maintaining a diverse student community. Currently, around 6% of Futureworks students are from the EU. These students are valued members of the Futureworks community who, with our future students from the EU, will always be welcome.

The UK government has confirmed that the outcome of the referendum will not lead to any immediate change to the immigration status of current EU students. It has also been stated that there will be no immediate change to the visa policies for students who wish to come to the UK. The full government statement can be read here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/statement-on-higher-education-and-research-following-the-eu-referendum>

The longer-term implications for students from the EU who want to apply to study in the UK after it has left the EU, will depend on the outcome of the current negotiations and what kind of relationship is agreed. It is expected that EU nationals already living in the UK will be able to apply for “settled status” when the applications portal opens. This is likely to be towards the end of 2018 and remain open for at least 2 years. Therefore, students who are in the UK before March 2019 should be able to stay and qualify for settled status if they wish. University UK have answered some frequently asked questions here:

<http://www.universitiesuk.ac.uk/policy-and-analysis/brexit/Pages/brexit-faqs.aspx#study>

### Funding for EU students

Existing EU students who are currently in higher education or starting in the 2018/19 academic year, and who are eligible to receive loans and/or grants from the Student Loans Company will continue to remain eligible until they finish their course (even if the course ends after the UK has left the EU). This includes loans to cover tuition fees for those resident



in the European Economic Area (EEA) or Switzerland for at least 3 years prior to the start of their course (N.B. the increase from 3 years to 5 years for residency requirements), and/or maintenance support for those resident in the UK for at least 5 years prior to the start of the course or who are EEA/Swiss migrant workers who have resided in EEA/Switzerland for 3 years.

It has recently been confirmed that EU students starting their course in September 2019 will also be able to receive funding for the duration of their course (even if the course ends after the UK has left the EU), providing they meet existing residency requirements.

More information about student funding for EU students can be read here:

<https://www.slc.co.uk/media/latest-news/eu-nationals-and-student-finance-in-england-2.aspx>

#### Support at Futureworks for EU students

The Home Office has reported a significant increase in racist or religious abuse incidents recorded by police in England and Wales in the immediate months after the referendum and recorded incidents have remained at a higher level than pre-referendum.

Any such abuse will not be tolerated at Futureworks. Should a student experience any form of harassment, racist or religious abuse from a member of the Futureworks community, they are urged to make a complaint under the Student Harassment Policy. Full details can be found on the MyFutureworks VLE here:

<https://my.futureworks.ac.uk/mod/glossary/view.php?id=27&mode=entry&hook=149>

If a student experiences harassment or abuse outside of Futureworks, we recommend they follow the guidance issued by the UK Equality and Human Rights Commission:

<https://www.equalityhumanrights.com/en/advice-and-guidance/reporting-race-hate-crime>

<https://www.equalityhumanrights.com/sites/default/files/what-to-do-if-youre-worried-about-racism-eu-referendum-factsheet.pdf>

*For information about applying for a course at Futureworks or student finance please contact Admissions at Futureworks on 0161 214 4602*

*For support for students who have experienced harassment please contact Student Services at Futureworks on 0161 214 4610*