4 July 2016 - Update 3

The following update was issued by Alistair Jarvis, Deputy Chief Executive, Universities UK. In it, he shares an update on the next steps surrounding Brexit, following Nicola Dandridge’s note on 30 June 2016.

Dear colleagues,

I write to share some new information and give further updates since Nicola's email to you last Thursday.

- **Brexit FAQs on the Universities UK web site**
  We have published a set of Brexit FAQs the UUK website, setting out our latest understanding on the implications of the referendum result for universities and students. You may wish to link to this in your communications with staff, students and other stakeholders. We will keep this regularly updated as we obtain new information.

- **European Commissioner Moedas article in the Times Higher Education**
  EU Research and Innovation Commissioner Carlos Moedas has sought to reassure UK researchers post-Brexit with a short article in the THE. The European Commission has also released a statement today, which ‘confirms that until the UK leaves the EU, EU law continues to apply to and within the UK, both when it comes to rights and obligations. This includes the eligibility of UK legal entities to participate and receive funding in Horizon 2020 actions.’

A senior Universities UK delegation is in Brussels this Tuesday and Wednesday and will seek further clarification from the European Commission on a range of key issues, including how the UK Government, the sector and the European Commission can work together to tackle the uncertainty regarding UK participation in research consortia currently under preparation and typically continuing beyond the suggested timeframe for the UK exit. Anecdotal evidence suggests that UK researchers are being asked to step down as consortium leads, and in some cases, as partners on collaborative bids. A note of the delegation will be circulated shortly after the visit.

- **Statement on status of EU students currently enrolled or preparing to start HE programmes in Scotland**
  On Friday afternoon the Scottish Government has released a joint statement with Universities Scotland on the status of EU students currently enrolled in HE programmes in
Scotland or due to do so in the coming months. You can find the statement on the [Scotland Government website](#), and on the US website. This includes confirmation that funding will remain in place to support EU students already studying in Scotland or preparing to start this year. Universities Scotland has made the point that the situation for students looking to enter from AY 2017/18 will need to be clarified with some urgency and continue to work with Government on this. Clarification from Government on the fees and loans status for those EU students starting in 2017/18 across all nations of the UK remains a priority for Universities UK.

- **Article by Dame Julia Goodfellow in The Daily Telegraph**
  This article [Brexit: What will it mean for universities, students and academics?](#) considers what we know now and the immediate challenges, sets out a number of key issues that government must address and highlights the enduring values that make British universities the best in the world.

- **Statement on EU migrants currently living in the UK**
  Universities UK were co-signatories to an important [letter](#) calling on the Prime Minister to make an unequivocal statement that EU migrants currently living in the UK are welcome here, and that any changes would apply only to new migrants. The letter was backed by the heads of a broad coalition of national organisations in the public and private sector, a number of influential public figures and senior politicians from four major political parties. Since this statement the Conservative Party leadership candidate Stephen Crabb, Liam Fox, Michael Gove and Andrea Leadsom have all indicated that they back the call to allow EU citizens currently living in the UK to remain. However, neither the Prime Minister nor Theresa May has yet to make this commitment. Universities UK is urging the Government to take immediate steps to ensure that current staff and students from EU countries can continue to work and study at British universities in the long term and we are making senior representations on this matter.

- **Science and Technology Select Committee inquiry on Brexit**
  Professor Sir Ian Diamond, Chair of UUK’s Research Policy Network will be giving evidence to the Science and Technology Select Committee tomorrow (Tuesday) afternoon. The Committee are examining how the aspects which underpin our science and research might be affected by exit from the EU, and how these might best be provided in future; the science implications and opportunities under different ‘models’ for a future relationship with the EU; the scope for continued access to the EU’s Horizon 2020 funding; and the opportunities for wider science collaboration. The Committee will also probe in particular depth the Switzerland/EU model. Universities UK will also submit written evidence to this Inquiry.

  Universities UK sent [MPs a briefing](#) on the key issues for the sector following the vote to leave the EU. We will be briefing parliamentarians in further detail over the coming weeks.

- **UUK event 2nd August: Addressing the implications of the vote to leave the European Union**
  In a previous update we had mentioned that we were looking to develop an event (originally proposed for the 18th July) to examine the implications of the vote to leave the
European Union, discuss the latest available information and provide an opportunity for universities to raise questions, share concerns and consider next steps. This event will now take place on Tuesday 2nd August from 9:30am to 1:30pm at Woburn House. All UUK members are invited to send one senior representative to this meeting. Please can you identify the most appropriate person at your institution to attend and ask that they register at this link by Friday 22nd July.

We continue to speak regularly with officials from across government to highlight issues and seek clarification on the range of questions of importance to universities.

All the best,

Alistair

Alistair Jarvis
Deputy Chief Executive
Universities UK