

Brexit and the new immigration system – impact on student administrative lifecycle

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The logo for Warwick Student Opportunity, featuring the word "WARWICK" in a large, white, sans-serif font above the words "STUDENT OPPORTUNITY" in a smaller, white, sans-serif font. The background is a colorful, abstract geometric pattern of triangles in shades of pink, purple, and blue.

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What does this mean for students and for universities?

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- 31 December 2020 – end of free movement – EU, EEA and Swiss nationals subject to the same immigration rules as the rest of the world – **unless protected under EU Withdrawal Agreement**
- 1 January 2021 UK's new Immigration System is launched, although the Student Route (replaces Tier 4) opened on 5 October 2020, and new Visitor route & skilled worker route will open on 1 December 2020
- EU, EEA and Swiss nationals have until 30 June 2021 to apply for EUSS – will be eligible for home fee status if meet other residential requirements
- Universities will need to review systems for assigning fee status to EU students – can no longer use home/EU OR International
- Will need to review how we determine and log which EU/EEA/Swiss students are subject to immigration control and prepare for an increase to the Visa compliance burden

What's new about the Student Route?

- Allows individuals to apply **up to 6 months before the course** starts (up from the previous 3 months) – if applying for visa from overseas.
- Applies to all international students (EU and non-EU).
- An application will cost £348 and individuals will also have to pay an Immigration Health Surcharge of £470 a year.
- The Student route is 'points-based' but points are largely based on the old Tier 4 requirements and so little has changed in practise.
- English language assessment – becomes central to the scoring of points. A few new ways of meeting English language requirement are added and university have to state on CAS exactly how a student's English language is assessed.
- From 5th October 2020, nationality **exemptions** for the Academic Technology Approval Scheme (ATAS) have been **extended to include all EU countries**, Australia, Canada, New Zealand, the United States of America, Singapore, Japan, the Republic of Korea, if applied for visa after 5 October 2020.

The new Graduate Route (Post Study Work)



- Due to launch in Summer 2021 – no precise date yet.
- Operational details are still being finalised.
- Will provide students with 2 years (3 years for PhD students) to work – or look for work – in the UK after they have completed their studies.
- Very little in the way of conditions or restrictions; work can be at any skill level.
- Details being drafted, but eligibility is linked to having a compliance track record and **having completed entire degree in UK (except study abroad year and covid concession)**.
- Government has confirmed Covid-affected remote learners will still be eligible, provided they **arrive in the UK by 6 April 2021**.

Student Brexit project work to date:

- **Alert** stakeholders and students about the changes:
Email sent out to all UG UFs + PGT and PGR OH/AC for 20/21 entry, with relevant nationality, with FT mode of attendance.
- Regular updates to all academic and PS staff via the EPQ newsletter, linking to new staff-facing Brexit immigration changes website
- Comms planning for applicants, offer holders, students and staff for terms 1 and 2 – underway
- Regular meetings (by workstream) of key professional service stakeholders
- Review English language compliance requirement



1312 [sent](#)
923 [opened](#)
2395 [total](#)
[including](#)
[repeat opens](#)
388
[unopened](#)

70.4% open
rate
0.0% opt-out
rate
0 people
[opted-out](#)
[from this](#)
[email](#)

- The **accurate categorisation** of EU/EEA/Swiss applicants/students on SITS and assignment of fee status

- needed a new way of separating UK from EU/EEA/Swiss and from those with pre-settled and settled EU status, from those without

- needed to re-think our processes and system for automatically assigning fee status

- needed to adapt our enrolment and immigration compliance processes

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- Added new field to online enrolment process for new EU/EEA/Swiss
- Added two new questions to the UA application form to enable us to collect relevant new data
- Agreed process for assigning fee status and new code on SITS – P for Pending
- Development and testing for UA and automated assignment of fee status not started and will be significant

Overall progress to date

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- Making good progress against project work plan
- Changes necessitated by the new immigration system to policy, process and system are far reaching and are generating new workload – pressure being felt by key professional services
- Visa advice now required for EEA nationals from point of offer
- Working closely with Student Mobility team to welcome a sizable cohort of new arrivals in January 2021
- Manual fee status assignment and the requirement to check EEA students' passport/visa will generate new administrative workload (online Enrolment system due to change in mid-November to capture students starting their course in January 2021)
- Working with all Admissions team to review English language requirement, how to record them consistently in preparation for automated pulling of this information when generating a CAS.

Useful link & Contact

<https://warwick.ac.uk/study/international/immigration/i-am-staff/brexit-news>

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