

BREXIT POLICY: IMPACT ON EDUCATION

Title:	Brexit Policy: Impact on Education	Date of Group Chat:	April 2019
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Union Notes:

Anglia Ruskin University currently has 24,027 core students comprised of 61% UK nationals, 22% EU members and 18% international students (not including the partner colleges). The university prides itself on its ability with its relationships with their partners across Europe (<https://www.anglia.ac.uk/about-us/brexit>). However, it is currently unclear what support ARU will provide for its students post-Brexit.

We asked students how they felt about Brexit using a tally of emoji's on a flipchart. These were the results:

- 112 – Angry
- 77 – Sad
- 36 – Confused
- 19 - Happy

Students were also then asked 'As a student, what are your concerns with Brexit?' and given the opportunity to write and share their answers on the flipchart using a post-it note. Key themes that arose were: "I didn't get to vote", "unsafe and not supported", "uncertainty is scary" "immigration and travel", "employment", "funding", "human rights and EU laws".

Research on Brexit

The MPs have rejected Theresa May's deal and voted against a no-deal Brexit and have voted to delay Brexit. Delaying Brexit could impact our staff and students at ARU as it in prolongs the uncertainty of the outcomes of Brexit and how immigration will be affected (<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-europe-47578449>). The Higher Education Policy Institute (HEPI) has predicted that EU student numbers could crash by as much as 60% post-Brexit. For ARU this could have an extremely negative impact on the university finances, and therefore the experiences of our students (<https://www.theguardian.com/higher-education-network/2018/sep/20/2vcs-on-will-brexit-damage-uk-universities>).

Erasmus and Funding

Horizon 2020 is an EU Research and Innovation programme which provides about £80 billion of funding available over 7 years (2014 to 2020) for UK research (<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/horizon-2020-funding-if-theres-no-brexit-deal/horizon-2020-funding-if-theres-no-brexit-deal--2>). The UK Universities and Science minister Chris Skidmore said he is unwilling to enter negotiations until the terms of the UK's withdrawal from the EU have been UK's departure from the EU (<https://thepienews.com/news/research-grants-in-catch-22-senario-over-brexit-vote-uni-minister/>). ARU's Research students who started the programme in 2019/20 will still be able to apply for UK Research Council studentships as well as our own Vice Chancellor's PhD Studentships. However, it is unclear whether this funding will continue post-Brexit and the impact it will have on ARU students (<https://www.anglia.ac.uk/about-us/brexit>).

The Erasmus+ programme is for ARU students and staff outward mobility, involving working and studying abroad (<https://www.universitiesuk.ac.uk/policy-and-analysis/reports/Documents/2018/uuk-parliamentary-briefing-erasmus-backbench-debate-june-2018.pdf>) This current programme is due to end in 2020 and a new programme is meant to start 2021 however, the uncertainty surrounding Brexit is unclear to whether the UK will be included within this (<https://www.anglia.ac.uk/about-us/brexit>) Therefore, losing this programme could have a significant impact on the ARU GO GLOBAL scheme as well as impact our students studying on exchange.

ARU Students should not suffer because of the hostile environment around Brexit. The hate crime and racism has been on the rise since the referendum (City Students Union ;<https://www.nusconnect.org.uk/resources/getting-the-best-deal-from-brexit>).

Union Believes:

1. International and EU students are valued members of ARU and will be continued to be welcomed to this institution.
2. We will maintain a neutral political status and support all students whether they voted leave or remain.
3. No student should be negatively impacted by the outcomes of Brexit.
4. All students should feel supported, welcomed and thrive in our inclusive environment (Anglia Ruskin Students' Union strategic goal :<https://www.angliastudent.com/plan/>)

Union Resolves:

1. We will lobby the university to provide welfare support for all students who are impacted by Brexit.
2. We will lobby the university to ensure any decisions made in response to Brexit which directly or indirectly impact students will be communicated to them clearly and in a timely manner.
3. We will lobby the university to provide additional legal support for students whose immigration status is affected by Brexit.
4. We will undertake student voter registration drives.
5. We stand up against bullying as a result of Brexit and will work in partnership with the university to ensure that all students feel safe, protected and welcomed to the ARU community.

Policy Summary:

This policy outlines the impact Brexit may have on education and what this means for our students. Student voice has been collected on this issue through social media, flipcharts, and emails and meet ups to highlight any concerns students have around Brexit and how they feel about Brexit.

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