

## Information for Staff and Students who are travelling on University Business to Europe after 29 March 2019

Issued by Veena O'Halloran, University Secretary and Compliance Officer 18 February 2019

### Introduction

The University is preparing for the UK's departure from the European Union (EU) on 29 March 2019, in the context of continuing uncertainty as to future arrangements. In the event of a 'no deal' scenario, staff and students travelling on University business should be aware of the implications and action to be taken in advance of travel.

Staff and students travelling on University business are reminded that they should check the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) website regularly prior to travel, to establish the entry requirements for the country they are visiting. Please also be aware of the potential for change to passport validity rules.

### Passport Rules for Travel to Europe

#### *British Citizens*

Advice from the FCO for British passport holders if the UK leaves the EU without a deal is detailed below. The rules for travel to most countries in Europe will change if there is a no deal scenario.

After 29 March 2019:

1. You should have **at least six months left** on your passport from your date of arrival. Do not travel unless your passport meets the entry requirements.
2. If you renewed a passport before it expired, up to nine extra months may have been added to your new passport's expiry date. Any extra months on your passport over 10 years may not count towards the six months that should be remaining for travel to most countries in Europe.

The FCO website, see link below, contains a list of countries where the new rules will apply, a tool to "check a passport for travel to Europe" and a link on how to apply for a new passport.

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/passport-rules-for-travel-to-europe-after-brexit>

#### *EU/EEA Citizens*

Staff and students travelling on EEA passports may also be concerned about the impact of a no deal Brexit on re-entry to the UK after a trip to Europe.

If a withdrawal agreement is reached, it is likely to include a transition period (currently until 31 December 2020) during which travel arrangements for EU/EEA nationals coming to the UK will remain unchanged.

Those currently living in the UK may be eligible to apply under the EU Settlement Scheme and should check their eligibility using the link below. Applicants who receive settled or pre-settled

status will be able to re-enter the UK after a trip abroad but should check the details of the scheme and the information provided by the Home Office when their status is confirmed:

<https://www.gov.uk/settled-status-eu-citizens-families>

The scheme will still operate in the event of no deal being agreed, but with more restrictions on eligibility, as described in this web page: <https://www.ukcisa.org.uk/Information--Advice/EU-EEA--Swiss-Students/Brexit--EU-Settlement-Scheme#layer-6570>

If no deal is reached, EU and EEA nationals who arrive in the UK after 29 March 2019 will be able to enter the UK as they do now for an interim period. The length of the interim period is still to be confirmed. After the interim period, the UK Government will institute a system of European Temporary Leave to remain (permission to stay) for stays of up to 36 months.

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/european-temporary-leave-to-remain-in-the-uk>

Further information is available from the following web sites:

<https://www.ukcisa.org.uk/Information--Advice/EU-EEA--Swiss-Students/Brexit-what-does-it-mean-for-students-and-their-family>

## Travel Health Insurance

The University has travel insurance in place for students and staff who travel on University business. Staff and students should take the steps below prior to travel:

- Ensure you have registered your trip via the Travel Insurance Notification Form (which can be found on the webpage below)
- In the event of needing treatment abroad, you should contact Global Response (appointed by the University's insurer). They operate 24 hours a day, 365 days a year, and can provide advice and assistance on the most appropriate course of action, including guarantees of payments.
- Further information on the University's travel insurance policy and how to register for trips abroad can be found on the link below.
- <https://www.strath.ac.uk/professionalservices/finance/accountingservices/only/travel/insurance/>

## European Health Insurance Card

Staff and students travelling to the EU may have a European Health Insurance Card (EHIC) that allows access to state healthcare in the country being visiting at reduced cost or for free. Please be aware that in the event of a no deal scenario, the EHIC may not be valid. **The EHIC is not a replacement for travel insurance which the University has in place.** Under current arrangements, those holding an EHIC are exempt from paying an excess of £25 in the event of a claim. If EHICs are no longer valid, this excess may be charged.

## **Driving Abroad**

From 28 March drivers from the UK may need an International Driving Permit (IDP) to drive in the EU in addition to their UK driving licence. Also, some countries outwith the EU may require a change to the type of IDP they will accept. Extra documentation may also be necessary. Prior to driving abroad checks should be made to understand the requirements of each country. Further information on driving in the EU after 29 March and IDPs can be found below.

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/prepare-to-drive-in-the-eu-after-brexit>

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/international-driving-permits-for-uk-drivers-from-28-march-2019>

As a reminder to staff and students, when a vehicle is hired outside the UK, insurance for this should be taken out with the car hire company and the Department hiring the vehicle is responsible for ensuring this is in place.

## **Prepare for Larger Border Control Queues**

The EU has confirmed that British travellers will no longer be able to use the EU or EEA passport lanes in the event of a no deal scenario. Staff and students, regardless of the type of passport they hold, should be aware of the potential for delays given the volume of travellers and additional passport checks. Staff and students should consider this when planning onward travel connections and meetings.

## **Action Required**

If you are travelling after 29 March, check:

- Your passport is valid for at least six months from the date of arrival
- The FCO website regularly for the country you are travelling to for any specific information including updates and changes as a result of a no deal scenario e.g. entry requirements and acceptance of the EHIC.
- You have registered your trip using the Travel Insurance Notification Form as per the University Travel Insurance arrangements.