

Information for Staff and Students travelling on University Business to Europe on or after 31 October 2019

Issued by Dr Veena O'Halloran, University Secretary and Compliance Officer

2 October 2019

Introduction

The University is preparing for the UK's departure from the European Union (EU) on 31 October 2019, in the context of continuing uncertainty as to future arrangements. The University continues to monitor the situation and will provide updates to staff and students on a regular basis.

Staff and students travelling on University business are reminded that they should use the University's appointed Travel Management Company (Key Travel Tel: 0161 819 8849 email: strathclyde@keytravel.com) and check the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) website regularly prior to travel to establish the entry requirements for the country they are visiting.

Travel arrangements if a Brexit Withdrawal Agreement is Agreed

If/when agreement is reached we understand that existing arrangements for travel to Europe would continue during a transition period and changeover arrangements until 31 December 2020. Details will be publicised by the Government.

Travel implications in event of a No-Deal Brexit

In the event there is no agreement on how the UK will leave the EU, staff and students travelling on University business should be aware of the implications and action to be taken in advance of travel. The sections below indicate what information is currently available.

Key points for travel to the EU in event of no deal (detailed information below)

- British Citizens must check their passports have 6 months to run on them
- It is advisable for EU nationals returning to the UK to not just rely on their EU Identify card but to carry a valid passport and to carry extra documentation as proof of residency.
- Anyone travelling should be prepared for delays at border control due to additional passport checks. Travellers may also have to show return tickets and have sufficient funds for their stay.
- When planning a trip on or around 31 October consider if the trip is essential at this time. Any decisions to delay or postpone travel should be taken at a local level.

Passport Rules for Travel to Europe

British Citizens

Advice from the FCO for British passport holders is detailed below with the rules for travel to most countries in Europe changing.

After 31 October 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](#), contains a list of countries where the new rules will apply, a tool to "check you have enough time left on your passport to travel to Europe" and a link on how to apply for a new passport.

EU/EEA Citizens

Staff and students travelling on EU/EEA passports may also be concerned about re-entry to the UK after a trip to Europe.

Those **currently** living in the UK may be eligible to apply under the EU Settlement Scheme and should check their eligibility using the relevant [government webpage](#). 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.

Although it is currently possible to travel to the UK with an Identity Card issued by an EU member state, it is advisable to carry a valid passport. It is also advisable to retain evidence of the date of entry to the UK, and any evidence of residence prior to 31 October 2019 (for example, tenancy agreements, bank statements or bills) which may be useful in an application under the EU Settlement Scheme.

The Settlement Scheme will still operate in the event of no deal being agreed, but with more restrictions on eligibility, as described in this government [web page](#).

EU and EEA nationals who arrive in the UK **after 31 October 2019** and planning to stay will need to apply for either EU temporary leave to remain (Euro TLR) or another type of immigration permission by 31 December 2020. We expect more information to be available as the situation develops and in the meantime additional information can be found at the links below:

Government webpage:

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

University of Strathclyde advice pages for students:

<https://www.strath.ac.uk/studywithus/internationalstudents/brexitinformation/>

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

Irish Citizens

Irish citizens do not need to apply to stay in the UK, including after 31 December 2020. They continue to have the right to enter, live, work and study in the UK under the [Common Travel Area arrangements](#).

Travel Health Insurance

The University has travel insurance in place for students and staff who travel on University business. Staff and students should continue to 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 Finance Directorate's [webpage](#).

European Health Insurance Card

Staff and students travelling to the EU may have a European Health Insurance Card (EHIC) that currently allows access to state healthcare in the country being visiting at reduced cost or for free. This is likely to change and the card may no longer be valid. The [NHS webpage](#) provides details of the healthcare available in each country. **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

After the UK leaves the EU 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 31 October and IDPs can be found below.

<https://www.gov.uk/driving-abroad>

<https://www.gov.uk/driving-abroad/international-driving-permit>

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.

Border Control

The EU has confirmed that British travellers will no longer be able to use the EU or EEA passport lanes. At border control you may have to show a return or onward ticket and you have enough money for your stay. 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.

Additional information on visiting Europe can be found at <https://www.gov.uk/visit-europe-brexit>

Action Required

If you are travelling after 31 October 2019, check:

- Your passport is valid for at least six months from the day of travel
- The FCO website regularly for the country you are travelling to for any country 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.

When planning a trip on or immediately after 31 October 2019, consider:

- The terms of the travel and accommodation booking as a refundable ticket option may provide additional flexibility if travel arrangements require to be changed at short notice.
- Whether to delay the trip until the extent of any disruption becomes evident. Any decisions should be made at local level within the department.