Following the UK government’s release of its Technical Notice in relation to the UK’s participation in the Erasmus+ programme, the Sussex Abroad office have put together the following set of FAQs. These are aimed at Sussex students due to study abroad at an EU partner institution during the 2019/20 academic year.

This is a fast-moving situation and this information will be updated as more information becomes available.

**1: How will recent developments in the Brexit process affect my study abroad placement in Europe in 2019/20?**

The UK is currently due to leave the EU on 29th March 2019. However, as a Withdrawal Agreement has not yet been approved by the UK Parliament, there are questions about whether UK universities will be eligible to remain part of EU-funded programmes such as Erasmus+ after the UK leaves.

**2: I have already been allocated a place to study abroad in Europe in 2019/20. Will I still be able to study abroad at that particular partner institution?**

The Sussex Abroad office is working closely with our partner institutions in the EU to ensure that we will be able to continue to exchange students and staff members after Brexit.

As noted in your study abroad offer letter, however, we may need to move your allocation to another partner university. Should this become necessary, colleagues in the Sussex Abroad office will of course brief you fully and support you throughout the process. If you wished to withdraw from studying abroad at that point, we will of course respect your decision.

**3: Will I still receive an Erasmus+ grant to study abroad in Europe in 2019/20?**

This depends on whether the UK government manages to get a deal approved with the EU before the UK leaves. The UK’s participation in EU-funded programmes such as Erasmus+ is one of the things currently being negotiated.

If the UK leaves the EU without a deal in place, then UK universities will not be able to offer their students Erasmus funding for their placements in 2019/20.

Outgoing 2019/20 students should budget for their time abroad with the idea that they will not have access to Erasmus+ funding.

**4: What other sources of funding will I be able to access for my study abroad term or year?**

If you currently receive funding from Student Finance England, you will still have access to your usual student support financial arrangements for your studies abroad.

Depending on your household income, you may also be able to apply for a Travel Grant from Student Finance England.
First Generation Scholars who will be studying abroad for a full academic year in 2019/20 are entitled to additional financial support for the year abroad. [http://www.sussex.ac.uk/studentlifecentre/funding/bursaries](http://www.sussex.ac.uk/studentlifecentre/funding/bursaries)

5: I am concerned that without Erasmus+ funding, I may not be able to afford to study at my allocated partner university abroad. Who can I discuss my options with?

There may be an option for you to move to another partner university. You can discuss this with colleagues in the Sussex Abroad office. The Sussex Abroad office is located on the ground floor of the Hastings Building.

6: In terms of accessing medical treatment while abroad in the EU, will I still be able to make use of my EHIC (European Health Insurance Card)?

The UK government has or is seeking agreements with countries on healthcare arrangements for UK nationals after 29 March 2019.

If the UK leaves the EU without a deal on 29 March 2019, however, access to healthcare for British nationals travelling or living in the EU, European Economic Area (EEA) and Switzerland is likely to change.

More information about healthcare for UK nationals living in and visiting the EU and EEA is available on the NHS website and the UK government's Foreign and Commonwealth Office's travel pages.

[https://www.gov.uk/foreign-travel-advice](https://www.gov.uk/foreign-travel-advice)

7: I am a British Citizen. Will I need a visa to study abroad in another European country in 2019/20? Will the changes affect my passport validity?

If the UK leaves with a deal, travel to the EU is likely to remain the same as now until at least 31 December 2020. Current guidance states that you will not need to apply for a visa to travel or work in the EU during this time.

If the UK leaves the EU without a deal, however, the rules for travelling or working in Europe will change after 29 March 2019. The European Commission has proposed that in a 'no deal' situation, if you are a British Citizen, you would not need a visa for short stays in the Schengen area or elsewhere in the EU. You would be able to stay for up to 90 days in any 180-day period. Visits to the Schengen area within the previous 180 days before your date of travel will count against the 90-day limit.

If you are intending to stay in the Schengen area for longer than 90 days, or your stay would take you over the 90 days in the 180-day limit, you may need to get a visa before you travel and you should make contact with the Embassy of your host country in plenty of time to apply for this.
On arrival in the Schengen Area, you may be asked to confirm that you have sufficient funds available for the duration of your stay. As non-EEA nationals, different border control checks will apply, and you may also be asked to show a return or onward ticket. UK nationals would not have an ongoing right to use the separate lanes provided for EU, EEA and Swiss nationals.

If the UK leaves the European Union with no deal, the passport validity rules for travel to most countries in Europe will change from 29 March 2019. Some passports with up to 15 months validity remaining may not be valid for travel. Before booking travel, you should check that your passport will meet these new rules and find out whether you need to renew your passport.

For more information on this, please check the ‘Entry Requirements’ section of the FCO travel pages for the country you will be travelling to. You should also check up to date entry/visa requirements with the Embassy of your host country well in advance of your travel plans.

### 8: I am an EU citizen completing my whole degree at Sussex and I will be studying abroad in another EU country as part of my degree. What measures will need to be put in place for me to come back into the UK after my study abroad placement?

If the UK leaves the EU with a deal, travel from the EU to the UK is likely to remain the same as now until at least 31 December 2020.

There has been no official confirmation from the UK government on what immigration requirements will be in place for EU nationals after 29th March if the UK leaves the EU without a deal in place. We will update this once we receive updated information.

### 9: What is Sussex doing to represent students due to study abroad in 2019/20?

As a university, Sussex has a long and successful history with exchange programmes. We hugely value the benefits which study abroad brings to our students and their future career prospects.

Over the last few months, the Sussex Abroad office has been working closely with EU partner institutions to put in place measures ensuring we are able to continue to exchange students and staff members whatever the outcome of Brexit.

Since this most recent announcement by the UK government, the Sussex Abroad team has joined the Universities UK campaign to lobby the UK government to protect study abroad in the event of a ‘no deal’ Brexit.

### 10: Where can I get more information on this situation as it develops?


For up to date information on Erasmus+ and Brexit, please see the webpages of the UK’s National Agency for Erasmus+, the British Council:
https://www.erasmusplus.org.uk/brexit-update

For entry requirements and issues relating to medical treatment, please see the FCO travel pages:
https://www.gov.uk/foreign-travel-advice