Update from Universities UK 23 August 2016

HM Treasury on Horizon 2020 and structural funding

UUK have received confirmation from HM Treasury that the recent underwrite guarantee for Horizon 2020 projects is an additional commitment from the Treasury. Budgets have been set until 2019-20 and, should this guarantee be called before then, the funding provided by HMT would be additional to the research budget. Budgets for the years beyond 2019-20 will be set at future spending reviews.

EU student fees and financial support

UUK are continuing to urge government to confirm that universities will continue to be permitted to charge EU students commencing a course in 2016/17, 2017/18 and 2018/19 the same fees as home students for the duration of their course without risk of legal challenge.

Log of Brexit-related issues

To keep an overview of the full range of short-to-medium term Brexit-related issues, UUK have developed a key issues log which sets out the immediate challenges giving details of what they know now and the questions to which UUK are seeking clarification.

These challenges range from lack of clarity or unanswered questions about future programmes, policy and funding, to funding freezes and to uncertainty created by the perception of the UK turning its back on Europe and international collaboration. The log includes matters such as EU student fees, immigration, and future participation in Horizon 2020.

Separately, work is ongoing to consider what long-term policy is needed to enable universities to thrive post-exit, with a particular focus on four areas:

- Enhancing international research collaboration
- Reform of the immigration system to ensure the UK is an attractive destination for international students and staff
- Universities’ priorities for exit negotiations
- Support for student and staff mobility

House of Commons Science and Technology Committee Inquiry and House of Lords Science and Technology Committee Inquiry

Universities UK will be submitting written evidence to the House of Commons Science and Technology Committee inquiry into the implications of Brexit on the science and research community.

Following their inquiry prior to the EU Referendum, the Lords Science and Technology Committee are also holding a follow up inquiry into the UK’s membership of the EU. The Committee will hear oral evidence on 13 September 2016 from Professor David Phoenix, Vice-Chancellor of London South Bank, and Professor Sir David Greenaway, Vice-Chancellor of the University of Nottingham.

EAIE conference, Liverpool

On 13-16 September, Europe's largest gathering of international higher education staff, EAIE is taking place in Liverpool. The British Council has a pavilion at the event, which Universities UK
International (UUKI) is supporting. The team from UUKI will share the latest information regarding European cooperation in the context of the UK’s exit from the EU, and promote UK universities as international, outward looking places to study and work.

**Delegation to Poland and the Czech Republic, 27–30 September**

UUK International is organising a delegation to Poland and Czech Republic this September, working with the FCO’s SIN network, to enable UK sector representatives to take advantage of research and mobility partnership and commercial opportunities, including EU funding bids (Horizon 2020, Erasmus+, ESIF).