

Email to current students – 1 July 2016

EU referendum

As you are aware, the United Kingdom has voted to leave the European Union (EU). Leaving the EU will not happen overnight. Article 50 of the Lisbon Treaty establishes a two-year timeframe for the negotiation process between the UK and the EU – it is during this period that the terms of the UK's exit from the EU will be decided. The current Prime Minister has said that this process will not begin until October 2016.

The focus and ambition of Queen's University Belfast remains unchanged. We will continue to be global in our outlook, internationally networked and attract talent from across Europe. I would like to take this opportunity to assure all existing registered students, and those enrolling for the first time in 2016-17, that there will be no change to your current status. This applies to your fees, immigration status and your ability to access student loans. EU students are, and will remain, an integral and valuable part of Queen's University.

The participation of UK universities in EU programmes such as Horizon 2020 and Erasmus will continue until new arrangements are agreed between the UK and the EU. Our relationship with Europe, European universities and other institutions remains very important to Queen's and we will work to ensure that these relationships are preserved under the new arrangements.

Of course, UK universities now face a period of uncertainty. There will be many questions – from students, prospective students, staff, research partners and other stakeholders – which it may not be possible to answer for some time. But we will be working, through Universities UK and the Russell Group, to ensure that the best deal is secured for Queen's and our students through these negotiations. We will continue to keep you informed on developments going forward.

Professor Patrick Johnston
President and Vice-Chancellor