

Brexit and EU Research

From: Professor Dame Jessica Corner

To: REGS staff, Heads of School, School Directors of Research, Faculty PVCs, Faculty Research Directors and Research Business Development Network.

Sent: 12.30pm, Monday 27 June

Dear All,

We know you may be anxious about the implications of Brexit. It will take at least two years for anything to change, so there is time to consider the various issues and in the meantime it will be business as usual. Although momentous, in practice nothing has changed. You will be reassured that the Russell Group and UUK are raising the long list of issues that will need to be addressed to support our great academics from EU countries who live and work with us. There will be further communication from us as the days unfold.

Barring unilateral action from the UK Government, the vote to leave the European Union (EU) does not mean there will be any immediate material change to the UK university sector's participation in EU programmes such as Horizon 2020 (Including the ERC and Marie Skłodowska-Curie programmes) and Erasmus+, nor to the immigration status of current and prospective EU students and staff. The UK's legal status with respect to the EU and H2020 is currently exactly the same as it was before the referendum, which gives us full access to Horizon 2020 funding. Nothing will change until Article 50 is invoked (which may not happen until October or later) and even when it is invoked it will trigger a process of disengagement that is not expected to have any material outcome for a minimum of two years, with the negotiation potentially taking much longer.

Please also be reassured that current EU-funded projects will continue as they are governed by a legally-binding grant agreement.

Many academics are, understandably, asking about putting resources into Horizon 2020 proposals, and our advice is to continue with the networking and proposal preparation efforts required for responding to upcoming calls.

Universities UK's [statement on the outcome of the referendum](#), states that UK Universities, including Nottingham, will make a case to the UK Government to encourage them to negotiate retaining some form of access to the Horizon 2020 programme. A very good argument can be made that there is alignment of both the EU's and UK's policy aims and interests to allow UK institutions to continue to participate in Horizon 2020 projects. Exactly how that will happen and what the timeframe will be is unclear, except that it will not happen quickly - I refer you to our [VC's statement on the matter](#).

The University will continue to encourage cooperation and dialogue across Europe, and the academic and research community's pursuit of collaborative research will help further that goal and thus contribute to strengthening the case to be made for UK participation in such activity to continue.

We will of course keep in regular contact with UUK and other parties – in the UK and beyond – in order to keep abreast of developments so that we can pass on information when available, and provide advice.

In the meantime, please do not hesitate to contact Matthew Rackley in REGS (matthew.rackley@nottingham.ac.uk - telephone number 0115 95 13285) with any queries about the outcome of the referendum and European Research funding.

Best regards

Jessica

Professor Dame Jessica Corner

Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Research & Knowledge Exchange)

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