

Brexit:

Consequences for EU mobility under the Swiss programme for Erasmus+

As of 28.01.2021 / Last updated on 07.04.2021

Brexit has brought with it a number of changes – we provide up-to-date information on them here:

- **News on the website:** Movetia actively follows the latest developments in the relations between the United Kingdom and Switzerland. Information is available [here](#) and will be updated regularly. Specific information on vocational education and training is provided [here](#).
- **The UK will remain a programme country in the Swiss Erasmus+ programme:** The UK will remain an eligible [programme country for the Swiss Erasmus+ programme](#) (for outgoing and incoming mobility) in 2021 even though it is no longer a programme country of the EU's Erasmus+ funding programme from 2021 onwards and [is introducing its own funding programme](#).
- **New entry regulations for apprentices and apprenticeship graduates:** The new Swiss and [UK entry regulations](#) in place since 1 January 2021 must be complied (this applies to both ongoing and new mobility projects). The UK government has introduced a fee-based [visa process for vocational internships](#) for all countries and all durations which always requires a British sponsor. This role can be performed by selected [“government-authorised exchange” institutions](#) (see right column in the list), as per the process for workers/temporary workers. The British Council, the UK's national agency for exchange and mobility, is responsible for issuing sponsorships to participants in Erasmus+ programmes. Because the Swiss programme for Erasmus+ is not connected with any official European funding programme, the British Council cannot offer Swiss institutions any sponsorship. However, it is possible that other institutions could take over this role, for example one alternative could be to carry out a vocational internship with the UK subsidiary of a [listed and authorised Swiss company](#).
- **Entry regulations for teaching staff:** Unlike for vocational internships, [no visa will be required](#) for the eligible teaching staff activities (job shadowing, networking activities or project work, exchanges on educational issues). The current situation could serve to enhance [mobility for teaching staff](#) and strengthen the relevant [project structures](#).
- **Recommendation:** Due to the entry requirements, we do not recommend planning work placements in the UK in 2021. To make vocational internships in the UK somewhat more flexible, Movetia will offer financial support for stays of up to six months at a VET College. For students, there is a [list of selected educational institutions](#) that could offer a scholarship for educational exchanges.
- **Alternatives to the UK:** Please bear in mind that it is also possible to work with other programme countries of the Swiss Erasmus+ programme in which English is widespread (Scandinavia, the Netherlands, Ireland (Northern Ireland should also be possible), Malta, etc.). [👉](#) For new partnerships, there is a [list](#) with vocational schools and service providers in the above mentioned countries. Movetia must be notified of any new partner institutions must Movetia [in writing](#).
- **Procedure for bilateral relations between Switzerland and the UK:** Various points still have to be clarified between Switzerland and the UK in connection with Brexit, and this will take time. A [memorandum of understanding](#) was recently published. The official authority for the development of the bilateral relations between Switzerland and the United Kingdom is the federal government. This applies to possible agreements to simplify the entry procedures for internships in the UK as well. [Furthermore, the State Secretariat for Education, Research and Innovation \(SERI\) is planning a meeting at the highest level with the British Ministry of Education. More information to come.](#)