



## **Universities Scotland briefing on the impact of the EU referendum on Scotland's higher education sector.**

### **Summary**

Universities Scotland's priority in the days, weeks and months that follow the EU referendum result is to ensure that our community of 4,500 EU staff and 24,000 EU students know that they are valued enormously and continue to be welcome in Scotland.

We are working with the Scottish Government, UK Government, Universities UK and others to provide what assurances we can. The first priority has been to work with the Scottish Government to confirm the status of EU students already studying in the UK and due to start in academic year 2016/17 as this is a reserved matter and typically a four year commitment. Now, our priority turns immediately to seeking assurances for EU staff of their right to continue to live and work in the UK, a matter reserved to the UK Government.

The referendum result has created great uncertainty and instability in higher education. However, the result has not, and will not, change the fact that higher education is truly global; it transcends borders. Our relationships with Europe, European universities and other institutions remain very important to us and we will work with all Governments and stakeholders to ensure those relationships are preserved under the new arrangements.

The UK and Scottish Government, the European Commission and others will take decisions over the months and years about the UK's exit and potentially Scotland's continued membership of the EU. We hope to be a full contributor to those negotiations.

We want to retain the right for staff and students from EU countries to continue working and studying in Scotland. We want to negotiate access to European programmes for Scottish-domiciled students, staff and research. We believe this is compatible with the electorate's decision and would be to the benefit of Scotland and the UK.

### **Further information:**

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## Research funding & the EU

<p><b>More than one pound in every ten that Scotland's universities win competitively comes from the EU</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In Scotland, research funds from EU Government bodies count for 11 per cent of all competitively-won research funding received by our universities.</li> <li>• In cash, the value of that is over £75 million in 2013/14 (HESA) alone.</li> <li>• In addition, Scottish HEIs received another £13 million in 2013/14 from EU charities, EU industry and public bodies based in the EU. That takes the proportionate share of EU funding, of all research funding, to 13%.</li> </ul>
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<p><b>Scotland does well from EU funds and puts this research income to good use</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Scotland secured £636 million from the EU Framework 7 Programme (FP7) for research in the period 2007-2013. This is the predecessor to Horizon 2020.</li> <li>• This equates to 10.4 per cent of all Framework funds that came into the UK, relative to Scotland's 8.5 per cent share of the UK population.</li> <li>• Scotland has been successful in competing for, and winning, EU funds for research because of the excellence of our research. In turn, EU funds help to support and build on that excellence.</li> <li>• Research staff come to the UK because of this world-leading status and further contribute to our excellence on a global stage. Partnership and funding, based on excellence, help to further enhance our research base and benefit to society.</li> </ul> <p><u>Projects funded by FP7 of projects include:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The University of Glasgow received €7 million in European grant funding for the development of a form of insect control based on neuropeptides. The research project will be of value to the agricultural industry. The research funding is from the Horizon 2020 fund and the research will be taken forward by a large international collaboration of partners.</li> <li>• The University of Edinburgh's School of Informatics received €2.9 million from the EU's Horizon 2020 fund to assist with Health in My Language, which translates NHS public information into a variety of languages. This eases the pressure on Scotland's NHS.</li> </ul>
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## Funds for innovation and university-business partnerships

<p><b>EU structural funds have been very important to Scotland</b></p>	<p>The resource available through European Structural Funds has become an important part of Scotland’s mix of financial support for innovation between universities and business.</p> <p>Whilst structural funds are focused on innovation and knowledge exchange, rather than pure research (which was the focus of FP7) there are important links between them. It all contributes to ensuring the economic and social benefits of university research is maximized and the positive impact of that research is felt as widely as possible.</p> <p>14 different Scottish universities were the lead partners in 60 ERDF projects between 2007 and 2013 to a value of over £62.5 million. Many of these projects have helped build and embed the infrastructure needed to support closer engagement with the business community and to increase the commercialisation of university research.<sup>i</sup></p> <p>Innovation-focused projects to receive ERDF funding include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Strathclyde University’s Technology Innovation Centre which received a contribution of over £6.5 million of funding towards the total investment of £90 million needed. The Centre was developed with industry, for industry and aims to accelerate the way in which researchers in academia and industry collaborate and innovate together. It has already attracted Scottish and Southern Energy, the Weir Group, Scottish-Power and several other major cross-sectorial industrial companies.</li> <li>• The University of Edinburgh’s Scottish Centre for Regenerative Medicine received over £5 million of funds from the EU fund.</li> </ul>
<p><b>University-business partnerships supported by the EU</b></p>	<p><b>Joint Technology Initiatives</b> are another example of EU research priorities where collaboration is a major focus. JTIs concentrate on public-private partnerships and seek to encourage greater private investment in HE.</p> <p>The Innovative Medicines Initiative is a JTI. It funds the European Lead Factory as one of its projects. The European Lead Factory concept, is a pan-European platform for drug discovery based in Scotland because the University of Dundee forms part of its hub. The initiative, announced in 2013, brought €19 million to Scotland. Possibly more important than the funding is the collaborative approach to drug discovery the Factory takes and the unprecedented access, on a European-basis, that it gives to researchers. It represents an international consortium of 30 partners from industry and academia which offers promising new targets for research into drug discovery and new medicines.</p>

<p><b>There are good links between Scottish &amp; EU policies for innovation</b></p>	<p>Scottish and EU policy for innovation dovetail quite well and there has been a conscientious effort made within Scotland to assist Scottish HEIs to benefit from European funds including Horizon 2020 at the heart of the Innovation Union.</p> <p>Maximising the potential for Scotland that exists within Horizon 2020 is entirely complementary with the Scottish Government’s refreshed Economic Strategy which places an emphasis on a culture of innovation as an agent for increased productivity.</p> <p><u>Example:</u></p> <p>To encourage small businesses to participate in H2020 projects, the Scottish Funding Council has pledged to provide £400,000 worth of vouchers to be spent with Scottish universities in developing new projects. SMEs can benefit from universities’ experience bidding for, and winning, European funds.</p>
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## Freedom of movement. Access to highly talented staff and the flow of ideas

<p><b>Freedom of movement across Europe is enormously positive and hugely significant to the science and research community</b></p> <p><b>Mobility opportunities for early-career researchers</b></p>	<p>This principle is possibly one of the most important benefits of EU membership. The principle of freedom of movement is fundamental to universities.</p> <p>The EU staff that work in Scotland’s universities are valued immensely. They are a significant proportion of all staff in Scotland:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 16 per cent of Scotland’s academic staff are from the EU. The equivalent figure for the UK is 15%.</li> <li>• 23% of Scotland’s <u>research-only</u> staff are from the EU. This makes them an integral part of our research teams and the quality of Scotland’s academic research.</li> </ul> <p>Universities place great value on the notion that ideas should not be bound by geographic borders and the belief that universities and their staff are partners in a research ecosystem that exists at both a UK, European and international level. The fact that the EU’s freedom of movement principle supports and facilitates this in practice is very welcome.</p> <p><b>Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions</b>, an EU programme, provide grants for all stages of researchers' careers - be they doctoral candidates or highly experienced researchers. It encourages transnational, intersectoral and interdisciplinary mobility Scotland has been successful at winning funding support under the Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions. Unfortunately the EU publishes this data at UK level but at the UK level over 3,500 UK researchers have been funded through M S-C Actions in 7 years. The value put on this, to British organisations, is €1,086 million</p>
<p><b>Opportunities to recruit staff from the rest of the world</b></p>	<p>There is no evidence to suggest that opportunities for international (non-EU) staff have been limited because of the principle of freedom of movement of people due to EU membership.</p> <p>The UK Government’s immigration policy – specifically the proposals for Tier 2 in this case – is the major deterrent to greater flows of talent from outside of the EU into Scotland/UK.</p> <p>Universities Scotland has been making the positive case for a more competitive post study work visa for Scotland for a number of years. This would be a significant benefit to universities both as employers and as recruiters of students. We believe this need becomes even greater if the UK is to leave the EU.</p>

