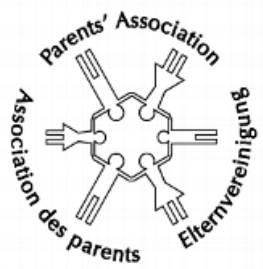


Parents' Association of the European School Munich



Info – School year 2016-2017

Brexit and its implications for the European School Munich

Introduction

The result of the Brexit referendum may have profound implications for the European School (ESM), in particular the ability of the school to retain and recruit native English-speaking teachers from the UK. There are also possible implications concerning the recognition of the European Baccalaureate qualification, and the terms under which pupils graduating from the European School may enrol for a British tertiary education institute following completion of the Brexit process.

Retention and Recruitment of English-speaking teachers from the UK

The UK government has already announced that it will no longer second teachers from the UK to the European Schools system. The implications for staff already seconded from the UK are not yet clear, but may include *inter alia* recall of the seconded teachers concerned to the UK or facilitated transfer to other international schools, by some date yet to be announced or at the expiry of their current contract period. In any event, there will now be a certain period of uncertainty and some currently seconded staff may choose to seek alternative employment sooner rather than later, so as to be in control of their own destiny.

Some currently seconded staff that are long-settled in Munich, may wish to remain at the ESM due to family ties and commitments, but may be forced to do so under local contract terms, which are less generous than those for seconded teachers. Munich is a high-cost city, so this may not be a viable option for some of those affected. This problem also exists *mutatis mutandis* with respect to any future recruitment of native English-speaking teachers under local contract terms, from wherever they are recruited (Australia, New Zealand, Canada, USA).

The inability of the school to retain and recruit native English-speaking staff will increasingly render it difficult for the ESM to teach certain subjects in the High School through the English language medium, and to attract good class teachers in the English section in the primary school. This issue is also relevant for other language sections, since many parents opt for English as L2 or L3.

Tertiary Education in the UK

British Universities, and other tertiary education institutes, have been free to set annual course fees since 1998, but there is a maximum fee that may be charged for 'Home Students' (Currently set at £9250). Whilst the UK is a member of the European Union prospective students who are resident elsewhere in the EU must be offered the same terms. Once the UK leaves the EU then, under current legislation, EU resident¹ students will no longer be eligible for Home Student fee rates. The fees charged for students who do not qualify as Home Students are not capped, and may be more than three times the maximum amount charged for Home Students. In general, fees for vocational courses such as science, engineering and medicine, particularly for Russell Group² Universities, tend to be set higher than those for Arts and Humanities e.g. current international fee rates for an Engineering Course at Cambridge University - £29,217, for an Arts or Humanities course at Cardiff University - £15,080.

In order to qualify as a Home Student prospective students must have been resident in the UK for a minimum period of three years prior to enrolment. Many parents, knowing this, may choose to enrol their children in a school in the UK in order to later qualify as a Home Student.

It may be the case that, following the Brexit negotiations, the UK will offer EU students terms similar to those that are currently offered, but this is far from certain.

Right of Abode

Following completion of the Brexit process it may be the case that UK nationals may no longer have the automatic right of abode elsewhere in the EU, even those who are currently resident in the EU. This clearly has implications for ESM pupils and their parents, even for those employed by the EPO since they will lose their automatic right of abode in Germany due to their status as an EPO employee after they retire. In order to circumvent this problem, British nationals (parents and pupils) may choose to apply for German citizenship.

Yours,

Carolyn Casali-Bain, Mark Robinson and Paul Scriven
on behalf of English Section and the Parents 'Association ESM

¹The relevant criterion is residency not nationality so ESM pupils, even if British Nationals, would no longer qualify as Home Students following the completion of the Brexit process

²Birmingham, Bristol, Cambridge, Cardiff, Durham, Edinburgh, Exeter, Glasgow, London (UCL, Kings, Imperial, LSE, Queen Mary), Leeds, Liverpool, Manchester, Newcastle, Nottingham, Oxford, Queen's Belfast, Sheffield, Southampton, Warwick, York