BREXIT travel briefing

With the current uncertainty around the date and the nature of the UK’s planned departure from the EU, please observe the following guidance when travelling or planning travel on University business on, around, or after the departure date.

Passports.
It is expected that, regardless of whether we leave with or without a deal, UK citizens will be required to have at least 6 months validity on their passport when travelling to the EU after Brexit, as is already the case for non-EU passport holders. The UK Government has published a website tool to check the validity of your passport under these rules. You should check your passport now if you are planning travel in the near future. If you need support with your passport renewal, our travel partner Key Travel can assist. Please contact their Visa and Passports team (Email: visa@keytravel.com Phone: 0207 843 9678).

Insurance/EHIC
In the event of a no-deal Brexit, European Health Insurance Cards (EHICs) may no longer be valid. EHICs allow for discounted or free routine healthcare in EU countries. However, the University’s Travel Insurance will continue to cover students and staff when they are travelling on University business. It is mandatory that all students or staff complete a travel declaration in order that the University can confirm that insurance will apply and that the trip can be authorised. The travel insurance policy covers, among other things, emergency medical treatment. It does not ordinarily cover routine medical treatment for pre-existing medical conditions. It is important that you declare any pre-existing or long-term medical conditions on your travel declaration form.

Visas
The EU has proposed visa-free travel for UK citizens travelling to the EU following Brexit (for short trips), however this is dependent on the type of Brexit deal achieved between the UK and the EU and remains uncertain at this point in time. You should monitor the news in relation to visa requirements and check with the relevant country’s consulate and/or Government website for more information on visa requirements.

Disruption
The European Commission has confirmed that British travellers will no longer be able to use the EU or EEA passport lanes in a no-deal scenario. This could cause delays given the volume of UK/EU passengers and the additional passport checks that need to be carried out, particularly at small airports where there is poorer infrastructure.

We therefore recommend that travellers consider the possibility of increased delays when arranging their onward transport or meetings and build in transfer time accordingly.

To prepare for the possibility of travel disruption, we recommend that you should:

- Ensure that you have details of your accommodation in the EU and return ticket back to the UK when entering the EU.
- Plan for delays or disruption to your travel arrangements just in case, e.g. longer queues at airports and train stations.
- Ensure you have access to sufficient money and funds while you are travelling. In the event of a no deal Brexit there may be restrictions to accessing your UK bank account if you are in the EU.
- Have plans in place for somewhere to stay in the unlikely event you be unable to enter the UK on the dates you were planning to return.

Our travel partners Key Travel are setting up contingency plans to ensure that their reservations teams, account managers and airline liaison specialists are all available during the immediate run up to the date of Brexit and in the following days, in case any of the transition measures fail and delays or cancellations occur.

Driving
If you have a full UK driving licence, you don’t currently need an additional licence to drive in the EU. This is likely to change in a no-deal scenario. UK travellers looking to drive in the EU after the UK leaves may need to apply for the relevant International Driving Permit. You should refer to the UK Government guidance.

These cost £5.50 and are available directly from the Post Office. The Government has extended the network of Post Offices where you can apply for an International Driving Permit, find your nearest branch here.

Check carefully which permit is required for each country you intend to drive within, as you may need more than one permit to comply with the law.

If you are intending to drive a University owned vehicle from the UK to the EU, you should contact Assurance Services (assurance@hw.ac.uk) to arrange a green card. This could take up to one working week, so please leave plenty of time.

If you are hiring a vehicle in the EU, the local insurance should be sufficient and you will not require a green card.

If you are hiring a vehicle in the UK and driving to the EU, you should check whether the hire company’s insurance will allow you to drive in the EU. If they do not, you should consider revising your plans.

Emails/News
Please read your University emails regularly as the University will use this method of communication to send you any new updates on information and new developments as they become available.

You should also keep in touch with the news on Brexit and any implications this may have for you and your ability to travel to countries within the EU. The main website providing official advice and guidance with regard to Brexit implications on travel is http://www.gov.uk/visit-europe-brexit