Brexit implications for UK participation in EU research funding (Horizon 2020)

**3 September 2019 update:** The UK remains eligible for all EU research and innovation funding (such as Horizon 2020) and calls until exit date (31 October 2019). The government’s ‘no deal’ guarantees are in place to ensure continuity of funding in a no deal scenario. Researchers are encouraged to keep applying to Horizon 2020 (H2020):

**WITHDRAWAL AGREEMENT - a deal is agreed:**

- There will be a ‘transitional phase’ so that the UK would remain able, as now, to apply to all remaining H2020 calls to be announced until the end of the EC H2020 programme period (31 December 2020).
- Successful projects would be funded via the EC as now for their full duration.

**GOVERNMENT H2020 GUARANTEES – if there is no deal**

For those projects submitted BEFORE exit date:

- Government’s H2020 GUARANTEE will underwrite all live and successful H2020 awards submitted before exit and to fund projects for their duration.

For those projects submitted AFTER exit date:

- Government’s H2020 POST-EU GUARANTEE will underwrite UK participants’ budget in all H2020 calls open to third country participants from exit date to fund UK participation in successful projects for their full duration, even if they last beyond 2020.

- **UKRI would manage the underwrites** on behalf of government.

**TO NOTE:**

- Recent Government advice is that if the EC stops evaluating UK bids to mono beneficiary schemes (European Research Council (ERC) and Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions (MSCA) and SME grants submitted before exit that applicants will be able to re-submit such mono beneficiary applications to UKRI for independent assessment for funding under no deal.

- Under ‘no deal’ the UK will NOT be able to submit bids after exit date to the EC for mono-beneficiary schemes, such as most European Research Council grants and Marie Skłodowska-Curie European Fellowships. The government is considering national programmes to avoid a funding gap.

Researchers are encouraged to still apply to the EC funding scheme calls for upcoming ERC and Marie Skłodowska-Curie calls up to exit date, and are advised to contact the EU Unit as soon as possible.

The government also guarantees to underwrite the UK’s full allocation for structural and investment fund projects, including the European Regional Development Fund, until the end of 2020.

The above underwrites ensure engagement with Europe and applications for EU research can continue, and should give confidence to QM researchers to bid for funding.
UK Research and Innovation Portal

Under ‘no deal’, **UK Research and Innovation (UKRI) would manage the two government H2020 guarantees.** Projects will be transitioned from EC to UKRI contracts, claims and payments will be made via JeS system.

As part of contingency planning, the EU Unit, JRMO (Vicky Byers) as the key liaison with UKRI has registered all QMUL H2020 projects on the [UKRI Portal](#). Grant holders do not have to register their projects and will be kept updated by the EU Unit.

For queries please contact: Vicky Byers, EU Section Manager v.byers@qmul.ac.uk 0207 882 7251

**Frequently Asked Questions (updated 3/9/19):**

**Should I still apply for EU H2020 research funding?**

The UK remains eligible to apply for EU funding until exit date. After exit, if there is a deal, nothing will change and the UK will be able to for all H2020 schemes until the end of the EC H2020 programme.

If there is ‘no deal’, the government’s Post-EU underwrite will support UK participation in any future applications to Horizon 2020 calls open to third-country participants submitted after exit till end of the H2020 programme.

The UK will not be eligible for mono-beneficiary schemes, such as European Research Council (ERC) (Starting, Consolidator and Advanced), and Marie Skłodowska-Curie Fellowships submitted after exit date and are thus not covered by the Post EU underwrite please contact Vicky Byers v.byers@qmul.ac.uk for further information.

Researchers are encouraged to continue applying for H2020 funding.

**Can I still apply for H2020 research funding if there is no deal?**

Yes, under the government Post-EU Extended Guarantee the government commits to fund successful UK participants under those schemes open to third country participants (ie multi-beneficiary) from exit for their full duration (even if this is beyond 2020). Queen Mary researchers are encouraged to continue to engage with EU partners in consortia bids under eligible schemes (and taking into account consortium minimum eligibility). This guarantee does not cover the mono beneficiary schemes, such as European Research Council (ERC) (Starting, Consolidator and Advanced) and MSCA individual fellowships. In a ‘no deal’ scenario, the government is considering equivalent national programmes to avoid funding gap.

**What about applying to the ERC and MSCA individual fellowships call deadlines after exit?**

Not all H2020 schemes require third country participation including: European Research Council (ERC) grants (Starting, Consolidator and Advanced), some Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions (MSCA) grants (eg European individual fellowships) and the SME instrument.

If there is a deal, nothing will change and the UK will be eligible ERC and MSCA individual fellowship calls till end of the H2020 programme.

Under ‘no deal’, the government is looking at national equivalent schemes to avoid a funding gap but details are not yet published.

**You should continue to apply for ERC and MSCA individual fellowship bids**
How will existing EU research funded projects be funded after exit?

If a deal is agreed, projects would be funded as before for their duration.

Under ‘no deal’, the government has guaranteed to underwrite live and successful projects post exit for their full duration, even if a submitted project is notified of its success after exit. **UKRI will manage any underwrite of Horizon 2020** (and any remaining FP7 projects). UKRI will re-contract H2020 projects and the JeS system will be used to manage claims and payments. The underwrite covers live and successful individual (including ERC and fellowships) and consortia projects before exit. More detailed UKRI guidance is to follow.

I am an existing ERC or MSCA fellowship grantholder how is my funding affected after exit?

If a deal is agreed, you will receive your funding from the European Commission and there will be no change for the full duration of the grant.

Under no deal, there is the UK government’s underwrite guarantee to fund ERC and MSCA bids submitted pre-Brexit that are successful. Funding will continue for the project full duration and will be paid via the UKRI as part of the underwrite.

Will the UK be awarded H2020 European Research Council projects if there is ‘no deal’?

Under ‘no deal’, the mono beneficiary schemes, such as European Research Council (ERC) grants (Starter, Consolidator and Advanced) no third country participation is required. The UK would not be eligible as a third country beneficiary. These schemes would not be covered by the Post-EU Extended Underwrite. The government is likely to set up alternative programmes but details are not yet published. The EU Unit, JRMO will update researchers as soon as further information is known.

If I am coordinator how will partner payments be made if there is no deal?

It is still possible for a coordinator to be a third country. The government and EC are aware that under no deal this is an issue still be clarified with the EC in due course. The EU Unit will advise QM coordinators when guidance is provided.

Under no deal, how will my H2020 project be funded by the underwrite – do I need to register on the UKRI portal?

Under ‘no deal’, **UKRI will manage the underwrite** that will be used to fund and pay H2020 and remaining FP7 projects via its portal. The EU Unit is the key liaison with UKRI and has already provided basic grant data for all QMUL projects. The portal will remain open after exit so that further successful projects can be registered.

Individual researchers do not need to register on the UKRI portal. All data will be centrally managed by the EU Unit, JRMO.

UKRI will support the transition of grants to the JeS system for contracts, payment and monitoring processes - guidance will be provided. The EU Unit has recently been involved in discussions with UKRI on the practicalities of administering the underwrite. The EU Unit will keep grantholders updated.

How will my European Regional Development project be funded and after exit and can I apply for further ERDF funding?
If there is a deal, the UK would continue to participate in the European Regional Development (ERDF) programmes until the end of the 2014-2020 programme period as now.

Under a ‘no-deal’ scenario, the underwrite guarantee also includes structural and investment fund projects, including the European Regional Development Fund, will allow new projects to be funded will continue to sign new projects after EU exit until programme closure.

**Will the UK be eligible for the successor EU research programme, Horizon Europe?**

The government has stated its intention to negotiate access to the successor EU research programme, Horizon Europe (2021-27) as an ‘Associated’ Country. Both the UK and EU agree on the value of UK participation in European research programmes.

**I have concerns about the inclusion of UK partners in H2020 projects how to report this?**

The UK Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS) has a dedicated inbox: (research@beis.gov.uk) for queries and to report issues. UK and EU researchers and research organisations can contact this inbox.

**Further official sources of information:**

UK Government Overview: UK Participation in Horizon 2020

UK Research Office in Brussels: UKRO BREXIT FACTSHEET RELEVANT TO UK AND INTERNATIONAL AUDIENCES FOR DISSEMINATION

UK Government Horizon 2020 ‘No Deal’ plans

UK Government ERDF No Deal plans

UK Government Fact Sheet: Parameters for Extending Article 50

UKRI Portal

UK Participation in other EU programmes

European Commission Brexit Preparedness

Visit Europe after Brexit

UK Position Paper for FP9 (Horizon Europe)

For queries please contact: Vicky Byers, EU Section Manager v.byers@qmul.ac.uk 0207 882 7251