

## EU Exit and Apprenticeships

### Key Messages

- Apprenticeships play an important role in ensuring that employers have access to the skills needed to support economic growth.
- There will be no change to eligibility for English apprenticeship funding for Academic Years 2019/20 and 2020/21.
- EU citizens or those from Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway or Switzerland who are existing apprentices or those who start an apprenticeship before the end of 2020 will need to apply to the EU Settlement Scheme to ensure they retain the right to live and work in the UK after 2020.
- Employers should ensure that their employees, including apprentices, who are from the EU, Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway or Switzerland and living in the UK are aware that they and their family members will need to apply for settled or pre-settled status through the EU Settlement Scheme.

### Q&A

#### **Q. Will EU citizens currently undertaking an apprenticeship in the UK be able to complete their apprenticeship after the UK leaves the EU?**

All existing EU apprentices and EU citizens in the UK before the end of December 2020 who start an apprenticeship in Academic Years 2019/20 and 2020/21 will be able to continue and complete their English apprenticeship.

Where the duration of the apprenticeship extends beyond the end of December 2020, apprentices will need to successfully apply to the [EU Settlement Scheme](#) (except Irish citizens) in order to retain the right to live and work in the UK and for government funding of their apprenticeship to continue.

#### **Q. Are EU citizens resident in the UK before EU Exit eligible for an English apprenticeship?**

All existing EU apprentices and EU citizens in the UK before the end of December 2020 who start an apprenticeship in Academic Years 2019/20 and 2020/21 will be able to continue and complete their English apprenticeship.

Where the duration of the apprenticeship extends beyond the end of December 2020, apprentices will need to successfully apply to the [EU Settlement Scheme](#) (except Irish citizens) in order to retain the right to live and work in the UK and for government funding of their apprenticeship to continue.

**Q. Can I still recruit EU, EEA and Swiss citizens to do an apprenticeship after EU Exit?**

There will be no change to eligibility for English apprenticeship funding for Academic Years 2019/20 and 2020/21. EU, EEA and Swiss citizens will be able to come to the UK to live, work or study under the same terms as now until the end of 2020. They will need to apply to the [EU Settlement Scheme](#) to remain beyond the end of 2020.

EU, EEA and Swiss citizen arrivals from January 2021 who want to work in the UK (including as an apprentice) will need permission under a new immigration system to be introduced from 2021.

**Q. Will eligibility for English apprenticeships change from AY 2021/22?**

We will confirm the position for Academic Year 2021/22 and beyond in due course.

**Q. Where can I find more information about changes to eligibility for apprenticeships?**

Eligibility is set out in the [Apprenticeship Funding Rules](#) and any changes to those rules will be indicated there.

**Q. Will UK citizens living in the EU be able to start an apprenticeship if they return to the UK?**

UK citizens living in the EU, EEA or Switzerland retain the right to work and those who return to England will be eligible for an apprenticeship. They are currently eligible and will continue to be eligible for a seven year transitional period from the end of 2020, providing they meet the existing eligibility requirements.

After this period, their rights will be brought into line with other UK citizens living abroad (outside the EU, EEA and Switzerland) i.e. they will be required to have 3 years' ordinary residence in the UK prior to the start of an apprenticeship to be eligible for apprenticeship funding.

**Q. Are Irish citizens eligible for English apprenticeships?**

Yes, under the [Common Travel Area](#) Irish citizens will continue to have the right to work in the UK after Brexit, and continue to be able to start an apprenticeship in England, or complete one they are already on, subject to meeting the eligibility criteria for funding on the same basis as UK citizens.

**Q. Will the new Graduate Visa be a suitable immigration route for an EU citizen wishing to start an English apprenticeship?**

As the new post-study work visa announced in September 2019 is for a fixed period of two years, it would only be appropriate for apprenticeships of two years or less duration.

January 2020