



The All-Party Parliamentary University Group

Sam Gyimah MP
Minister of State for Higher Education
Department for Education
Sanctuary Buildings
Great Smith Street
London
SW1P 3BT

15 May 2018

Dear Minister,

I am writing to you as chair of the All-Party Parliamentary University Group (APPUG) to ask for urgent clarification about the fee status of EU students starting courses in the 2019-20 academic year and throughout any transition period.

We have a body of evidence showing that students from across the EU are already vociferously asking whether they will be eligible for home fee status and the associated financial support if they start a course in 2019, after we have left the EU.

Students from the EU bring great economic and social value to UK universities; research shows that international students start the decision-making process about studying abroad more than 12 months before they enrol at an institution and therefore now require urgent clarity.

Universities themselves need confirmation on the fee status of EU students from 2019 onwards in order to conduct sound financial planning. Many institutions across the country will soon be putting together prospectuses and advertising courses internationally, and do not currently have sufficient information to do this.

The group held a meeting last November on 'higher education as an export' in which vice-chancellors discussed the value of international students, both from the EU and beyond, to their institutions. We subsequently wrote to International Trade Secretary highlighting the need for government policies that support the recruitment of students from outside the UK.

The APPUG welcomed the Scottish Government's decision to grant EU students starting courses in 2019-20 home fee status and strongly urges your government to give similar guarantees to EU students looking to study at English universities.

I look forward to hearing from you soon about this important matter.

Best wishes,

Dr Roberta Blackman-Woods MP
Chair, All-Party Parliamentary University Group