



**HEADS OF UNIVERSITY CENTRES OF BIOMEDICAL SCIENCES
(HUCBMS)**

Position Statement on EU Referendum

The Executive Committee of the Heads of University Centres of Biomedical Sciences (HUCBMS)¹ supports the United Kingdom's (UK's) continued membership of the European Union (EU). HUCBMS believes that within the global scientific community, greater impact will continue to be achieved by UK universities, researchers, academics, and students through full and active participation in the policy formulation, networking and collaborative higher education and research frameworks established within the EU.

EU students and staff at UK universities help to foster an international, outward looking culture on campuses which in turn provides British students with a university experience that prepares them for an ever more globalised world. Over 200,000 UK students have studied and worked abroad through the Erasmus exchange programme in the past 10 years, boosting their future job prospects. Students who did an Erasmus placement have been shown to be 50% less likely to experience long-term unemployment. Over 125,000 EU students are currently studying at UK universities.

Working together, UK and European researchers pool their resources, expertise, data and infrastructure to achieve more together than they could do alone. Most of today's scientific challenges are global and not solely national. In the EU, researchers can collaborate more easily to

develop solutions on an international scale, making the most of Europe's diversity to achieve greater results. Research involving international collaborators has been shown to have nearly 50% more measurable impact than research done at a national level. The EU produces over a third of the world's scientific output - 34% more than the US and that gap has grown by 4% over the last 6 years according to the latest UNESCO data.

The EU has allocated 8% of its budget into a multinational science programme, 'Horizon 2020' (€80bn from 2014-2020). UK researchers work within Horizon 2020 with partners from across Europe, as part of world-leading multinational teams. Freedom of movement and a common legislative framework help make cross-border collaboration much easier. These European-led projects also attract leading scientific teams from anywhere around the world as secondary partners, increasing UK global networking. From 2007-2013, the EU science programme involved 170 countries worldwide. EU funds now make up 17% of the total science research grants in UK Higher Education Institutes (HEIs). Most importantly, a 73% of the increase in HEI science funding from 2007-14 can be assigned to EU sources.

HUCBMS believes that it is in the interests of UK higher education and research, and in enhancing the current and future opportunities for UK students and graduates, for the UK to remain an enthusiastic and influential member of the EU.

www.hucbms.org

Information Sources

House of Lords Science and Technology Select Committee (2016). 2nd Report of Session 2015–16, 'EU Membership and UK Science'.

King's College London and Digital Science (2015). *The Nature, Scale and Beneficiaries of Research Impact: An initial analysis of Research Excellence Framework (REF) 2014 Impact Case Studies. (Prepared for the Higher Education Funding Council of England, Higher Education Funding Council for Wales, Scottish Funding Council, Department of Employment and Learning Northern Ireland, Research Councils UK and the Wellcome Trust).*

Jonathan Adams and Karen A Gurney (2016). *The Implications of International Research Collaboration for UK Universities, Digital Science.*

¹Note:

HUCBMS is a representative body for the biomedical sciences. It has over 60 member institutions within the UK and overseas. The mission of HUCBMS is to promote the development and enhancement of biomedical sciences teaching and research.

HUCBMS represents the interests of its member institutions (universities and colleges) at a national and international level. *Inter alia*, it acts as a representative voice for the biomedical sciences and a source of advice, comment and analysis to relevant external bodies.

Further Information:

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