

University of Glasgow

Council of Senate

Statement concerning the EU Referendum

The Council of Senate recognises that the views of staff and students in the University will vary regarding Britain's remaining part of the European Union. The Council welcomes the University's decision that it would contribute to the debate on EU membership in part through acting as a forum for both public and institutional discussion of the issues concerned, and involving participants from both sides in the debate.

The Council of Senate also wishes to affirm strongly the positive value that the UK's membership of the EU currently provides to the University. The Council's view is that, as a global university, the exchange of ideas is essential to the University's ability to help society to progress. The mobility that EU membership permits and that enables staff and students (often with EU financial support) to work and study in Europe, and that enables staff and students from across the EU to come to Glasgow, contributes to the fulfilment of our mission as a University. It also enables our graduates to take up employment anywhere in the EU without need for a work permit. The enrichment that this activity provides also strengthens the University's ability to contribute to the local and national economy. It permits us to participate in cross-EU research and teaching collaborations that benefit all partners; it allows us to help shape EU research policy to the benefit of Scotland and the UK as a whole; and it provides us with access to EU research funding. While it is of course conceivable that the UK could seek to continue to participate in EU programmes from outside the EU, the simplest way to ensure the continuation of these benefits would be to remain in the EU.

Some brief examples of benefits to the University of EU membership:

Free movement of talented staff and students:

- Over 3,200 of our students (c. 12.5%) and around 21% of our academic staff are from the EU outwith the UK.

EU Support for research:

- The EU provides c. 10% of Scottish HE research funding. In the three years to August 2015, Glasgow won new EU grants worth over £50M. Approximately 30% of the European Research Council grant holders at Glasgow are non-UK EU nationals.

EU promotion of complex transnational collaborations:

- Glasgow leads cross-Europe initiatives and participates in many more in a wide range of research fields – e.g., the nEUROSTRESSPEP project involves 14 partners with €7M funding; the EuroFIT project involves 12 partners and €6M funding. Other major projects include: gravitational waves; malaria; biodiversity; space research. The EU also provides valuable funding for the improvement of the infrastructure that supports our research.