

EU Funding Information Session

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Common 'excuses' & myths surrounding EU Funding 1/2

■ Bureaucracy

Actually, no more bureaucratic than other national and international funders (e.g. USA's NIH or UK's NIHR) : EU Team at UoY very experienced in supporting academics and taking all the bureaucratic burden off you pre- and post-award.

■ Lack of transparency

Evaluators lists are available, probably more transparent than national funders; you can become an evaluator yourself!

■ Visa issues

Visas used to be a problem a couple of years ago (in Biology), but now the university is able to obtain researchers' visas for incoming fellows from across the world.

Common 'excuses' & myths surrounding EU Funding 2/2



- Success rates

Success rates for the UK are higher than EU average, and York's success rates are for some programmes higher than UK average (Fellowships, ITNs).

If you don't apply then NO success rate!

And for the Excellence Programmes, you can re-apply as many times submitting same proposal.

- And now...BREXIT

Brexit-related concerns

- Brexit means no EU funding
- Evaluation bias
- Speculation/uncertainty → EU partners
'dropping' UK partners
- Government underwriting EU grants?

Brexit doesn't mean no EU funding

- UK is full member of the European Union with all rights and obligations right until the end of the 2-year period following the trigger of Article 50
- The University is lobbying as part of the Russel Group and through its White Rose office in Brussels to ensure best position during exit negotiations
- What these negotiations will bring for UK research remains to be seen

Ideally we would like an Associated Country status for all funding programmes, which would entail minimum visa restrictions for incoming researchers (from EU and beyond).

Bias in Horizon 2020 evaluations



- Evaluators have been briefed not to judge proposals with UK participants any different than before 23 June 2016:

Outcome of the UK referendum and Horizon 2020: State of Play

Until the UK leaves the EU, EU law continues to apply to and within the UK, both when it comes to rights and obligations. This includes the eligibility of UK legal entities to participate and receive funding in Horizon 2020 actions. Experts should not evaluate proposals with UK participants any differently than before.

Should project coordinators of Horizon 2020 proposals dedicate a part of their proposal to addressing the potential risks as a consequence of the UK Referendum?

HORIZON 2020



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- Some evaluators are British!
- With UK Government underwriting grants, there is no excuse to mark down a project because of Brexit, i.e. the fear a UK based partner might withdraw due to lack of funding is no longer there.

Do EU partners still want to play with us?

- Very much so
- 2017 ITN York applications (with EU partners coordinating) same level as 2016
- It is all about our excellence, not political!
- Use the Brexit-related information in this presentation to respond to sceptical EU-based partners!

Is the Government underwriting EU grants?



- Yes – the Government **has agreed to underwrite all EU funded grants** (for their entire duration) **awarded** to UK institutions until the UK leaves the EU (<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/safeguarding-funding-for-research-and-innovation>)
- In addition, there is clear commitment of UK Government to ensure UK remains best place for R&I
- Examples: this covers projects awarded within the next two years: start date in 2017 (5-year grant), Brexit 2019, UK funding till 2021 **OR** awarded early 2019 (4 year grant), start date late 2019, Brexit 2019, UK funding till 2023.
- Until then ‘Business as usual’ / ‘Business continues’

Thank you- Questions?

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<https://www.york.ac.uk/staff/research/external-funding/european/>