

Update on the impact of Brexit & developments to continue the recognition of accredited degrees post-Brexit

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UK NARIC

Designated national agency in the UK for the recognition and comparison of international qualifications and skills of behalf of the UK government.

Provides information on the recognition of overseas academic, vocational and professional qualifications.

Offers membership to stakeholders involved in the recognition of qualifications (e.g. HEIs, FE colleges, regulatory bodies, government agencies and employers)

Provides services for individuals to facilitate the recognition of their qualifications, for a variety of purposes (e.g. visa and immigration, admission onto education programmes, employment and professional registration)

Centre for Professional Qualifications

Clarify **the regulatory environment for inbound professionals accessing professions** in the UK.

CPQ guides professional bodies, regulators and employers on **best practice when recognising international qualifications.**

Provide assistance to outbound professionals accessing professions in the EEA and Switzerland, and the rest of the world.

Official function: Assistance Centre for MRPQ, working in conjunction with the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy

Impact of Brexit

A Brexit deal has been agreed in principle, but both the UK and the EU need to approve and sign the withdrawal agreement

Depending on the outcome of the elections, the UK could leave with a deal, without a deal, or Brexit could be cancelled.

Each scenario has a different implication for the recognition of UK professional qualifications for accessing regulated professions in other Member States.

Regulated professions

Regulated professions

- Professionals **cannot** legally access the profession without satisfying the regulatory body's recognition and registration requirements.
- There are often **reserved activities** that can only be carried out by registered professionals.

Protected titles

- Professionals **can** access the profession related to the protected title.
- Professionals **cannot** use the protected title without satisfying the professional body's registration requirements.
- Usually there are **no reserved activities**.

Current situation:

Directive 2005/36/EC (Directive 2013/55/EU)

- Directive 2005/36/EC (as modified by Directive 2013/55/EU) is a **reciprocal framework** providing the conditions for the (MRPQ).

- Professionals must be **EU/EEA nationals** or have **EU rights** to be processed under MRPQ.

- Professionals must either have **qualified** in the EU/EEA, or have been **working** in that profession in the EU/EEA for **three years**.

Current situation:

Directive 2005/36/EC (Directive 2013/55/EU)

- **Seven** professions are covered by an **automatic recognition system**, whereby the minimum training requirements have been **harmonised**

- In all other regulated professions, the regulator examines **a professional's qualifications and experience** to determine whether the professional standards are **satisfied**.

- In some professions, **recognition of professional experience** can grant **automatic recognition**.

Brexit - Withdrawal Agreement (Deal)

The Withdrawal Agreement allows for the **continued recognition** of professional qualifications for residents in a host Member State and for frontier workers.

Recognition decisions made prior to or during the end of the implementation period will **be covered by the Withdrawal Agreement**.

Decisions relating to the **temporary and occasional provision of service** as it will no longer be possible to practise on a temporary and occasional basis.

Brexit - Withdrawal Agreement (Deal)

After the implementation period, it is proposed than an MRPQ-like system **should continue**. It will need to be drawn up and agreed.

This system will be **broad in scope**, covering all professions currently covered by MRPQ.

Competent authorities should continue with **administrative cooperation** with counterpart authorities.

Access to IMI – the Internal Market Information System – will be **withdrawn during the implementation period**.

Brexit – No Deal - Outbound

The obligation to provide a reciprocal recognition framework is withdrawn.

New applications will be subject to **national rules set out by Member States**.

Outbound professionals will be treated as **third-country nationals and not subject to MRPQ**.

The automatic recognition system and the **temporary and occasional provision of services** will be **removed**.

Accessing certain professions will be **impossible** due to no longer being an EEA citizen.

Country-by-country guidance is available on gov.uk

Brexit – No Deal - Outbound

EEA EFTA No Deal Citizens' Rights Agreement

Covering decisions already made and those in progress

Certain provisions have already been made in separate agreements drawn up to cover MRPQ in a no-deal scenario:

Swiss Citizens' Rights Agreement

Covering decisions already made and those in progress, and for those practising on a temporary and occasional basis

Common Travel Area (UK and Republic of Ireland)

Providing for ongoing cooperation, mobility and recognition

Brexit – No Deal - Outbound

Common Travel Area – Republic of Ireland

MoU signed reaffirming principles of the **Common Travel Area**, which includes the recognition of professional qualifications.

Comprehensive measures should be in place to facilitate recognition of professional qualifications, and **fair consideration** should be given.

BEIS and Irish DfE are looking into **ensuring recognition routes**, which could include:

- Legislation
- Mutual Recognition Arrangements
- Third country routes

Ways Forward – Supporting Professionals

More than **800 individual recognition routes** would need to be agreed to replace MRPQ

BEIS is prioritising the recognition routes that are most used or most valued, based on:

Value of UK professional services to EU export

Number of **decisions received**

Presence of **third country access routes**

Presence of **Brexit laws**.

BEIS and DIT can **lobby Member States** and work with embassies on **Mutual Recognition Agreements**.

Any questions?

Useful Links

- www.naric.org.uk/cpq
- www.naric.org.uk/Brexit
- www.gov.uk/government/collections/providing-services-to-eea-and-efta-countries-after-eu-exit

Thank you

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