

## **DAAD Meeting „Setting Out for the Future – How can we Drive Europe Forward?“**

Berlin and online, 17-19 March 2022

### **Workshop „Post -Brexit Study and Research Cooperation “ – Policy Paper’s Draft**

*Dieser Policy Brief wurde bei dem EU-weiten DAAD-Alumnitreffen „Raus in die Zukunft – Wie bringen wir Europa voran?“ am 17.-19. März 2022 in Berlin und virtuell von teilnehmenden Alumni gemeinsam erarbeitet. Insofern bringt das Briefing Empfehlungen von informierten EU-Bürger\*innen zum Ausdruck; es handelt sich nicht Empfehlungen des DAAD.*

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To facilitate Post-Brexit Study and Research Cooperation our discussion group devised a number of policy recommendations based upon our discussions and collaboration. Our recommendations were formed with a three-prong approach: practical solutions, attracting talent and funding.

Firstly, scientific cooperation should be granted its own special status, de-coupling it from other political and bureaucratic processes. At the moment accession of the UK to the Horizon Europe is coupled with other negotiations between the UK and the EU like Northern Ireland Protocol, fisheries, trade, etc. Both parties agree on research collaboration, as it brings substantial benefits to both, it should be implemented as soon as possible.

Secondly, we recommend enhancing instruments that would further encourage mobility of UK researchers to the EU. If a UK researcher gets funding from the EU, they should have the option to go to a host university in Europe. Similar to the double diplomas, this would encourage mobility, and create a positive relationship between European and UK academic communities.

Thirdly, in order to attract foreign talent, European Universities should offer more courses in English. This would attract UK and international talent to Europe. As well as this European Universities should emphasise their rankings. The European Commission has devised a European system of university rankings, called U-MULTIRANK, which applies to a global audience of universities. The U-MULTIRANK is not promoted and used enough, so most of the universities are not using it to promote their programmes. The desirability of UK universities is largely based upon their national and international rankings, and as such this is a criteria that many from the UK search for. If European universities made their rankings clearer, it would provide an easier basis for comparison, with which UK talent could assess the benefit of carrying out research and/or studying within the EU.

Fourthly, as a precursor to the above, the Erasmus+ programme is a fundamental building block to Post-Brexit Study and Research Cooperation. Erasmus+ allows students to experience different cultures and in turn creates more rounded people. If UK students lose this opportunity, they will be missing out on life changing experiences. Many may also be reluctant to take up foreign study in locations other than Europe due to the distance from home, and costs inferred compared with what Erasmus+ offers. The UK should reconsider its involvement in the Erasmus+ programme with foresight to what it can offer its young people. EU should encourage UK with this.

Furthermore, European universities should be encouraged to offer double diplomas with UK universities. This would encourage cross-communication and foster positive future working relationships.

Finally, from our perspective, collaboration will be key to successful Post-Brexit Study and Research Cooperation. With the adaptation of these policy recommendations academic relations

between the UK and EU should be de-politicised, enabling greater research and mobility opportunities for the future. Research and study can be precursors and possible spill-over factors for other types of future collaboration.