Ireland’s higher-education and research sector is tightly interconnected with that of the UK and its exit from the European Union creates a set of high-value risks for Ireland’s future competitiveness. This factsheet gives an overview of some of the areas that will be affected, particularly in relation to mobility and research collaborations.

Further reports from the RIA Brexit Taskforce can be viewed at: www.ria.ie/programmes/policy-and-international-relations/ria-brexit-taskforce

STUDENT MOBILITY

Ireland-UK Student Flows 2015–2016

OVER 12,500


117,195 EU STUDENT ENROLMENTS IN UK HIGHER EDUCATION IN 2015/16.

THE UK RECEIVES TWICE AS MANY ERASMUS STUDENTS AS IT SENDS OUT.

Full-Time Student Higher-Education Enrolments on the island of Ireland, 2011–2015

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>YEAR</th>
<th>NORTH-SOUTH STUDENT FLOWS</th>
<th>SOUTH-NORTH STUDENT FLOWS</th>
<th>TOTAL</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2011/12</td>
<td>788</td>
<td>3520</td>
<td>4308</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2012/13</td>
<td>651</td>
<td>2835</td>
<td>3486</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2013/14</td>
<td>660</td>
<td>2420</td>
<td>3080</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2014/15</td>
<td>719</td>
<td>2345</td>
<td>3064</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2015/16</td>
<td>791</td>
<td>2195</td>
<td>2986</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


3,000–4,000

STUDENTS MOVE BETWEEN IRELAND AND NORTHERN IRELAND EACH YEAR TO ACCESS HIGHER EDUCATION AND PROFESSIONAL TRAINING.

INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION CONTRIBUTES €1 BILLION TO THE IRISH ECONOMY EACH YEAR.

INTERNATIONAL STUDENT APPLICATIONS TO IRISH HIGHER-EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS ROSE BY 17% FOR THE 2017/18 ACADEMIC YEAR.
17% of academics working in the UK are from EU countries (excluding UK and Irish citizens). Source: HESA 2017

33% of academic staff employed by Queen’s University Belfast and Ulster University are EU nationals (excluding UK citizens).

10% of academic staff in Irish higher-education institutions are UK citizens.

Ireland has a higher staff-student ratio than many of its European counterparts at 19.6 students per staff member.

Since 2009, Irish universities have declined in the QS global university rankings.

In 2016, only one Irish university was ranked in the QS global top 100.

In 2016, Arts and Humanities were the only faculty in which an Irish university ranked in the top 100 in both the QS and Times Higher Education rankings.
IRELAND HAS 1,157 COLLABORATIVE LINKS WITH UK PARTNERS.

79% OF ACADEMICS SURVEYED BY THE RIA AGREED THAT COLLABORATIONS BETWEEN IRISH AND UK HIGHER-EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS ARE VERY IMPORTANT IN THEIR FIELD OF STUDY.


FOR THE PERIOD 2011–2017 EU RESEARCH FUNDING ACCOUNTED FOR 15% OF THE TOTAL COMBINED RESEARCH FUNDING WON BY QUEEN’S UNIVERSITY BELFAST AND ULSTER UNIVERSITY.

OVER 12,900 RESEARCH PAPERS WERE PRODUCED FROM COLLABORATIONS BETWEEN IRISH AND UK RESEARCHERS BETWEEN 2012 AND 2016 – MORE THAN ALL THE PUBLICATIONS WITH GERMANY AND FRANCE COMBINED.

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**Ireland’s Collaborative Links in Horizon 2020***

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>COUNTRY</th>
<th>NUMBER OF COLLABORATIONS</th>
<th>% TOTAL</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>UK</td>
<td>1,157</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Germany</td>
<td>1,139</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spain</td>
<td>1,013</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>France</td>
<td>883</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Italy</td>
<td>827</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Denmark</td>
<td>267</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Finland</td>
<td>232</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Netherlands</td>
<td>588</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* as of 28 February 2017

Source: Enterprise Ireland figures using the EU e-CORDA database

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**Ireland’s Collaborations on Academic Papers per Country 2012–2016**

These maps provide a visualisation of the cross-border flow of commuters to work and study in higher-education and further-education institutions in Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland, which shows the areas that would be most affected by cross-border mobility restrictions.

Origin and destination of NI workers in the ROI
- Origin
- Destinations
- Universities
- Regional Colleges
- Agricultural Colleges
- HEI
- Part Funded

Origin and destination of ROI workers in NI
- Origin
- Destinations
- Universities
- Regional Colleges
- Agricultural Colleges
- HEI
- Part Funded

Source: Elsevier Scival 2012-2016

The Royal Irish Academy is Ireland’s leading body of experts in the sciences, humanities and social sciences. The RIA Brexit Taskforce was established in March 2017 to explore the implications for research and higher education on the island of Ireland on foot of the UK’s exit from the European Union and has a specific all-island focus.

For more information see www.ria.ie/programmes/policy-and-international-relations/ria-brexit-taskforce or email policy@ria.ie.