

BREXIT – the implications for Landscape Institute members

19 July 2016

The level of uncertainty and confusion in the aftermath of the vote to leave the European Union means that it is impossible to fully understand the consequences, both short and longer term, for landscape and the landscape profession.

Despite this uncertainty, it is still the case that current EU legislation on habitats, birds, clean water, and environmental impact assessment have been transposed into UK law and will remain so until a future UK parliament decides otherwise. That will not change for at least two years after article 50 is activated by the UK government.

The UK remains a member of the EU so members are still entitled to work and bid for contracts in the EU and for EU citizens to work here.

The LI's mission remains the same – to promote the landscape profession for the benefit of society and the natural and built environment. We will continue to pursue this goal, so we will be working with members to help ensure future policy and advocacy activity take account of the new reality we face.

We will also work with other organisations and professional bodies with whom we have common cause to ensure that issues concerning landscape and the profession are not forgotten in future negotiations.

Although the consequences are uncertain, with a new PM and the lead ministers now appointed for exit negotiations, the situation may become clearer by the end of 2016. As it stands we can offer the following advice.

Technical

The UK is a full member of the European Committee for Standardisation (CEN) and adopts their standards as UK national standards. Once the UK leaves the European Union, UK organisations will still be subject to European Standards, in the same way as other non-EU members of CEN.

The British Standards Institution (BSI) will still be a voting member of CEN, like European Free Trade Association (EFTA) members, and there is no suggestion this will change.

However leaving the EU will mean the UK won't be party to any discussions between CEN on the specific needs of the EU in relation to a given standard, nor to the discussions about mandates or decisions about harmonised standards.

EU Recognition of Undergraduate and Postgraduate courses

The LI is a leading member of the International Federation of Landscape Architects (IFLA World), of which ILFA Europe is an integral part. A condition of IFLA Europe membership is the mutual recognition of accredited academic qualifications across the European region of IFLA [see para 8.10 of <http://iflaeurope.eu/wp-content/uploads/sites/2/2014/01/2015-IFLA-Europe-Regulations.pdf>]

This means that LI-accredited academic qualifications are recognised by IFLA Europe members, and academic qualifications accredited by IFLA Europe members are recognised by the LI.

This recognition will continue regardless of BREXIT, and graduates of LI-accredited courses will continue to have a valued, portable qualification.

There will be no immediate change to the UK university sector's ability to participate in EU research and innovation programmes. However, the long term future of UK participation in European science programmes will be decided as part of the UK's exit negotiations. For further information on the university sectors' response to BREXIT please visit [Universities UK](#).

Chartered Membership of the LI and the Pathway to Chartership

The LI is a globally recognised professional body supporting its Members across 45 countries. We will continue to build on our growing international membership.

EU nationals, whether based in the UK or elsewhere, will continue to be eligible to join the LI as a Licentiate Member if they hold an academic qualification recognised through IFLA Europe. They can then join the Pathway to Chartership, the LI's online learning platform, and progress towards the chartership exam. This will not be affected by BREXIT.

The LI will continue to recognise the chartered status (and equivalent) of EU nationals as defined in the EU Professional Qualifications [Directive 2005/36/EC](#). The UK Government's position on the EU directive post-BREXIT is not yet known, and the LI will engage in any consultations organised by the UK government.

The LI will continue to promote UK landscape architecture internationally, and will continue to encourage applications for membership from professionals based internationally. Chartered membership of the LI will continue to be a highly valued and portable professional qualification.

International Federation of Landscape Architects (IFLA) Europe

The LI is a leading member of both IFLA Europe and IFLA World, and we are proud to be hosting the IFLA Conference in 2018.

We will continue to support IFLA in homogenising professional standards between member countries.

Industry Perspective

Due to the political and economic uncertainty caused by BREXIT, it is an uncertain time for all UK businesses with potential funding being lost or temporarily frozen as a precautionary measure. The LI recognises that some practices are experiencing serious changes or delays to projects.

The LI will be inviting our Registered Practices to a number of breakfast meetings in September 2016, to better understand the impact that BREXIT is or may have on their practice.

Questions & Answers

Will EU students still be able to study at UK universities?

- Yes. Until the UK Government initiates Article 50, the UK will continue to accept EU students. This has been confirmed in a [statement](#) (27 June) from Jo Johnson, Minister of State for Universities and Science.
- Any student interested in studying landscape architecture in the UK should contact direct the universities who offer LI-accredited courses. Please visit our careers website [Be a Landscape Architect](#) for further information.
- [Universities UK](#) is to urge the government to take steps to ensure students from EU countries can continue to study at UK universities on the same terms after the UK leaves the European Union.

Will UK employers still be able to employ staff from other EU countries?

- Yes. Until the UK Government initiates Article 50 the UK will continue to employ staff from EU countries as normal. The government has confirmed that there will be no immediate changes to UK visa policies for university staff currently, or contemplating, coming to the UK from the EU.
- Recruiting EU staff in the longer-term will depend on the relationship negotiated with the EU by the UK Government.

I'm an EU citizen. Is it worth starting the Pathway to Chartership?

I understand that it can take an average of two years to develop the knowledge necessary to sit the chartership exam.

- At the moment the average amount of time taken to progress along the Pathway is two years. More experienced individuals take less than two years, with some sitting the chartership exam within 9 months. Some members change their employer and relocate to another country during their time on the Pathway. The Pathways system can easily handle individual career developments.
- The LI currently has 31 international Licentiate Members working towards the chartership exam. There are also more than 200 LI members who are EU nationals working in the UK. The Pathway to Chartership is able to support all those working towards Chartered Membership of the LI, regardless of the country in which they are based. We will continue to support all members in their journey to chartered status.

- CMLI status demonstrates to employers and clients the highest standards of professional knowledge and quality of service. The LI will continue to promote Chartered Membership (CMLI) as an internationally recognised professional qualification and a mark of quality and excellence. CMLI can be your passport for international career opportunities.

I'm an EU citizen and a CMLI what are the implications for me?

- Your employability within the UK remains as is until the UK exits the EU and a final agreement has been reached. Your chartered status with the LI is recognised internationally, and BREXIT will not impact on your eligibility to remain a CMLI. The LI is a globally recognised organisation which supports its members in over 45 countries. The LI will continue to abide by the EU Directive for mutual recognition of professional qualifications, until the UK government decides what level of free movement or migration is allowed post-BREXIT.
- The UK government has not guaranteed the right of EU citizens to remain in the UK post-BREXIT. That will depend upon reciprocal arrangements for UK nationals resident in the EU. It is unlikely that current EU residents will have to leave the UK but if you're worried about your status, please seek HR advice with your existing employer on options for permanent residency.

What impact does leaving have on winning work on the continent?

- All CMLIs are highly regarded internationally and some have embraced opportunities to work overseas. The LI currently have 237 CMLIs working globally, and with many LI Registered practices working on European projects, we will continue to work with other UK professional bodies to ensure that growth in landscape and architectural work continues.
- The UK's relationship to the single market will be part of exit negotiations so the future outlook is unclear. However until those exit negotiations are concluded the UK remains a member of the EU and landscape practices and landscape architects can still work on projects in the EU.

Tuesday 19 July 2016