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Answer given by Mr Brunner
on behalf of the European Commission
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Under Directive (EU) 2016/801[1], researchers and students are entitled to stay on the territory of the Member State after the completion of research or studies for a period of at least nine months in order to seek employment or set up a business.

In addition, one of the four pillars of the Union of Skills that the Commission adopted in March 2025[2] is to attract and retain international talent. One such initiative is the EU Talent Pool[3], the first EU-wide job matching platform to facilitate international recruitment of third country nationals residing outside the EU. As part of the upcoming visa strategy, the Commission will also consider measures to support the arrival of top students, researchers and trained workers from third countries.

The 'Choose Europe for Science'[4] announced in May 2025, a EUR 500 million package for 2025–2027 funded through Horizon Europe, will help the EU to remain competitive in the global race for talent in the research and innovation sector. It includes the Marie Skłodowska-Curie 'Choose Europe' pilot, which supports early-career researchers with attractive allowances and longer employment prospects as well as a seven-year 'super grant' under the European Research Council. Additionally, the 65 European universities alliances[5] funded by Erasmus+ are a key asset for Europe global talent attractiveness. International students can benefit from many joint programmes, including from Erasmus Mundus Joint Masters programmes[6] which provide for full scholarships to the best-ranked students worldwide. Finally, the European Social Fund Plus currently supports the implementation of the European Pillar of Social Rights and the EU's employment, social, education and skills policies.

[1] Directive (EU) 2016/801 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 May 2016 on the conditions of entry and residence of third-country nationals for the purposes of research, studies, training, voluntary service, pupil exchange schemes or educational projects and au pairing (recast), OJ L 132, 21.5.2016, p. 21–57, Article 25.
[2] COM(2025) 90 final.
[3] COM(2023) 716 final, https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A52023PC0716.
[4] https://commission.europa.eu/topics/research-and-innovation/choose-europe_en.
[5] https://education.ec.europa.eu/education-levels/higher-education/european-universities-initiative.
[6] https://erasmus-plus.ec.europa.eu/opportunities/opportunities-for-individuals/students/erasmus-mundus-joint-masters.