

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-003596/25
to the Commission
Giorgos Georgiou (The Left)
(17 September 2025)**

Subject: Studying in the UK unaffordable for European students after Brexit

Following the UK's withdrawal from the EU, European students at British universities are no longer subject to the same tuition fees as British students. In many cases, fees for EU citizens have soared to more than EUR 20 000 per year, which is prohibitive for the majority of European families.

The new system bars thousands of young Europeans access to UK universities, in a massive blow to student mobility, academic cooperation and the principle of equal access to knowledge.

Can the Commission therefore answer the following:

1. In the context of the new relationship between the UK and the EU, has it addressed the issue of this dramatic increase in tuition fees for EU students at British universities and the difficulty of obtaining student loans?
2. In the upcoming negotiations, will it bring to the attention of the British authorities the need to review the tuition fee policy for European students?
3. Will it propose compensatory measures, such as European scholarships, specific funds or new initiatives, to ensure that EU students have access to higher education in the UK regardless of their financial capacity?

Submitted: 17.9.2025

**Answer given by Mr Šefčovič on behalf of the European Commission
(4 November 2025)**

The Commission and the United Kingdom agreed in the Common Understanding ⁽¹⁾ to work towards a balanced youth experience scheme on terms to be mutually agreed. The Youth Experience Scheme 'should facilitate the participation of young people from the European Union and the United Kingdom in various activities, [...], such as studies...'.

The level of tuition fees is an important factor determining whether young EU citizens will move to the United Kingdom to study. High tuition fees can make it difficult or impossible for many young EU citizens to study in the United Kingdom.

For this reason, as far as tuition fees for higher education and training tuition fees are concerned, the Commission considers that these should be part of the overall Agreement between the EU and the United Kingdom on the youth experience scheme.

⁽¹⁾ https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/statement_25_1267.