

Vice Chancellor's statement on the EU Referendum



Friday, 24 June 2016

The University of Worcester's Vice Chancellor and Chief Executive, Professor David Green, commented:

"Today, across the country, families, communities and groups of work colleagues and friends all contain people who voted differently in the referendum. It is essential that we all work together for the common good. At the University of Worcester, I know we can depend on all our staff and students, whatever their views on political questions and Britain's membership of the European Union, to stand fast for democracy and the very best of human values."

"The University has today received authoritative advice from Universities UK, which advises that there are no immediate implications for students or staff who are European Union or EEA nationals. This includes arrangements for student support and for the ERASMUS exchange programme. This is because the actual process of Britain withdrawing from the European Union is widely estimated to take at least two years. New legislation will be required and it is uncertain whether Parliament will vote, for example, that EU citizens must have some form of government permission to work in the UK or not or whether the UK will remain a member of the ERASMUS scheme."

"The University of Worcester currently has 441 students from the European Union out of a total student population of 11,151. Our EU students come from 27 of the 28 EU countries."

"Over the next weeks and months the practical implications of the result of the referendum will unfold and the University will make sure that colleagues, students and prospective students are kept as well informed as is possible on all directly relevant matters."

"There is no doubt that the environment facing UK Universities generally will become more difficult outside the European Union. The University of Worcester will have the best possible prospects of negotiating this difficult new environment by becoming an even more popular choice of University at which to study. I am, therefore, very pleased to report that registrations for this Sunday's Open Day are at an all-time high and we are expecting well over 1,000 prospective students and many more supporting family members and friends."

Professor Green added: "Two issues which were frequently raised in the referendum campaign were the shortages of nurses and school places. There now seems to be agreement across the political divide that it would be a very good idea to train more nurses and teachers. The University of Worcester is one of the country's very best educators of teachers and nurses. We have also been consistently campaigning for many years to have the opportunity to increase our place in these vital shortage areas. Now that these shortages have been acknowledged it would be very good if the government would immediately allow us to educate more teachers and nurses from this September onwards."

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