



HOUSE OF COMMONS

LONDON SW1A 0AA

January 2017

*Dear Constituent,*

Thank you for contacting me about the impact of Brexit on higher education.

I can assure you that Brexit does not mean the end of our relationship with the EU and our academic counterparts. We will start a new relationship with the EU, remaining the best of neighbours and strongest of partners, while also securing the best deal for Britain.

The Prime Minister has been clear that she wants to protect the status of EU nationals already living here. The only circumstances in which that would not be possible is if British citizens' rights in EU member states were not protected in return. The referendum result also has no immediate effect on those students participating in the Erasmus scheme across Europe or those applying for this scheme in 2016/17. Continued access to the Erasmus exchange scheme is a matter for the negotiation process.

The Government has pledged to underwrite payments for universities participating in Horizon 2020, even where these projects continue beyond the UK's departure from the EU. Funding for projects that secure multi-year EU funding before our exit will be guaranteed, as long as they align with UK priorities and provide value for money. A total of £26.3 billion will also be invested in science funding between 2016 and 2021 and a further £2 billion a year will be invested in research and development by the end of this Parliament.

The process of leaving the EU will be lengthy and complex. It is important to remember that change will not happen overnight. As we begin the negotiation process, the Government is committed to ensuring that Britain remains a hub of innovation and intellectual excellence.

Once again, many thanks for taking the time to contact me.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Chris'.

**CHRIS HEATON-HARRIS MP**  
**MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT FOR DAVENTRY**