

## Student Finance After Brexit Webinar – questions and answers

This document highlights some of the questions and answers relevant to Advanced Learner Loans. For the full webinar Q&A, please see the [SLC Events website](#). You can also view the webinar recording there.

**Q1: We have an EU learner starting in September 2021. They started living in the UK before 31 December and applied for the EU Settlement Scheme before the end of June 2021. Will they be eligible for an Advanced Learner Loan?**

**A:** If the learner meets all the other eligibility criteria and has been awarded a status via the EU Settlement Scheme, then yes.

**Q2: Apart from people joining their family member in the UK later, will the Home Office accept any applications to the EU Settlement Scheme made after the 30 June 2021 closing date?**

**A:** If an application to the EU Settlement Scheme is made after 30 June 2021, the Home Office may use discretion and still process the application. Any period of residence (even unlawful) in the UK from 1 July 2021 until the date pre-settled or settled status is awarded can be disregarded for the purposes of considering 3-year ordinary residency requirements.

**Q3: If a learner starts a course in academic year 2020/21 but takes a break in learning, does their eligibility change?**

**A:** Learners who are continuing in academic year 2021/22 will be on the same period of eligibility as at the start of their course. They will remain eligible under the regulatory residency category in which they were originally assessed. This applies to learners who suspend their studies within our existing guidelines.

**Q4: An EU national has pre-settled status but less than 3 years residency in the UK. Before their UK residency, they lived in the EU. Are they eligible for an Advanced Learner Loan?**

**A:** EU nationals will be eligible for home fee status and tuition fee support if they have both:

- pre-settled status
- 3 years residency in the UK, Gibraltar, EEA or Switzerland

**Q5: How long does the process of applying for pre-settled status take?**

**A:** The Home Office owns and operates the EU Settlement Scheme. According to them, it usually takes around 5 working days to process complete applications if they do not need any further information. If they need additional evidence, it can take up to a month in some cases.

**Q6: Can you confirm that EU continuing learners will not need to apply for the EU Settlement Scheme to qualify for UK fee levels?**

**A:** We will only be doing EU Settlement Scheme checks on new learners. However, continuing learners should go through the scheme anyway, as they need a status to remain in the UK legally. So, the EU Settlement Scheme result is important for other reasons. It is essential for legality reasons over and above student support.

**Q7: Please explain the difference between Irish learners who do not have to apply for settled status, and Northern Irish learners. Do they have to apply for pre-settled or settled status?**

**A:** Neither Irish nationals nor people of Northern Ireland need to go through the EU Settlement Scheme to maintain lawful residency in the UK.

**Q8: What evidence will applicants need to provide to prove their settled or pre-settled status?**

**A:** Applicants will select 'Settled' or 'Pre-settled' in the Residency section of the application form. When they move through the form, we will ask them to provide their 3-year address history, along with ID evidence. We will then ask for their EU Settlement Scheme share code which we will validate with the Home Office.

**Q9: When do learners receive their EU Settlement Scheme share code? Is it when they apply for the scheme? If so, then it is likely the share code will expire before they apply for their Advanced Learner Loan?**

**A:** Learners who go through the EU Settlement Scheme will get instructions on how to generate a share code. This code will be valid for 30 days. After this, they will need to generate a new share code using the link on the GOV.UK website. The share code only needs to be valid at the time we validate it with the Home Office, not necessarily for the full 30 days. But yes, there will be cases where we do need to contact the learner for a new share code. This can happen if the existing code has expired on the day we try to validate it with the Home Office.