



CPU UUK - JOINT DECLARATION

**CPU AND UUK REAFFIRM THE IMPORTANCE OF
COOPERATION**

NB: The scope of this joint declaration, issued by CPU and UUK in the name of the autonomous member institutions they represent, extends only to its signatories and does not condition the position of the French or UK Governments in current or future negotiations.

Over many years French and British higher education institutions have established and maintained strong ties and collaborated with other European countries on strengthening and expanding the European Research Area (ERA) and the European Higher Education Area (EHEA), most notably through the successive EU programmes and organizations such as the European University Association.

As representatives of their respective member institutions, the French University Presidents' Conference (CPU) and Universities UK (UUK) remain committed to furthering those historic links between our two higher education systems and research communities. They wish to reaffirm jointly the importance of strengthening partnerships in the fields of mobility and training and research and innovation between their members, at both institutional and system levels. In particular they hope that despite the UK's decision to leave the EU, the political settlement of the UK's departure will allow these links to continue to flourish.

STUDENT MOBILITY

Student mobility has been a crucial learning experience for more than 4 million higher education students since the launch of the Erasmus program in 1987. It has also provided them with unparalleled experiences in social diversity as well as opportunities for developing intercultural sensitivities.

For a long time, the UK has been French students' number-one destination while the number of UK students spending training and teaching time in France has grown steadily to 4,190 in academic year 2014/15.

In 2014/15, over 7,000 French higher education students came to the UK to study on the Erasmus+ programme. On an average, France attracts a quarter of UK mobile students travelling to other EU countries.

The CPU and UUK wish to stress that the UK continuing to send and welcome students to and from the EU is of critical importance.

STAFF MOBILITY

Staff mobility is the lifeblood of international teaching, training and research collaboration. Not only does it improve teaching and internationalise the curricula, it also enables the cultivation of networks which sow the seeds for future collaboration. With an estimated 3100 French academics and researchers welcomed by UK HEIs over the past years, mostly through visiting professorships and packaged research chairs, cross-country collaboration remains high.

Similarly, training activities aiming at supporting higher education institutions in the development of their administrative and technical staff's lifelong skills, including linguistic ones, create the necessary conditions for the promotion of mutual best practices.

The CPU and UUK call for arrangements which foster teaching and research collaboration in order to boost staff mobility.

JOINT DEGREES

Staff mobility can also be the collaborative basis of successful joint degree programmes. About 200 joint degrees, mostly at Bachelor and Master level, with networks involving around 30 French universities have resulted from staff collaborations such as those above. The Erasmus+ programme can also provide opportunities for institutions across Europe to form joint master's degree programmes through Erasmus Mundus.

The CPU and UUK call for further cooperation between institutions on both sides, as this will be needed to strengthen and develop long-term international degree partnership programmes between France and the UK.

MUTUAL RECOGNITION OF QUALIFICATIONS

The mutual recognition of qualifications across the EU and the EHEA ensures efficient student, graduate and staff mobility. Measures such as the European Credit Transfer System (ECTS) facilitate the simple recognition of credits for students studying abroad, whilst EU specific measures, such as the Mutual Recognition of Professional Qualifications Directive, can ensure professional graduates and staff be mobile across the EU with as few barriers as possible.

The CPU and UUK wish to maintain current levels of student, graduate and staff mobility between France and the UK, and develop them in the long term.

RESEARCH AND INNOVATION

Collaborative research with an international scope contributes to the dissemination of the results of science. By working together, universities and research organizations in the various EU member states have been able to harness the outcomes of research for economic growth and societal impact. PhD graduates, in particular, contribute to the development of innovative entrepreneurship as well as the competitiveness and productivity of their home institutions.

Today's collaboration between France and the UK is of strategic importance both in Europe and the world at large. With more than 55,000 papers co-authored by French and UK scientists between 2011-16, France and the UK are among the top European research partner countries in terms of the number of research collaborations with the UK.

Similarly, about 1,200 Horizon 2020 projects involving both France and UK partners have been initiated since 2014, and strong research collaborations between the two partners have been established in fields such as space, cell therapies or energy storage.

The CPU and UUK consider it is of high importance to preserve and strengthen partnerships in the fields of research and innovation between France and the UK, especially in those fields with a high economic and societal impact.

OBJECTIVES

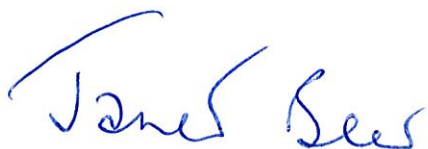
The CPU and UUK are keen to promote further collaboration between the two higher education and research systems. In full recognition of institutional autonomy, the CPU and UUK will also encourage their members to continue to develop bilateral ties in furtherance of the following objectives:

- Increasing levels of student and staff mobility in both directions
- Developing more joint degrees, including dual PhDs, between French and UK institutions
- Advancing research and innovation partnerships in all sectors of science, including the SSH sector.

NEXT STEPS

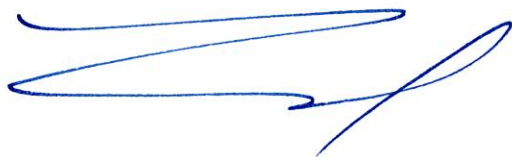
UUK would like to invite a CPU delegation to the UK in one year's time (June 2018) to evaluate progress towards these objectives.

Paris, le 20 juin 2017



Janet BEER

Vice-Chancellor and Vice-President of Universities UK, England and Northern Ireland



Gilles ROUSSEL

Président de la CPU et Président de l'UPEM - Université Paris-Est Marne-la-Vallée