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Education

Success of UK's young universities 'impressive' but Brexit leaves them 'vulnerable'

The UK is well represented in the 2017 Young University Rankings but Brexit has left them vulnerable to losses in funding and international students (Photo: Getty Images)

by
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The UK is home to nearly 30 of the world's 200 best universities aged 50 or under, but Brexit has left the nation's "young" institutions vulnerable to losses in funding and international students, the editor who compiled the list has warned.

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'Impressive' success

The UK is the most represented nation on the table, closely followed by Australia with 23 universities. France, Spain and Germany follow with 16, 15 and 11 institutions respectively.

Phil Baty, the editor of the Times Higher Education rankings, described the UK's success as "impressive" and noted two British universities on the list – London Metropolitan University and University of the West of Scotland – were opened post-2000.

However he warned, Brexit has left Britain's newer institutions "vulnerable".

Funding in danger

"Many of the UK's young universities will be vulnerable to losses in funding and international students post Brexit," Mr Baty said, pointing out that Plymouth University and the University of the West of England receive among the largest shares of EU money as a proportion of their research income of any UK universities.

He continued: "The government's removal of student number controls has also led to declines in student intakes by more than 10 per cent at Kingston University and London Metropolitan University."

Tough education climate

Mr Baty added that the high representation of UK universities in the table was "promising" but said the nation's young universities must continue to adapt "to deal with an ever tougher higher education climate within the country and across the world".

The second best young British institution is the University of Stirling, which was ranked 46th on the list. Plymouth University came in third in 65th place.

Switzerland's École Polytechnique Fédérale de Lausanne topped the ranking for the third consecutive year. Hong Kong's University of Science and Technology came second and Singapore's Nanyang Technological University took the third spot.

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