The success of Europe’s universities is underpinned by a long history of fruitful collaborations between academics and institutions across the whole continent. Cross-border working has facilitated the sharing of knowledge, experience and expertise to support high-quality teaching and pioneering research to the benefit of students, scientists and all European citizens.

By bringing together the best minds to work on common challenges, our universities have helped develop treatments for chronic diseases, new strategies to manage the risk posed by natural disasters, clean energy technologies and smart transport solutions, amongst many others.

Research-intensive universities in the Russell Group, the League of European Research Universities (LERU) and the Guild of European Research-Intensive Universities encourage both the UK and the EU to be ambitious for a future which will allow universities on both sides of the Channel to continue to cooperate as closely as possible on research and innovation after Brexit.

Ensuring the exchange of ideas, mobility of people and sharing of facilities and valuable research data can continue in as easy and frictionless a way as possible will be critical to the success of European and UK science. We urge both sides to seize the opportunity to secure a positive, win-win outcome for all as soon as possible.

Our leading universities are eager and well-placed to support governments in the UK and across Europe to help shape a future framework for research and innovation to boost the prosperity of all countries concerned.

**Dr Tim Bradshaw**  
Chief Executive of the Russell Group of Universities

**Professor Jan Palmowski**  
Secretary-General of the Guild of European Research-Intensive Universities

**Professor Kurt Deketelaere**  
Secretary-General of the League of European Research Universities

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