# UK-EU youth mobility scheme sparks debate ahead of 2025 summit



The United Kingdom is currently engaged in discussions with the European Union to establish a youth mobility scheme, potentially allowing individuals under 30 to work and live in each other's territories for up to three years. This initiative is slated to be a central topic at the UK-EU summit in London on May 19, 2025, as part of broader efforts to reset diplomatic relations post-Brexit. ([ft.com](https://www.ft.com/content/fd1367f4-67c0-425d-ba40-d6c0976c9c94?utm_source=openai))

The proposal for this "youth experience scheme" was introduced by the European Commission, aiming to rebuild ties severed by Brexit. The scheme has garnered support from many Labour MPs, who view it as a means to strengthen UK-EU relations. ([ft.com](https://www.ft.com/content/fd1367f4-67c0-425d-ba40-d6c0976c9c94?utm_source=openai))

However, the proposal has sparked controversy within the UK government. Home Secretary Yvette Cooper has expressed reservations, believing that the policy could undermine Labour's commitment to reducing net migration. Reports suggest that Ms. Cooper insists on implementing a cap on the number of participants and limiting their stay to just one year, a quarter of the duration proposed by the EU. ([ft.com](https://www.ft.com/content/fd1367f4-67c0-425d-ba40-d6c0976c9c94?utm_source=openai))

In a recent interview with LBC, Ms. Cooper was questioned multiple times about her stance on the youth mobility scheme. When asked if she supported the initiative, she responded, "Net migration needs to come down and that's why we didn't put forward these proposals." She further stated, "There's a lot of speculation and reports at the moment, and there will be up until the EU summit. I'm not going to comment on the speculation and reporting and so on." ([ft.com](https://www.ft.com/content/fd1367f4-67c0-425d-ba40-d6c0976c9c94?utm_source=openai))

The UK's approach to the youth mobility scheme contrasts with its stance on other post-Brexit agreements. Prime Minister Keir Starmer is close to finalizing a new defence pact with the European Union, aiming to restore and strengthen post-Brexit ties. The proposed agreement focuses on collaborative defence efforts and is expected to be finalized at the UK-EU summit on May 19, 2025. ([reuters.com](https://www.reuters.com/world/uk/uk-pm-starmer-nears-eu-defence-pact-shadow-trump-trade-talks-2025-04-24/?utm_source=openai))

The youth mobility scheme remains a contentious issue within the UK government, reflecting broader debates about the balance between fostering closer ties with the EU and maintaining control over national immigration policies.

Source: [Noah Wire Services](https://www.noahwire.com)

## Bibliography

1. <https://www.ft.com/content/fd1367f4-67c0-425d-ba40-d6c0976c9c94> - This article discusses the UK's progress towards establishing a post-Brexit youth visa agreement with the European Union, potentially allowing individuals under 30 to work and live in each other's territories for up to three years. It also mentions that this 'youth experience scheme' is expected to be a key topic at the UK-EU summit in London on May 19, 2025, as part of broader efforts to reset diplomatic relations.
2. <https://www.ft.com/content/fd1367f4-67c0-425d-ba40-d6c0976c9c94> - The article highlights that the proposal for this 'youth experience scheme' was introduced by the European Commission, aiming to rebuild ties severed by Brexit. It also notes that the scheme has garnered support from many Labour MPs, who view it as a means to strengthen UK-EU relations.
3. <https://www.ft.com/content/fd1367f4-67c0-425d-ba40-d6c0976c9c94> - This source reports that the proposal has sparked controversy within the UK government, with Home Secretary Yvette Cooper expressing reservations. She believes that the policy could undermine Labour's commitment to reducing net migration and insists on implementing a cap on the number of participants and limiting their stay to just one year, a quarter of the duration proposed by the EU.
4. <https://www.ft.com/content/fd1367f4-67c0-425d-ba40-d6c0976c9c94> - The article details an interview where Ms. Cooper was questioned about her stance on the youth mobility scheme. She responded, 'Net migration needs to come down and that's why we didn't put forward these proposals.' She further stated, 'There's a lot of speculation and reports at the moment, and there will be up until the EU summit. I'm not going to comment on the speculation and reporting and so on.'
5. <https://www.reuters.com/world/uk/uk-pm-starmer-nears-eu-defence-pact-shadow-trump-trade-talks-2025-04-24/> - This article reports that Prime Minister Keir Starmer is close to finalizing a new defence pact with the European Union, aiming to restore and strengthen post-Brexit ties. The proposed agreement focuses on collaborative defence efforts and is expected to be finalized at the UK-EU summit on May 19, 2025.
6. <https://www.ft.com/content/fd1367f4-67c0-425d-ba40-d6c0976c9c94> - The article concludes that the youth mobility scheme remains a contentious issue within the UK government, reflecting broader debates about the balance between fostering closer ties with the EU and maintaining control over national immigration policies.
7. <https://www.express.co.uk/news/politics/2048068/labour-cabinet-split-youth-mobility-scheme> - Please view link - unable to able to access data