

# Universities in Europe that provide university email account upon retirement to non-emeriti professors

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## ChatGPT

Policies vary widely across Europe, but most universities only guarantee continued email access to emeritus or honorary professors. For non-emeritus retired professors, there are three main patterns:

1. Accounts usually closed at retirement (most common).
2. Retention possible on request if the professor continues to contribute.
3. Automatic retention or conversion to a “retiree/alumni” account.

Below are examples of European universities with documented policies where retired academics may keep their institutional email under some circumstances.

### **Universities where retired academics can keep their email (not strictly limited to emeritus)**

#### *GB University of Cambridge*

- Retired staff may retain their university email if nominated by their department.
- Eligibility includes cases where the retired academic continues contributing to research, seminars, supervision, outreach, or committees.
- Approval is decided by the Head of Institution or nominee.

Important: emeritus or honorary titles qualify automatically, but others can also be approved if they remain active.

#### *GB University of Oxford*

- Retired staff may retain access to email and some IT services if they apply for a retiree status (e.g., via a retiree card or similar scheme).

Not guaranteed; depends on retiree classification and application.

#### *IT European University Institute (Florence)*

- Professors leaving the institute can obtain a continuing email address (e.g., @alumniprofs.eui.eu).
- Other former staff can obtain @former.eui.eu accounts.
- Accounts remain active as long as they are periodically used.

This is a structured “former staff” email system rather than deletion.

#### *BE KU Leuven*

- Retired staff can keep their mailbox if they confirm annually that they still want to use it.

This applies to retirees generally, not only emeritus professors.

### **Universities where retention is typically limited to emeritus (common model)**

These institutions usually do not allow non-emeritus retirees to keep the email unless they obtain an honorary or emeritus title.

Examples:

- CH University of Basel – emeritus professors retain email and IT services.
- GB London School of Economics – emeritus professors retain email and IT access.

This is actually the dominant policy across Europe, which is why advocacy groups have called for extending email retention to all retired academics.

### **General pattern across Europe**

Typical categories used by universities:

<b>Policy type</b>	<b>Typical rule</b>
Emeritus-only retention	Email stays active indefinitely
Conditional retention	Allowed if professor still collaborates or supervises
Retiree account	Old email replaced by “retiree” or “alumni” domain
Automatic deletion	Account closed shortly after retirement

Most institutions justify restrictions due to security risks, software licensing, and identity management policies.

### **Key takeaway:**

There is no Europe-wide standard, and most universities treat email access as an IT privilege tied to active affiliation. Consequently, non-emeritus professors usually must request retention individually or receive some continuing role.

### **Direct links**

UK University of Cambridge:

- [Retired members of staff: information about email addresses \(University of Cambridge policy page\)](#)

This page is part of the University of Cambridge “Email Address Allocation and Retention Policy.”

Key rule stated in the regulation

According to the policy, a retired staff member may keep their university email if nominated by their institution and if they meet certain criteria. These include:

- holding or being granted an honorary or emeritus title, or
- remaining a member of the Regent House, or
- continuing to contribute to the University’s mission (for example through research collaboration, seminars, outreach, or committee service).

If a retiree does not meet the criteria, their email account may be closed after notice.

Full policy document

- [Email Address Allocation and Retention Policy \(PDF\)](#)

This PDF contains the formal regulation governing eligibility and retention of @cam.ac.uk addresses after leaving the university.

*GB University of Oxford*

Official policy pages

- [Finishing IT use at Oxford \(official IT policy page\)](#)
- [University retiree card information \(email for retirees\)](#)

What the regulation states

- Normally, staff email access stops after the University card expires and the mailbox is then deleted.
- However, retired staff receiving a university pension can apply for a “Retiree’s Card.”
- With the relevant retiree status, the university provides a @retired.ox.ac.uk email account, allowing continued email access.

In practice: retention of email requires retiree status and is not automatic.

*BE KU Leuven*

Official regulation

- [What happens to your KU Leuven mailbox when you leave the University?](#)

What the regulation states

- Staff normally retain access to their mailbox for a limited grace period (typically 60 days) after leaving employment.
- However, emeritus professors and retired staff keep their KU Leuven email access beyond that period.
- Continued use requires periodic confirmation that the mailbox is still needed.

This is a formal retention rule for retirees, not only a temporary extension.

*CH ETH Zürich*

Official regulation

- [ETH Zurich IT Services – Leaving ETH \(Exit brochure\)](#)

What the regulation states

- Retired employees can request the “Service for Retired Persons.”
- When activated, they receive a @retired.ethz.ch email address.
- The previous mailbox remains active and the account validity is effectively unlimited (until user request or death).

This is one of the most generous policies in Europe: the retiree email account is designed to remain active indefinitely.

# Google AI

Several European universities and institutions have policies that allow non-emeriti professors to retain their university email accounts upon retirement, often as part of efforts to support “age-friendly” initiatives and keep retired staff connected to the academic community.

Based on initiatives aimed at supporting retired academics, here are some institutions with established policies:

- [University of Galway \(Ireland\)](#): The university allows retired staff, including non-emeriti, to retain their Campus Account and email address upon retirement. Their policy adds retired staff to a dedicated directory for the Retired Staff Association.
- [University College Dublin \(Ireland\)](#): Retired staff can maintain their ucd.ie email address and retain access to computer services.
- [European University Institute \(Italy\)](#): The EUI provides several categories of email accounts for those leaving the institute, including specific accounts for former professors (@alumniprofs.eui.eu).
- [University of Cambridge \(UK\)](#): While policies are changing and some restrictions may apply to certain types of accounts, there are mechanisms in place for retired staff to keep their email addresses.

## General Trends and Information

- Emeriti Initiative: The [Emeriti initiative - eRegion](#) is actively tracking and promoting European universities that allow email retention for all retired professors, promoting the concept of "age-friendly" universities.
- Negotiation: Non-emeriti professors are encouraged to negotiate the retention of their email address with their department or IT department, especially if they remain active in research or mentoring.
- Alumni Accounts: Some universities transfer retirees to an @alumni or dedicated @retiree account, allowing them to keep their email identity while freeing up regular staff account capacity.