

Universities with "Age-Friendly" retention of university email account (For All Retirees)

Europe

Google AI Mode October 18, 2026

1. A select few institutions have progressive policies that explicitly allow **all** retired faculty members and staff to keep their official primary email addresses permanently:

ETH Zürich (Switzerland): One of the most accommodating IT policies in Europe. Retired employees' user accounts and mailboxes are set to valid until "31 Dec 9999" and never expire. The account is maintained until requested otherwise or upon death. Their names remain in the Outlook Global Address List (though office and phone extensions are wiped).

[IT Services Leaving ETH: Important Information](#)

University of Galway (Ireland): Campus accounts and primary .ie email extensions are **not disabled** upon retirement. Retirees transition seamlessly onto a "Retired Staff Dynamic Distribution List" to remain tied to the academic community.

[Staff leaving University of Galway](#)

University College Dublin (UCD) (Ireland): Retired professors can completely maintain their @ucd.ie accounts, allowing them ongoing access to the internal *UCD Connect* portal and continuing software protection.

[Retired Staff Services. Services available to UCD retired staff](#)

University of Padua, Italy:

Retired professors at the University of Padua can retain their personal @unipd.it email accounts without time limitations by obtaining the official title of Senior Scholar (Studioso Senior dello Studium Patavinum)

[IT and Telematics Services Area - ASIT](#)

2. The "Emeritus Exemption" (Conditional Lifelong Access)

At the vast majority of major European universities—such as the **University of Cambridge, University College London (UCL)**, and most public institutions in **Germany, France, and the Netherlands**—the rules strictly divide retirees by rank:

- **Emeritus/Emerita Professors:** They are granted honorary lifetime status and almost universally retain unchanged, perpetual access to their primary university email and institutional IT profile.
- **Standard (Non-Emeritus) Retired Faculty:** Their primary active accounts are queued for deactivation.

However, many top tier universities offer specific workarounds for standard retirees:

- **University of Oxford (UK):** Regular retirees face deactivation of their primary address but are eligible to transition to a dedicated alternative domain: @retired.ox.ac.uk. If they maintain a formal college or departmental affiliation, they can keep their standard address.
- **University of Cambridge (UK):** Under IT guidelines, standard retirees will see their access closed. However, if the Head of the Institution files a formal **nomination form** confirming the retiree is still actively supervising students or collaborating on an unpaid research project, the account is preserved.
- **University of Applied Sciences Potsdam (Germany):** Retired professors keep their active campus accounts for one full year automatically and are permitted to renew it annually upon confirmation.

3. Universities with Strict "Clean Break" Policies

In highly centralized public systems or structurally contract-driven universities, access is abruptly cut off once employment ceases:

- **TU Delft (Netherlands):** Once an employment contract legally terminates at retirement age, access to all software, network infrastructure, data storage, and the specific university email address is entirely lost. Retirees are required to configure an auto-reply directing people to a private email address.
- **Public Universities in France:** Standard Acceptable Use Policies dictate that a faculty member's institutional account remains live for exactly **one year** post-departure as a grace period, after which it is deleted unless overwritten by an explicit executive order from the University President.

Summary of Common Conditions for E-mail Retention

If a European university does allow a retired professor to keep their email account, it usually carries these functional limitations:

1. **Annual Re-Verification:** To ensure security, professors must click a yearly re-activation notification email (e.g., at **KU Leuven** in Belgium) to prevent the system from flagging the account as a "ghost account".
2. **Software Downgrades:** While the email address stays active, the underlying software packages often drop to basic web-only levels (e.g., shifting from a downloadable enterprise Microsoft 365 app suite to a free, web-only version).
3. **Title Mandates:** Institutions like ETH Zürich mandate that retirees adjust their official signatures to clearly state "Prof. em." to avoid misrepresenting the university in official legal or structural matters.