Erasmus+
Enriching lives, opening minds.

National criteria for Higher Education inclusion top-up grants

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EUROPEAN UNION
UK Government
Scottish Government
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National criteria for Higher Education inclusion top-up grants

Erasmus+ offers additional financial support for students and recent graduates undertaking mobility who have fewer opportunities and who might face particular barriers or challenges in meeting the cost of an international placement. We define these students or recent graduates as people who meet one or more of the following criteria:

- Someone who may face financial barriers to participation in international mobility, including those who meet one or more of the following:
  - Have an annual household income of £35,000 or less
  - Receive a higher rate of maintenance loan, grant or bursary than the minimum available under the relevant UK student finance system
  - Meet the income threshold for financial disadvantage set by the applicant institution for widening access and/or additional financial support such as bursaries
  - Receive Universal Credit or other income-related benefits because they are financially supporting:
    - Themselves, or
    - Themselves and someone who is dependent on them, such as a child or partner.
- Someone with experience of being in care or who is a care leaver, including anyone who is or has been in care or from a looked-after background at any stage of their life. This includes someone who has spent time living with foster carers under local authority care, in residential care (e.g. a children's home), looked after at home under a supervision order, or in kinship care with relatives or friends, either officially (e.g. a special guardianship order) or informally without local authority support.
- Someone with dependent children or substantive parental responsibilities, where those responsibilities create additional financial or practical barriers to participation in international mobility.
- Someone who is an unpaid carer, meaning someone who looks after a family member, partner or friend who needs help because of illness, frailty, disability, a mental health problem or addiction, who cannot cope without their support, and who is not paid for this care. This includes, but is not limited to, those who receive the Carer's Allowance but excludes individuals providing care as part of paid or professional employment.
- Someone who is estranged, meaning someone aged 25 or below, studying without the support and approval of both parents due to a breakdown in their relationship. This might be biological, step or adoptive parents, or possibly wider family members who have been involved in their care.
- Someone with refugee status, humanitarian protection or discretionary leave to remain, or an asylum seeker with access to higher education under UK policy who may be able to participate in international mobility placements once their immigration status allows them to travel outside the UK.
- Someone whose personal, physical, mental or health condition makes participation in international mobility more difficult or requires additional support, including disabilities,

long-term health conditions, mental health conditions or learning differences. A formal diagnosis is not required where assessment is ongoing for emerging disabilities or health conditions.

- Someone who is a part-time student, including those recorded as studying part-time, full-time on courses lasting less than 24 weeks, on block release, or during the evenings only. People in employment are included only where their employment is the reason for part-time study, and not where they are full-time students with supplementary or casual work.
- Someone who was aged 21 or over when they first entered undergraduate higher education and whose circumstances create additional financial or practical barriers to participation in international mobility.
- Someone who is a first-generation higher education student, meaning a student or recent graduate whose parents did not attend university or other higher education provider.
- Someone who belongs to a group that is underrepresented in international mobility but is not already captured by the criteria above, based on institutional data. This includes, in particular, students from Black, Asian and other ethnic minority backgrounds, as well as Gypsy, Roma and Traveller students.
- Someone who is a target group in the institutions' strategy for widening access to Higher Education that is not represented in criteria above.

This list is not exhaustive. You can include students who do not meet these criteria but may still share similar characteristics, meaning they are less able to meet the cost and/or wider requirements of an international placement. Institutions may identify additional or locally underrepresented groups where they hold sufficient evidence of underrepresentation or a comparable barrier to mobility and apply the approach fairly and transparently.