ERASMUS+ FOR HIGHER EDUCATION

Erasmus+ is the European Union programme for education, training, youth and sport, which runs from 2014 to 2020.

Each year, UK higher education institutions (HEIs) can access Erasmus+ funding to support a wide range of activities, including:

• International study/traineeship placements for higher education short-cycle, foundation, bachelor, master and doctoral students.
• Opportunities for academic and professional staff to teach or train abroad.
• Delivery of joint master degrees with HEIs overseas, including funding for student scholarships.
• Collaboration with international HEIs, enterprises and partners to drive innovation, cooperation and excellence in higher education.
Over its lifetime, Erasmus+ has an overall budget of 14.7 billion euro. Of this, almost 1 billion euro is expected to be allocated to the UK, enabling around 250,000 people to undertake international activities.

In 2019, 187 million euro was reserved specifically for UK universities, colleges, schools and youth organisations. UK organisations can also apply for additional funding streams (called ‘centralised’ activities), managed by the European Commission’s Executive Agency.

From 2014 to 2018, the Erasmus+ UK National Agency awarded 1120 Erasmus+ grants to UK HEIs, worth around 331.4 million euro in total. In addition, UK HEIs received grants directly from the European Commission for projects worth 67.8 million euro.

As well as leading projects, UK HEIs benefited by taking part in projects led by HEIs in other countries, worth over 260 million euro.

*See https://www.erasmusplus.org.uk/funding-results*
“Erasmus+ changes people’s lives. It opens up new learning experiences, provides insight into different cultures, and, most importantly in such turbulent times, nurtures the concept of global citizenship amongst our staff and students.”

Isabell Majewsky Anderson, Head of Go Abroad, Edinburgh University
MOBILITY FUNDING

Key Action 1
HIGHER EDUCATION STUDENT AND STAFF MOBILITY FUNDING  
(KEY ACTION 1)

Erasmus+ funding enables UK students, recent graduates and staff to study, gain work experience, teach or train abroad. Funding can also be used to bring international academics, industry experts and other professionals to your institution.

In 2019, over 86 million euro was awarded to UK higher education institutions (HEIs) for over 29,000 student and staff mobilities.

For students, Erasmus+ is a life-changing opportunity to explore new countries and cultures, develop new skills and boost their employability. Staff participants gain fresh ideas, develop new networks and strengthen their professional practice.

According to the Erasmus Impact Survey[^1]:

- Young people who study or train abroad are half as likely to face long-term unemployment. Five years after graduation, the unemployment rate of Erasmus students is 23% lower than their non-mobility peers.
- 90% of mobile higher education students reported improved soft skills - such as knowledge of other countries, intercultural skills, foreign language proficiency and communication skills.
- Over 90% of HEIs regard staff mobility as an effective means of achieving major objectives, such as internationalisation at home, the promotion of new pedagogical methods and the enrichment of their course offerings.

WHAT MOBILITY ACTIVITIES ARE POSSIBLE?

Key Action 103 funding enables mobility within Erasmus+ Programme countries. These Programme countries include the EU countries (plus their Overseas Countries and Territories), plus Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway, Serbia, Turkey, and the Republic of North Macedonia.

HEIs can also apply for Key Action 107 ‘International Credit Mobility’ (ICM) funding to send and receive students and staff beyond Europe, to countries around the world.

- Students can study or do a traineeship (work placement) abroad for up to 12 months in total per academic cycle (e.g. 12 months during their Bachelor degree, 12 months during their Master degree, etc.). Each 12 month period can consist of any combination of eligible study and/or traineeship mobilities.

- Recent graduates can undertake a 2-12 month traineeship in selected countries, within 12 months of graduating. They must be selected by their HEI during their last year of study.

- Academic and professional staff can do a teaching placement abroad, or undertake training, job shadowing or observation. Activities can last from two days to two months. Funding can be used to support both teaching and non-teaching staff. Staff from any public or private organisation active in the labour market or in the fields of education, training and youth may also be funded to teach at your HEI.
UK HEIs can apply for funding for student mobility, staff mobility or both, and there is no limit on the amount of funding you can apply for.

Erasmus+ mobility grants are awarded to HEIs based on criteria defined by the Erasmus+ UK National Agency to offer:

- A monthly grant to students and, for some destinations, a travel grant.
- Extra funding for disadvantaged students and students with special needs.
- Subsistence and travel grants for staff mobility.
- Organisational support – for organisation, management and implementation of activities.

Find out more about mobility funding: erasmusplus.org.uk/apply-for-higher-education-student-and-staff-mobility-funding
Cardiff University is helping to improve the treatment of trauma patients in Georgia, thanks to 400,000 euro of Erasmus+ International Credit Mobility (ICM) funding.

Professor Jonathan Bisson’s Cardiff team has been working with counterparts at the Ilia State University (ISU) to create a training programme in Trauma Focused Cognitive Behavioural Therapy (TF CBT).

Through the project, academics from ISU visited Cardiff University. Dr Jana Javakhishvili, Head of the ISU Institute of Addiction Studies said, “Cardiff TF CBT therapists generously shared their knowledge with us and we had the opportunity to review their very innovative approach of treating traumatised war veterans. This was a unique learning experience for us; it was very productive and extremely useful. This collaboration has so far resulted in ISU implementing a cascade of training to better support our students and graduates in Trauma Focused CBT.”

Three ISU staff have gone on to deliver the programme in their own institution. They are now supervising ISU students to deliver treatment to Post-traumatic Stress Disorder sufferers in Georgia. Therapy training has also been embedded as a core part of ISU’s MSc in Mental Health (Psychotraumatology) curriculum.
So successful was the initial project that further funding was granted to Cardiff University, supporting co-operation for another two years.

Professor Bisson from Cardiff University said, “The ICM funding will build capacity within ISU through further training for staff and students and also allow more staff and student exchange trips between both institutions.

“It provides a strong platform for future teaching and research initiatives to improve understanding and management of individuals affected by trauma across Europe and beyond.”

“ICM is contributing to the delivery of the internationalisation strategies of both our institutions. It helps to attract talent, facilitate staff and student development and consolidates ongoing strong partnership work in education, innovation and research.”

Professor Jonathan Bisson, Division of Psychological Medicine and Clinical Neurosciences, Cardiff University
PARTNERSHIP FUNDING

Key Action 2
STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS FOR HIGHER EDUCATION
(KEY ACTION 2)

Strategic Partnerships for Higher Education funding enables UK higher education institutions (HEIs) to run collaborative projects with international HEIs and other organisations - either as the lead or as a partner.

Partnerships can last for two or three years and each project can be awarded up to 450,000 euro.

Taking part enables your institution to:

• Develop partnerships with international HEIs and academics.
• Work together to solve shared problems.
• Exchange ideas, skills and knowledge.
• Develop innovative new practices and improve education provision.
• Improve courses, teaching methods and support structures.

The focus is on innovation and cooperation. Funding can be used to support a wide range of activities, for example:

– developing, testing and implementing innovative approaches and practices for study programmes, students, staff and organisations.
– facilitating the recognition and certification of skills and competences.
– training, teaching and learning activities, such as intensive study programmes, blended mobility of students, joint staff training events, and teaching and training assignments.
A new study\textsuperscript{2} shows that Strategic Partnerships are vital in driving innovation in higher education.

According to the study, more than 90 per cent of HEIs agree that Strategic Partnerships improve the quality and relevance of higher education learning and teaching. Likewise, 82 per cent of HEIs reported that students involved in Strategic Partnership projects improved their social, civic and intercultural competences, digital and entrepreneurial skills, creativity and teamwork.

This in turn helps to support our industries: four in five HEIs feel better equipped to tackle skills mismatches in the labour market by fostering interdisciplinary approaches, facilitating better ICT integration, as well as strongly supporting development and application of innovative pedagogies. A third of projects at least to some extent, led to the creation of spin-offs and start-ups, directly contributing to the emergence of entrepreneurs.

9 out of 10 HEIs taking part in Strategic Partnerships are more internationally oriented as a result of the cooperation established through the projects. Better still, in 90 per cent of cases, cooperation between universities funded by Strategic Partnerships continued beyond the scope of their project.

**PARTNERSHIPS IN MORE THAN ONE SECTOR**

(Key Action 2)

Funding is also available for collaborative projects with international partners from the higher education, vocational education and training, school, adult education and youth sectors, to improve education provision for students and young people.

Find out more at [erasmusplus.org.uk/apply-for-cross-sector-partnership-funding](http://erasmusplus.org.uk/apply-for-cross-sector-partnership-funding).

\textsuperscript{2} https://publications.europa.eu/en/publication-detail/-/publication/9369267b-7ae2-11e9-9f05-01aa75ed71a1/language-en
The University of the West of England, Bristol was awarded almost 210,000 euro for a two-year Erasmus+ project, “When Looks Get in the Way”, working with five partners from across Europe.

The consortium includes the internationally renowned Centre for Appearance Research in the UK, the European Cleft Organisation in the Netherlands, and university partners in Italy, Lithuania, Sweden and Turkey.

Together they are developing an academic programme, producing materials for health professionals. The aim is to identify and support patients with appearance related issues and body image concerns by developing a unique, cost-effective, widely available and internationally transferable course, developed by experts.

The project fills a gap in the training of health care professionals across all disciplines. The outputs aim to add value to undergraduate and postgraduate education and continuing professional development for the health care sector and will strengthen the link between higher education and the world of work.
Case study

“The quality of the educational material the project produces will be of a far higher standard than any of our institutions could produce on their own. This has to be the key strength of the Erasmus+ partnership philosophy.”

Gareth Davis, European Cleft Organisation (ECO), Netherlands

Martin Persson, of the Centre for Appearance Research, UWE Bristol, said:

“We expect this expertise will improve health care provision for people affected by disfigurement and more general body image dissatisfaction, which in the longer term has the potential to improve associated physical and mental health related outcomes.

It will also challenge poorly informed attitudes that can lead to discrimination, by raising awareness of these issues to health professionals and contributing to a social dialogue about stigmatization and the social exclusion of individuals/families with disfiguring conditions and appearance-related concerns.”
CENTRALISED ACTIVITIES
CENTRALISED ACTIVITIES

The following funding opportunities are managed by the European Commission’s Education, Audiovisual and Culture Executive Agency (EACEA) in Brussels.

From 2014 to 2018, UK higher education institutions (HEIs) benefitted from 273.6 million euro for 249 'centralised' projects – including 67.6 million euro where a UK HEI was the project lead, and 206 million euro where a UK HEI was a project partner.

Enquiries and applications for these activities should go directly to EACEA: ec.europa.eu/programmes/erasmus-plus

ERASMUS MUNDUS JOINT MASTER DEGREES (EMJMD)

Erasmus Mundus Joint Master Degrees (EMJMD) enable higher education institutions (HEIs) to jointly organise and run prestigious international Master degree programmes, offering students the chance to study on one programme, with study periods in at least two countries. The aim is to foster excellence, innovation, and internationalisation in HEIs, and to improve the competences and employability of Master graduates.

Between 2014 and 2020, the European Commission aims to fund around 350 such courses, with funding of up to 5 million euro available per project. Projects are 4-6 years in duration, and provide funding for three annual intakes of students, including a certain number of student scholarships, and an annual flat-rate fee for management and guest academic costs.
CAPACITY BUILDING IN THE FIELD OF HIGHER EDUCATION (CBHE)

Capacity Building in the field of Higher Education (CBHE) supports higher education in a range of countries, by funding projects designed to:

- Modernise, internationalise and increase access to higher education.
- Address the challenges facing HEIs and systems.
- Promote people to people contacts, intercultural awareness, and understanding.

Projects are run by a consortium of institutions, primarily between HEIs. A grant of between 500,000 euro and 1 million euro per project is available, which can be used to cover staff costs, travel costs, costs of stay, equipment and sub-contracting activities.

KNOWLEDGE ALLIANCES

Knowledge Alliances bring HEIs and businesses together for transnational projects to strengthen innovation capacity. The aim is to develop innovative, multidisciplinary approaches to teaching and learning, stimulate the entrepreneurial skills of staff, and facilitate the exchange, flow and co-creation of knowledge. Projects run for two to three years, must involve at least two HEIs and two enterprises or businesses, and can secure a maximum of 1 million euro per project.
JEAN MONNET

Jean Monnet activities aim to promote excellence in teaching and research on EU studies around the world, and to foster dialogue between academics and policy-makers to enhance governance of EU policies. Several types of funding model are available, with funding of up to 300,000 euro per project. Activities are open to HEIs and organisations from Programme Countries and Partner Countries and include:

• **Jean Monnet Modules** – a short teaching programme in the field of EU studies. Anchors and mainstreams teaching on EU matters in curricula.

• **Jean Monnet Chairs** – a teaching post with a specialisation in EU studies for university professors, for a duration of three years.

• **Jean Monnet Centres of Excellence** – gathers expertise and aims to develop synergies between the various disciplines and resources in EU studies, as well as to create joint transnational activities and structural links with academic institutions in other countries.

• **Jean Monnet Support to Associations** – supports associations that contribute to the study of the European integration process.

• **Jean Monnet Networks** – fosters the creation and development of consortia of international players (HEIs, Centres of Excellence, departments, teams, individual experts, etc.) in the area of EU studies.

• **Jean Monnet Projects** – supports innovation, cross-fertilisation and the spread of EU content.
**SPORT**

The Sport Chapter in Erasmus+ supports European partnerships working to:

- Tackle cross-border threats to the integrity of sport, such as doping, intolerance and discrimination.
- Promote and support good governance in sport and dual careers of athletes.
- Promote voluntary activities in sport, plus social inclusion, equal opportunities and awareness of the importance of physical activity.

Funding is available for collaborative partnerships, as well as not-for-profit sport events. For collaborative partnerships, up to 400,000 euro is available per project, with projects lasting between one and three years.

**EUROPEAN UNIVERSITIES INITIATIVE**

This initiative aims to support innovative and structural international cooperation models between HEIs in Europe – in order to revolutionise the quality and competitiveness of European higher education and to promote European values and identity.

Each European Universities project must include three or more higher education institutions from at least three programme countries. Funding covers a maximum of 5 million euro for a 3-year project.
**HOW DO I APPLY?**

There are a number of different funding streams (called Key Actions) for which UK HEIs can apply. You can apply for as many Key Actions as you wish.

The deadlines to apply for higher education funding under the 2019 Call have passed. We will publish information on the 2020 Call on our website when details are available.

**WHO CAN APPLY?**

Erasmus+ is open to UK organisations involved in higher education. This includes degree awarding organisations as well as organisations offering courses leading to a degree. Find out more about eligibility at erasmusplus.org.uk

To apply, your institution must hold an Erasmus Charter For Higher Education (ECHE). Over 200 UK HEIs already hold the ECHE. Find out if your HEI holds the ECHE or how to sign up at erasmusplus.org.uk/erasmus-charter-for-higher-education
Contact us
For questions about Erasmus+ and adult education in the UK, please call or email our helpline.
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