

ERASMUS 



**AN
INTRODUCTION**

Funding opportunities



WHAT IS ERASMUS+?

Erasmus+ is the European Union programme for education, training, youth and sport. It runs for seven years, from 2014 to 2020, with organisations invited to apply for funding each year to undertake life-changing and worthwhile activities. With the aim to modernise education, training and youth work across Europe, Erasmus+ is open to organisations across all sectors of lifelong learning.

The Erasmus+ programme runs across all EU Member States, European Free Trade Area/European Economic Area countries, and some candidate countries. These are known as Programme Countries. Other countries, known as Partner Countries, can also participate but to a limited extent.

The European Commission publishes a yearly Call for Proposals and accompanying Programme Guide. These documents detail the funding available and application criteria, and are available to download on our website.

Erasmus+ is managed at European level by the European Commission and is divided into two parts: decentralised and centralised activities.

Decentralised activities are delivered at national level by a network of National Agencies. National Agencies are themselves overseen by National Authorities, government departments responsible for ensuring the programme is delivered in their countries. In the UK, Erasmus+ is delivered by the UK National Agency, a partnership between the British Council and Ecorys UK. The National Agency reports to the Department for Education.

Over its lifetime, Erasmus+ has an overall budget of 14.7 billion euro. Of this, almost 1 billion euro is allocated to the UK, which will enable around 250,000 people to undertake activities through the programme.

In 2020, more than 213 million euro is available for UK organisations. UK organisations can also apply for additional funding streams (called 'centralised' activities), managed by the European Commission's Executive Agency. Centralised activities include Sport, the Jean Monnet higher education programme, and Joint Master's Degrees.

€213.8m

In 2020, UK organisations can apply for more than **213 million euro** of funding. The proposed amounts by sector are:

Higher education **€98.9m**
Vocational education and training **€47.6m**
Schools **€41.8m**
Adult education **€13.5m**
Youth **€11.8m**

WHY SHOULD YOU TAKE PART?

Erasmus+ helps people at all stages of their life, from school through to adulthood, to pursue stimulating opportunities for learning and enabling them to gain the valuable life-skills and international experience they need to succeed in today's world.

Taking part in the programme helps people to develop personally and professionally; they gain valuable international experience, broaden their horizons, experience new cultures and discover new ways of working. It is of particular benefit to young people who can learn new skills to improve their employability, acquire life-skills, and develop confidence.

€679.7m

From 2014 to 2018, **4,846 Erasmus+ grants** were awarded to UK organisations, worth around **679.7 million euro** in total*.

STUDENTS, TRAINEES AND YOUNG PEOPLE

Studying, going on an exchange or working abroad gives young people a huge boost to their self-confidence as well as their CV, helping them to stand out in the job market and succeed in this competitive, international marketplace.

**STAFF, TEACHERS, LECTURERS,
TRAINERS AND YOUTH WORKERS**

Teaching or training abroad enables staff to develop new skills. They can get to know first-hand the workings of another education, training or youth support system, learn and share new ideas, and discover best practices to bring back to their own institution.

SCHOOLS, INSTITUTIONS AND ORGANISATIONS

There are wide-reaching benefits of participation that can be felt across the whole institution, school and organisation. Erasmus+ offers unique career development opportunities for staff, who feel inspired and valued, supporting professional development and staff retention.

“Through Erasmus+ schools and teachers learn from each other and develop a global outlook.”

Emily Daly,
International School Linking Officer,
City of Cardiff Council

WHAT CAN YOU DO?

Erasmus+ offers exciting international opportunities to study, work, teach, train, and exchange ideas and good practice.

As explained on pages 1-2, the Erasmus+ programme is split into centralised and decentralised activities.

The focus of this brochure is decentralised activities in the UK, which are managed by the UK National Agency. These are categorised in three ways: Mobility, Strategic Partnerships, and Policy Development.

Funding is allocated through three Key Actions according to the type of activity and the sector of the applicant organisation. There are five sector categories: higher education, schools, adult education, vocational education and training, and youth.

MOBILITY

Erasmus+ provides funding for organisations to offer opportunities to young people and students, teachers and trainers, learners and providers, apprentices, youth leaders and those working in grassroots sport. Mobility activities are funded through Key Action 1 of the Erasmus+ programme.

STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS

The programme also supports organisations from across the fields of education, training, youth and sport to develop partnerships, share best practice and work collaboratively to help improve provision, boost growth and create jobs. Strategic Partnership activities are funded through Key Action 2 of the Erasmus+ programme.

POLICY DEVELOPMENT

Through Key Action 3 of the programme, organisations can get involved in policy development, including bringing young people and decision-makers together to improve youth policy.

5 SECTORS

3 KEY ACTIONS

STUDY ABROAD

(KEY ACTION 1)

Erasmus+ offers students in higher education the opportunity to study abroad in Europe and beyond as part of their degree. Students from all subject areas can participate at any time during their degree (except during the first year), although it will depend on the structure of the degree and the arrangements the higher education institution (HEI) has with its partners. Through International Credit Mobility (ICM), students can study in HEIs in countries outside Europe. The regions covered by ICM include Africa, Asia and America.

WORK ABROAD

(KEY ACTION 1)

Young people can work abroad through Erasmus+, gaining valuable experience to enhance their CV. Apprentices and students in vocational education training (VET) schools and colleges can have a vocational training placement in another country. Learners can spend time in a workplace to gain real-life experience, or at a VET school where they will also spend time in industry or with another relevant organisation or enterprise.

Higher education students from all subject areas can carry out an Erasmus+ traineeship in a European enterprise. This can be at any time during their degree (including the first year), depending on the course structure.

YOUTH EXCHANGES

(KEY ACTION 1)

Youth exchanges allow groups of young people from different countries to meet and live together for a short period. During a youth exchange, participants jointly carry out a work programme (a mix of workshops, exercises, debates, role-plays, simulations, or outdoor activities) designed and prepared by them before the exchange.

TEACH OR TRAIN ABROAD

(KEY ACTION 1)

Staff at schools, higher education institutions, vocational education and training and adult education organisations can teach or train at a partner school, institution or organisation in Europe. Staff can also take part in training events or job shadowing/observation/training in a relevant organisation abroad.

Youth workers can carry out an activity that supports their professional development such as participation in seminars, training courses, contact-making events, study visits; or a job shadowing/observation period abroad in an organisation active in the youth field.

IMPROVE AND MODERNISE PRACTICE AND PROVISION (KEY ACTION 2)

Strategic Partnership projects focus on sharing, developing and transferring innovative practices in education, training and youth provision between participating countries. Projects can cover the five sectors of higher education, vocational education and training, schools, adult education and youth, either focusing on one sector or working across sectors on common issues. Through this type of activity, organisations can develop partnerships, share best practice, and work collaboratively to help improve provision, boost growth and create jobs.

“In Erasmus+ partnerships you learn so much, with people from different mindsets and different cultures.”

Ruth Livesey,
Regenerus

INFLUENCE YOUTH POLICY (KEY ACTION 3)

Key Action 3 funding is specific to the youth sector. By taking part in meetings and discussion events with politicians, policy-makers and influencers, young people have the opportunity to get more involved in democratic life and to share their experiences and ideas for improving youth policy.

WHO CAN TAKE PART?

Funding applications must come from an organisation. Then, once your application is approved, individuals can benefit. The people able to participate will depend on your sector and the type of project.

SCHOOLS AND COLLEGES

Teachers and pupils at schools from pre-school to upper secondary education. Staff from local or regional school authorities. Staff and trainees from vocational education and training organisations: apprentices, support staff, managers, guidance staff, teachers, and trainers.

YOUTH GROUPS

Young people aged between 13-30. Youth workers from organisations or groups actively involved in youth work.

HIGHER EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS

Students: undergraduates and postgraduates studying for a recognised degree. Academic and administrative staff. In all cases the university or college must hold an Erasmus Charter for Higher Education.

ADULT EDUCATION

Staff and learners from organisations actively involved in adult education.

PUBLIC OR PRIVATE ORGANISATIONS

Staff and learners from public or private organisations active in the field of education, training, youth or sport - this can include, but is not limited to, small, medium or large enterprises, including social enterprises, non-profit organisations, associations or NGOs.

SPORT

Staff and participants from organisations involved in sport can take part, such as public sporting bodies, sporting organisations, leagues, and clubs.

HOW DO YOU APPLY?

Whether you are new to the programme, or have applied before, the UK National Agency is here to support you all the way, from application guidance through to managing your project.

ERASMUS+ INFORMATION SESSIONS

These are aimed at newcomers, and take place across the UK. Details are published on our website.

GUIDES FOR APPLICANTS

To accompany the European Commission's Programme Guide, we publish our own application guidance documents, available to download from our website.

APPLICATION SUPPORT WEBINARS

Sign up to these online events, including a Q&A session, for more detail on the application process in the run-up to the funding deadline.

ADVICE SESSIONS

You can call or email us for specific advice about completing your application, and we may also occasionally run extra advice webinars or events.



WHEN TO APPLY

The 2020 application deadlines for decentralised activities are listed below. Details of the funding available and the application criteria are in the European Commission's 2020 Call for Proposals and accompanying Programme Guide. Both documents are available to download via our website.

Key Action and Activity	Sector	Deadline
Key Action 1: Learning Mobility of Individuals	Higher education, vocational education and training, schools, and adult education	5 February 2020 – 11 am (UK time)
	Youth	5 February 2020 – 11 am (UK time) 30 April 2020 – 11 am (UK time) 1 October 2020 – 11 am (UK time)
Key Action 2: Strategic Partnerships	Higher education, vocational education and training, schools, adult education, and applications for strategic partnerships in more than one field including youth	24 March 2020 – 11 am (UK time)
	Youth	5 February 2020 – 11 am (UK time) 30 April 2020 – 11 am (UK time) 1 October 2020 – 11 am (UK time)
Key Action 3: Youth Dialogue	Youth	5 February 2020 – 11 am (UK time) 30 April 2020 – 11 am (UK time) 1 October 2020 – 11 am (UK time)

Contact us

For questions about Erasmus+ in the UK, call or email our helplines.

For higher education, schools, and youth Key Actions 2 and 3

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For vocational education and training, adult education, and youth Key Action 1

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Department
for Education



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