

Erasmus+ Funding for UK Higher Education 2019 - Centralised activities

Erasmus+ is the European Union programme for education, training, youth and sport, which runs from 2014 to 2020. Through Erasmus+, UK higher education institutions (HEIs) can access funding for life-changing international opportunities:

- Students can study or undertake a traineeship abroad, to develop new skills, gain international experience and boost their employability
- Academic and professional staff can teach or train abroad, to develop professional practice, build relationships with international peers, and gain fresh ideas
- UK HEIs can collaborate with international HEIs, enterprises and other partners, to drive innovation and excellence in higher education.

Erasmus+ offers UK HEIs a wide range of funding opportunities:

- Decentralised activities are grants reserved specifically for projects led by HEIs in the UK. This funding is managed by the Erasmus+ UK National Agency
- Centralised activities are grants available to HEIs across Erasmus+ Programme countries. UK HEIs can apply. This funding is managed by the European Commission's [Education, Audiovisual and Culture Executive Agency \(EACEA\)](#) in Brussels.

You can see an overview of all Decentralised and Centralised funding options for UK HEIs here: <https://www.erasmusplus.org.uk/higher-education-funding>.

Centralised activities

Most UK HEIs are familiar with submitting decentralised funding applications. Centralised activities are less well-known... but we would like that to change!

From 2014 to 2017, 70 Erasmus+ centralised grants were awarded to UK higher education organisations, worth around €48.8 million in total. There is scope for many more UK HEIs to apply for centralised funding, and we encourage you to do so.

In this factsheet, you can find out about the Centralised funding options:

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How to apply

Centralised activities are managed by the European Commission's [Education, Audiovisual and Culture Executive Agency \(EACEA\)](#).

Applications should be made online to the Executive Agency, by following the appropriate web links. These are set out on pages 3 to 6 of this document.

You can find the quality guides given to application assessors here:

https://eacea.ec.europa.eu/erasmus-plus/library/2015-guide-for-experts-quality-assessment-for-erasmus-plus-actions_en

In terms of application deadlines, calls for applications come out on an annual basis. The 2019 call opened in autumn 2018 and closes in spring 2019. Application deadlines vary, depending on the specific opportunity you are applying for. You can see the application deadlines here:

<https://www.erasmusplus.org.uk/funding-deadlines> (scroll down to the bottom of the page for this - [2019 application deadlines - centralised](#) (310 KB)).

Find out more

- Erasmus+ UK National Agency website: www.erasmusplus.org.uk
- Previously funded projects: <http://ec.europa.eu/programmes/erasmus-plus/projects/eplu-projects-compendium/> and <http://ec.europa.eu/programmes/erasmus-plus/projects/>
- Erasmus+ European Commission website: https://eacea.ec.europa.eu/erasmus-plus_en
- Erasmus+ factsheets by country and region: https://ec.europa.eu/programmes/erasmus-plus/about/factsheets_en#worldwide
- Erasmus+ Programme Guide: https://ec.europa.eu/programmes/erasmus-plus/resources/programme-guide_en

Please sign up to the Erasmus+ UK newsletter to be alerted when the calls are launched: www.erasmusplus.org.uk/subscribe-to-our-newsletter.

Erasmus Mundus Joint Master Degrees

Erasmus Mundus Joint Master Degrees (EMJMDs) are prestigious, integrated, international study programmes, jointly delivered by an international consortium of HEIs from at least 3 different [Programme countries](#) and, where relevant, other partners with specific expertise and interest in the study programme.

Between 2014 and 2020, the European Commission aims to fund around 350 such courses, with funding of up to €5 million available per project. Projects are 4-6 years in duration, and provide funding for three annual intakes of students, including a certain number of scholarships to students worldwide, and an annual flat-rate fee for management and guest academic costs.

Approximately one in three projects are awarded funding. The UK was awarded the coordination of over 10% of all EMJMDs in 2018. Glasgow University was successful in securing funding to coordinate four of these EMJMD projects, worth over €15 million, bringing their total number of EMJMDs up to 7.

Find out more and apply for EMJMD funding: https://eacea.ec.europa.eu/erasmus-plus/actions/key-action-1-learning-mobility-individuals/erasmus-mundus-joint-master-degrees_en

The following resources provide additional insight:

- [Erasmus Mundus Joint Master Degrees - The story so far](#), European Commission Policy Paper
- [Joint Degrees from A to Z \(JDAZ\)](#), a reference guide for practitioners
- [European Approach for Quality Assurance of Joint Programmes](#)
- [Best practices of Erasmus Mundus joint programmes](#)
- [24 Degrees](#) – 24 Erasmus Mundus coordinators talk about their joint programmes

Capacity Building in the Field of Higher Education

Capacity Building in the field of Higher Education (CBHE) supports higher education in eligible [Partner countries](#), by funding projects designed to:

- Modernise, internationalise and increase access to higher education
- Address the challenges facing HEIs and systems
- Increase cooperation with the EU
- Voluntarily converge with EU development in higher education
- Promote people to people contacts, intercultural awareness, and understanding.

CBHE projects last from two to three years and are aimed at modernising and reforming HEIs, through activities such as developing new curricula, improving governance, and building relationships between HEIs and enterprises. They can also tackle policy topics and issues, preparing the ground for higher education reform, in cooperation with national authorities. The projects are primarily for the benefit of the non-EU countries involved and are run by a consortium of institutions and with a grant of between €500,000 and €1 million per project, which can be used to cover staff costs, travel costs, costs of stay, equipment and sub-contracting activities.

A number of [Partner countries](#) have their own National Erasmus+ Offices, which can provide support on bidding for funding with organisations in these countries. You can find their contact details [here](#).

Between 2015 and 2017, UK organisations have been involved in 121 of the CBHE projects awarded, worth over €108 million, of which UK HEIs coordinated 17 projects.

In 2018, the UK was awarded five UK coordinated CBHE projects, at a value of over €4 million, with 26 individual UK organisations involved in a total of 28 CBHE projects.

Glasgow Caledonian University currently coordinates four CBHE projects, and was awarded a fifth in 2018, three of which focus on social innovation working in Latin America, Southeast Asia and South Africa.

Find out more and apply for CBHE funding: https://eacea.ec.europa.eu/erasmus-plus/actions/key-action-2-cooperation-for-innovation-and-exchange-good-practices/capacity-0_en

Knowledge Alliances

Knowledge Alliances bring HEIs and businesses together for transnational projects to strengthen Europe's 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.

Knowledge Alliances target cooperation between organisations established in [Programme Countries](#). Organisations from [Partner countries](#) may also participate as partners (not as applicants). The projects are open to any discipline, sector and to cross-sectoral cooperation. 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 per project.

Between 2014 and 2017, the UK has been involved in 32 Knowledge Alliances, worth over €28 million. The UK is the third most successful coordinating country, securing almost €5 million in UK coordinated Knowledge Alliance projects.

One example is Cranfield University's *Knowledge Alliance for aDditive Manufacturing between Industry and univeRsitiEs (ADMIRE)*, which addresses the gap between the industrial and academic worlds, whilst responding to an urgent market need in the qualification of the additive manufacturing workforce.

Find out more and apply for Knowledge Alliances funding: https://eacea.ec.europa.eu/erasmus-plus/actions/key-action-2-cooperation-for-innovation-and-exchange-good-practices/knowledge_en

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 the collaborative partnerships, up to €400,000 is available per project, with projects lasting between one and three years.

Between 2014 and 2017, 120 Sport Collaborative Partnerships with UK partners have been awarded. 39 of these partnerships have involved UK HEIs, with the total grant value for these 39 projects worth over €13 million.

Leeds Beckett University, for example, coordinates the *Research-Embedded Strategic Plan for Anti-Doping Education: Clean Sport Alliance Initiative for Tackling Doping* project, a project which also involves the University of Birmingham and Kingston University, as well as partners in the Netherlands, Germany, Ireland and Slovenia.

Find out more and apply for Sport funding: <https://www.erasmusplus.org.uk/sport-funding>

Jean Monnet

Jean Monnet Activities are designed to promote excellence in teaching and research in the field of European Union studies worldwide. The activities also foster dialogue between the academic world and policy-makers, in particular to enhance governance of EU policies.

The objectives of Jean Monnet are to: equip students and young professionals with knowledge of EU subjects; stimulate teaching and research on the EU; and to foster dialogue between the EU and the world in higher education. Several types of funding model are available, with funding of up to €300,000 per project, depending on the type of project applied for:

- **Jean Monnet Modules** - A short teaching programme in the field of EU studies. The Jean Monnet Module anchors and mainstreams teaching on EU matters in curricula which have so far only included EU related content to a limited extent.
- **Jean Monnet Chairs** - A teaching post with a specialisation in EU studies for university professors for a duration of three years. A Jean Monnet Chair must be held by only one professor, who must provide the minimum of 90 teaching hours per academic year.
- **Jean Monnet Centres of Excellence** - Gathers the expertise and competences of high-level experts and aims at developing synergies between the various disciplines and resources in EU studies, as well as at creating joint transnational activities and structural links with academic institutions in other countries.
- **Jean Monnet Support to Associations** - Supports associations that have as their explicit purpose to 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** - Support innovation, cross-fertilisation and the spread of EU content.

In 2018, approximately 20% of applications were successful. Five projects were awarded to UK HEIs with a total grant value of over €570,000, including funding secured by Queen's University of Belfast for a Jean Monnet module on *Comparative Competition Law: the Case of the EU as the Leading Model*.

Find out more and apply for Jean Monnet funding: https://eacea.ec.europa.eu/erasmus-plus/actions/jean-monnet_en

European Universities

Launched as a pilot in 2019, the European Universities initiative supports HEIs in going beyond existing higher education cooperation models, and gradually achieving the long-term ambitious vision for 'European Universities' set out by the European Council.

HEIs will be funded to progressively implement the activities that are necessary to achieve their long-term vision for innovative and structural cooperation models, starting by increasing their level of integration.

European Universities' have an ambitious mandate, which focuses on:

- Promoting common European values and a strengthened European identity
- Reach a substantial leap in quality, performance, attractiveness and international competitiveness of European HEIs and contributing to the European knowledge economy, employment, culture and welfare by making best use of innovative pedagogies and striving to make the knowledge triangle a reality.

Each European Universities project must include a minimum of three HEIs (not necessarily universities) from at least three [Programme Countries](#), and will be able to apply for a maximum of €5 million for a three-year project.

Find out more and apply for European Universities funding:
https://ec.europa.eu/education/european-universities-initiative_en

