



ERASMUS+ AND EUROPEAN SOLIDARITY CORPS TECHNICAL NOTICE – FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

This document should be read in conjunction with the [updated Erasmus+ and European Solidarity Corps \(ESC\) technical notice](#), which was published on 29 January 2019.

Delivering a deal negotiated with the EU remains the government's top priority. This has not changed, and we encourage organisations to continue to bid into Erasmus+ and the ESC on this basis. However, the government must prepare for every eventuality, including a scenario where the UK leaves the EU with no withdrawal agreement in place (a 'no deal' scenario). It has always been the case that as we get nearer to the 29 March 2019, preparations for a 'no deal' scenario would be accelerated.

The Government has noted the update from the European Commission on their contingency plans for Erasmus+ and we welcome their shared desire to avoid as much disruption for EU and UK students currently on mobility placements. We are looking forward to discussing this as soon as possible with the Commission.

1. What are the key updates contained in the recent technical notice?

The technical notice provides the latest information for organisations and participants, particularly in terms of how the government guarantee will work in the event of no deal. Key points to note:

Eligibility for the government guarantee:

- The government will need to reach agreement with the EU for UK organisations to continue participating in Erasmus+ and ESC projects and is seeking to hold these discussions with the EU.
- There are a range of options for the UK's continued participation in Erasmus+ and ESC until 2020, including [programme country status](#), [partner country status](#) or another arrangement, which will have different levels of access to Erasmus+ and ESC programme activity.
- For Youth projects for example, some Partner Countries only have limited access to Key Action 1 and Key Action 2 for Erasmus+ Youth projects. For ESC, some Partner Countries only have access to the volunteering activity. The government will continue to engage with the European Commission to negotiate full access to both programmes to allow successful projects to go ahead.

- In the event that the UK leaves the EU without a deal, the government's guarantee will cover the payment of awards to UK applicants for all successful Erasmus+ and ESC bids submitted before the end of 2020.
- Successful bids are those that are approved directly by the European Commission or by the UK National Agency and ratified by the European Commission.
- The guarantee covers funding committed to UK organisations for centralised and decentralised activity. It does not cover funding committed to partners and participants in other Member States and other participating countries.
- UK organisations may wish to consider bilateral arrangements with partner organisations that would enable their projects to continue. The government will provide funding for projects that were approved directly by the European Commission or by the National Agency and ratified by the European Commission prior to the UK's withdrawal from the EU to continue in this form, should it become necessary.
- Where a UK organisation is the lead member of a partnership (for example in Key Action 2 projects), any funding it distributes to non-UK associated beneficiaries is not covered by the guarantee.
- If there is no deal, claims should be initiated through the Grants Management Function accessed through GOV.UK and it is anticipated that registration for Erasmus+ claims will be available from late February 2019.

2. [I have an existing project that has been contracted for, or a new Erasmus+/European Solidarity Corps project, will I still be able to run it in a 'no deal' situation?](#)

- The government will need to reach agreement with the EU for UK organisations to continue participating in Erasmus+ and ESC projects and is seeking to hold these discussions with the European Commission as soon as possible.
- For new projects that are being applied for at the forthcoming and recent application deadlines (5 February, 12 February and 21 March 2019), the government guarantee will cover UK beneficiaries for successful bids. Successful bids are those that are approved directly by the European Commission or by the UK National Agency and ratified by the European Commission up until 2020.
- UK organisations may wish to consider bilateral arrangements with partner organisations that would enable their projects to continue. The government will provide funding for projects that were approved directly by the European Commission or by the National Agency and ratified by the European Commission prior to the UK's withdrawal from the EU to continue in this form, should it become necessary.

3. [Will my Erasmus+/European Solidarity Corps project costs be covered by the government guarantee?](#)

- The government will need to reach agreement with the EU for UK organisations to continue participating in Erasmus+ and ESC projects and is seeking to hold these discussions with the EU.

- The guarantee will cover the payment of awards to UK applicants for all successful Erasmus+ and ESC proposals submitted before the end of 2020.
- This includes the payment of awards for UK organisations in centralised and decentralised projects that are already approved and contracted.
- The guarantee will also provide funding for projects that were approved directly by the European Commission or by the National Agency and ratified by the European Commission prior to the UK's withdrawal from the EU to continue through bilateral arrangements between organisations, should it become necessary.

4. How will the guarantee apply to decentralised partnership projects under Erasmus+ Key Action 2 and ESC Volunteering activity where UK organisations are:

a) The project coordinator

- The government guarantee will cover the payment of awards to UK organisations for all successful Erasmus+ and ESC bids submitted before the end of 2020.
- Where a UK organisation is the lead member of a partnership, any funding it distributes to non-UK associated beneficiaries is not covered by the guarantee.
- The government will need to reach agreement with the EU for UK organisations to continue participating in Erasmus+ and ESC projects and is seeking to hold these discussions with the EU.

b) One of the partners

- The government guarantee will replace funding for UK organisations' participation in projects.
- In projects involving multiple partner organisations, non-UK partner organisations will still receive funding through the coordinating organisation.
- The government will need to reach agreement with the EU for UK organisations to continue participating in Erasmus+ and ESC projects and is seeking to hold these discussions with the EU.

5. What does this mean for the current call for proposals?

- We continue to recommend that applications are submitted to the UK National Agency or to the European Commission for the 2019 Erasmus+ and ESC Call for Proposals as normal.
- In the event that the UK leaves the EU with a withdrawal agreement (a deal) in place, the UK will participate in Erasmus+ and the ESC until the end of the current cycle in 2020 (with funding provided for the lifetime of the projects).
- It is important that UK organisations and participants are in a position to benefit from the UK's continued participation in Erasmus+ and ESC.
- In the event that the UK leaves the EU with no deal in place, the government's guarantee will cover the payment of awards to UK applicants for all successful Erasmus+ and ESC bids. Successful Erasmus+ bids are those that are approved by the European Commission or approved by the UK National Agency and ratified by the European Commission.

- The government will need to reach agreement with the EU for UK organisations to continue participating in Erasmus+ and ESC projects and is seeking to hold these discussions with the EU.

6. Where can I find the latest information?

We will update these FAQs as more information becomes available. For further information, please contact:

- erasmus@britishcouncil.org for enquiries about higher education
- erasmusplus.enquiries@britishcouncil.org for enquiries about schools or youth projects under Key Actions 2 and 3
- erasmusplus@ecorys.com for enquiries about vocational education and training (VET), adult education or youth projects under Key Action 1
- eusolidaritycorps@ecorys.com for enquiries about the European Solidarity Corps
- ocseusubteam@culture.gov.uk for enquiries regarding ESC and Erasmus+ youth
- [The Department for Education](#) for enquiries about the technical notice and the government guarantee

This information is meant for guidance only. You should consider whether you need separate professional advice before making specific preparations.