

ERASMUS 



# INTERNATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES FOR APPRENTICES

Funding for work placements abroad

**“I’d never been abroad. I was really nervous. In reality, it was life-changing. The people were so friendly and in my placement I gained experience installing air con, underfloor heating, solar panels and electrics. It made me more confident and independent.”**

Coral Allen-Henderson, Erasmus+ participant and former EuroApprentice

**Front cover photograph of Coral Allen-Henderson.**

Coral went to Seville, Spain, on work placement while doing Level 2 Electrotechnical qualifications at Leicester College. Nominated as one of the first EuroApprentices, Coral used her personal experience to promote the benefits of Erasmus+ and encourage others to take part. #EuroApprentices

## **THE BENEFITS OF INTERNATIONAL WORK PLACEMENTS**

Today's global economy demands that apprentices go beyond traditional skillsets in order to advance in their career.

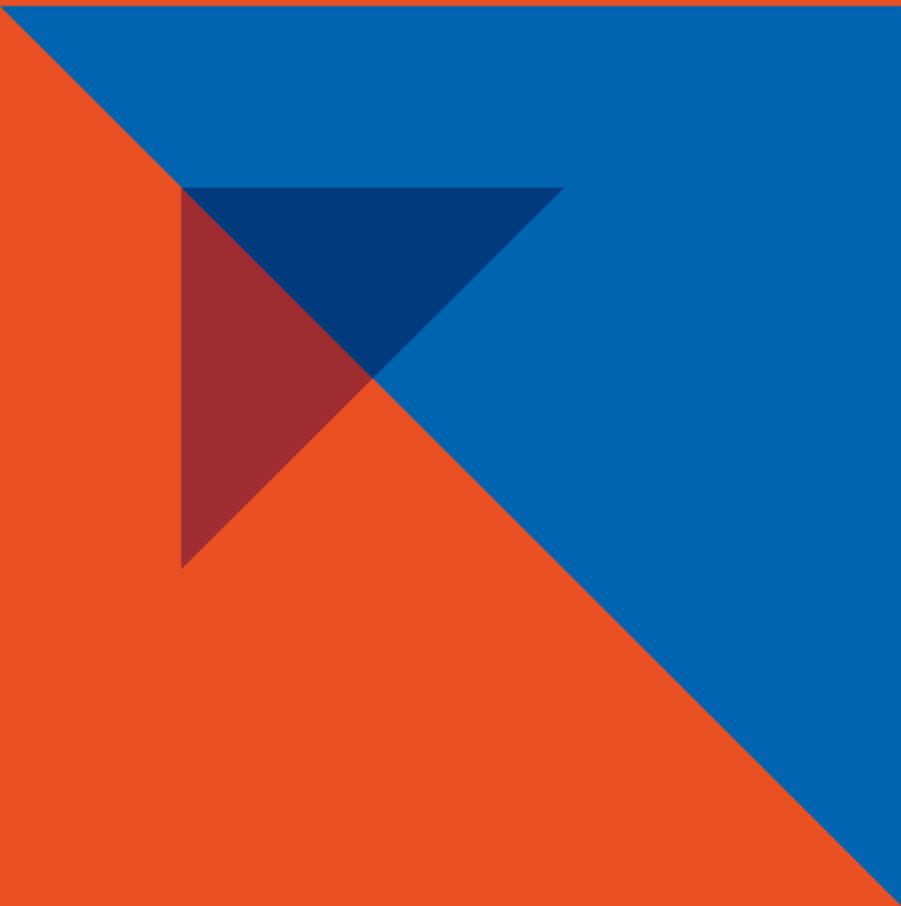
An Erasmus+ work placement in another country is a great opportunity for apprentices to get new expertise, knowledge and technical skills, and boost their confidence, language and inter-cultural awareness.

Employers depend on the versatility and creativity of their apprentices for a competitive advantage. Work placement projects provide exposure to different training and techniques, and help forge relationships with other companies and organisations.

Through Erasmus+ funding, many UK employers, training providers and colleges now integrate overseas work placements into their apprenticeships.

**“Progressing to the next grade can take up to ten years – I have seen Erasmus+ apprentices achieve this in two.”**

John Connor,  
Technical Training Coordinator,  
BAE Systems



## WHAT APPRENTICES CAN DO

For their Erasmus+ work placement in another country, apprentices undertake activities relevant to their chosen sector and career goals. A placement can be between two weeks and twelve months.

Examples include:

- Gaining knowledge of manufacturing and testing techniques in the aerospace industry in Germany.
- Exchanges with catering and hospitality colleges in France for kitchen and front-of-house skills, visiting local businesses, job-shadowing, and practical coaching in real-life work settings.
- Acquiring first-hand experience of planning, installation and maintenance at leading electrical companies.
- Structured training and development in sport, working with coaches across Europe on training methods.

**“When the Erasmus+ opportunity came up, I grabbed it. I worked in a family-run salon in Portugal and they welcomed us with open arms. It changed my life, the things you get to see and do, including the cultural experiences, it’s mind-blowing.”**

Marc Beaton, hairdressing student,  
West Lothian College

## **PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT AND LIFE SKILLS**

As well as professional abilities and skills, an international work placement is great for apprentices' personal development.

Young people who take part get to experience independence in a supportive environment, and learn first-hand about different cultures, returning more confident and with the experience for a stand-out CV.

Travelling abroad, perhaps getting a passport for the first time, learning to cook and do other household tasks, starting to learn another language: these are all associated benefits of going abroad for a work placement, described by returning Erasmus+ apprentices.

# €38.4m

In 2019, the budget available in the UK for Key Action 1 vocational education and training is **38.4 million euro.**

## HOW TO APPLY

Erasmus+ Key Action 1 vocational education and training funding (VET) is open to companies, organisations and colleges.

There is generally one deadline a year for applications. One funding application can cover many different placements, and there is additional help available for special needs support, costs to support people with fewer opportunities, and linguistic support.

If you are an apprentice or other VET learner, ask your employer or college to find out more about the opportunities available on your behalf as individuals are not able to apply directly for Erasmus+ funding.

**“It’s not just about their professional skills. We want to widen their horizons and raise their aspirations.”**

Rachel Delourme, Cornwall Council

**“Working abroad, even for a short period, is a brilliant selling point. It is something to put on their CV, to talk about at interview. I believe it gives a real boost when it comes to looking for work.”**

Linda Sykes, Doncaster College

**“The highlight of my season. Every club we visited, and all the people, were so welcoming, going above and beyond to give us an excellent experience. By the end of the trip I could order from a menu and communicate with people in Spanish.”**

Callum Lester, Grimsby Town Academy,  
on his football coaching placement  
in Spain

To find out more about Erasmus+ funding for apprentice work placements, call or email us at the UK National Agency:  
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Department  
for Education



Erasmus+

Erasmus+ is the European Union programme for education, training, youth and sport.  
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