

# SMaRT Mobility for Learners

THIS FACTSHEET PROVIDES AN INSIGHT INTO THE CONCEPT OF SMART MOBILITY, CONFIRMING WHAT THIS MEANS FOR INDIVIDUAL LEARNERS.



## What is SMaRT Mobility?

- ☞ SMaRT Mobility is a new concept based on *Strategic* and *Meaningful* mobility as a means of delivering learning that is both *Recognisable* and *Transferable*;
- ☞ SMaRT Mobility is a new way of thinking for colleges, employers and other learning providers involved in the delivery of VET mobility programmes.

## Why is it Important for Learners?

- ☞ **STRATEGIC:** it is important that international mobility continues to be prioritised by colleges, employers and other learning providers, ensuring continued international and global engagement and providing invaluable opportunities for personal, linguistic and intercultural development for learners;
- ☞ **MEANINGFUL:** it is essential that all mobility stakeholders recognise the value and importance of VET mobility - as a learner you should be clear on the type of learning activities that you will undertake during your mobility experience and on what this means to your own career or learning pathway: do you expect to improve your vocational skills, gain experience of a new culture and/or develop new skills that might give you a greater chance for accessing employment. All of this should be agreed before you depart, usually in a dedicated Learning Agreement;
- ☞ **RECOGNISABLE:** assessment requirements should be clear before you depart on your work (or study) trip abroad: if there is a need for you maintain a record of your learning, or create a portfolio, this should be explained before you leave; it is also important to be clear on who will be involved in future assessment activities;
- ☞ **TRANSFERABLE:** the value of your mobility experience should be clear to you before you depart: does this form an integral part of your course or is it seen as extra credit; you should also receive support on how to present your newly-acquired knowledge and skills in the future, including to employers.

## POINTS TO NOTE

Learners that have taken part in a mobility programme, often talk of an increase in confidence: especially those who have never travelled abroad previously.

As a consequence of Covid-19, greater emphasis has been placed on the use of digital technology for teaching and learning and this has made it easier for meaningful preparation work (such as language and intercultural training) to take place prior to departure.

Learners from the UK most often participate in short mobility periods of 2-3 weeks, although it is possible to have longer-duration mobility periods also.