Learning together:
An introduction to Erasmus+ for the UK

2016
About 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 creative and worthwhile activities.

Erasmus+ aims to modernise education, training and youth work across Europe. It is open to education, training, youth and sport organisations across all sectors of lifelong learning including school education, further and higher education, adult education and the youth sector.

In the UK the Erasmus+ programme is delivered by the UK National Agency. The UK National Agency is a partnership between the British Council and Ecorys UK, and we were appointed by the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS).

The UK National Agency manages the delivery of Erasmus+ in the UK including promoting the programme, offering advice to applicants, managing the assessment and selection of applications, and providing support to funded beneficiaries.

Working together as one team with a common approach, we are here to support and grow Erasmus+ in the UK. Our goal is to help UK organisations make the most of the opportunities provided by the programme so that Erasmus+ can have a positive impact on education, training, youth and sport provision in the UK.
Key facts and figures

Over its lifetime, Erasmus+ has an overall budget of €14.7 billion for the development of knowledge and skills. This infographic shows how the budget is divided up:

Two-thirds of the funding will provide grants for more than four million people to study, train, gain work experience or volunteer abroad between 2014 and 2020. The time abroad can range from a few days up to one year.

Almost €1 billion will be allocated to the UK alone over the seven years. In the UK, it is expected that around 250,000 people will undertake activities abroad with the programme. In fact, more than 30,000 young people from the UK per year – the equivalent of over 70 fully-laden jumbo jets – are expected to gain opportunities to expand their horizons under the programme.
What funding is available?

Funding for Mobility
Erasmus+ provides funding for organisations to offer opportunities to young people and students, teachers and trainers, learners and providers, apprentices, volunteers, youth leaders and those working in grassroots sport. This activity is known as Mobility and is Key Action 1 of the programme.

Funding for Strategic Partnerships
The programme will also support 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. This Strategic Partnership activity is Key Action 2 of the programme.

Funding for policy development
Under 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.

Other types of funding
The European Union also directly funds other projects under Erasmus+, including Sport and the Jean Monnet higher education programme.

Visit www.erasmusplus.org.uk for more information.
Why take part?

Changing lives, opening minds
Erasmus+ will help participants at all stages of their life, from school through to adulthood, to pursue stimulating opportunities for learning. It will help them to gain the valuable life-skills and international experience they need to succeed in today's world.

The programme offers pupils, students, trainees, apprentices, young people, adults, professionals, lecturers, youth workers and teachers a unique opportunity to obtain education, training, development and work experience in another European country and beyond, both inside and outside the classroom. Benefits include personal and professional development, the opportunity to broaden cultural horizons, boost confidence, develop language skills and many more. These are felt not only at an individual level, but also among the education, training and youth support systems of all the participating countries and their wider communities.

Students, trainees and young people
Studying, volunteering or working abroad will give 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 also 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 the UK.

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, thus supporting professional development and staff retention.
What can I do?

Erasmus+ offers exciting opportunities for UK participants to study, work, volunteer, teach and train abroad in Europe.

Education, training, youth and sport organisations across all sectors of lifelong learning can apply for funding for their staff and learners. Taking part in the programme helps people to develop personally and professionally; they will 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.

Study abroad (Key Action 1)
Erasmus+ offers students in higher education the opportunity to study abroad in Europe 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 has with its partners. Students can also apply to carry out a Joint Master’s Degree course delivered by an international consortium of higher education institutions from all over Europe.
Work or volunteer abroad (Key Action 1)

Students and young people can work or volunteer abroad under the Erasmus+ programme gaining valuable experience to enhance their CVs. Apprentices and students in vocational education training (VET) schools and colleges can go abroad to carry out 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 abroad in a European enterprise. They can take part in a traineeship at any time during their degree (including the first year), although it will depend on the degree structure.

Young people aged between 17-30 and living in the UK can take part in volunteering opportunities through the European Voluntary Service (EVS), gaining valuable international experience.

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, outdoor activities etc.) 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 another 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 education and training, youth or sport practice (Key Action 2)
Organisations involved in education and training, youth and sport can work with peers in other countries to innovate and modernise practice. Through Strategic Partnerships (Key Action 2), education, training and youth organisations can work together to improve provision for learners and share innovative practices, ensuring that young people and adults get the skills they need to succeed in today’s world.

Sports activities are run centrally by the European Commission. However, any projects using sport in the context of education and training or youth activities, e.g. mobility placements for sport apprentices, may be funded under Key Action 1 and Key Action 2. Visit our website to find out more about sport under Erasmus+.

Influence policy development (Key Action 3)
By taking part in meetings and discussion events with policy makers, 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 in the UK?

Erasmus+ is aimed at schools, further and higher education institutions, vocational education, adult education and youth organisations actively involved in delivering formal and non-formal education, training and youth work, including sport.

Applications for activities are made at an organisational level to either the UK National Agency or the European Commission. Once the organisation has successfully applied for funding, the following people from these organisations can take part:

Schools and colleges
Staff and pupils at schools providing general, vocational or technical education on any level from pre-school to upper secondary education; staff involved in partnership work from local/regional school authorities. Staff and trainees at organisations actively involved in vocational education and training, including apprentices, support staff, managers, and guidance staff, as well as teachers and trainers.

Youth groups
Young people aged between 13-30 and youth workers of any age from UK organisations or groups actively involved in youth work.

Voluntary organisations
Young people aged 17-30 and living in the UK from voluntary organisations that hold a valid European Voluntary Service accreditation.
Public or private organisations
Any public or private organisations active in the field of education, training, youth or sport which can include, but is not limited to, small, medium or large enterprises, including social enterprises, non-profit organisations, associations or NGOs.

Higher education institutions
Undergraduate and Postgraduate students registered at a university or college that holds an Erasmus Charter for Higher Education and carrying out higher education studies leading to a recognised degree up to and including the level of doctorate. Students applying for a Joint Master’s Degree must have a higher education first degree or demonstrate a recognised equivalent level of learning. Staff, both academic and administrative, at higher education institutions that hold an Erasmus Charter for Higher Education are also eligible.

Adult education organisations
Staff and learners at organisations actively involved in adult education.

Sports organisations
A wide range of organisations involved in sport can take part, such as public sporting bodies, sporting organisations, leagues, and clubs at any level. For more information visit our website.
Contact us

For general enquiries you can contact either the British Council or Ecorys UK as follows:

**British Council**
T: 0161 957 7755  E: erasmusplus.enquiries@britishcouncil.org

**Ecorys UK**
T: 0121 212 8947  E: erasmusplus@ecorys.com

For more information about how to make an application for Erasmus+, including next steps and useful resources, please refer to the ‘Apply for funding’ page on our website.

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Erasmus+ is the European Union programme for education, training, youth and sport. The Erasmus+ UK National Agency is a partnership between the British Council and Ecorys UK.