Strategies and actions may be cross-sectoral, so this article should be read in conjunction with the ‘Overview: Mobility and Internationalisation’.

Learner Mobility

Erasmus+[^2] is the European Union programme for education, training, youth and sport from 2014 to 2020. Under Key Action 1[^3], Erasmus+ provides mobility opportunities for individuals to travel to another participating country in order to study, work, teach, train or develop professional skills and competences. Such mobility activities must be project-based and led by organisations. The aim of individual learning mobility is to provide opportunities for individuals to improve their skills, enhance their employability and gain cultural awareness.

These opportunities may include:

- vocational traineeships for apprentices and students in initial vocational training
- youth exchanges
- European Voluntary Service (EVS) activities
- professional development and training for staff in all sectors of education, training and youth.

Note: The UK Government [announced][^4] in December 2017 that it had agreed a fair financial settlement with the EU, enabling it to move to the next stage of negotiations for the UK to leave the European Union. With the caveat that ‘nothing is agreed until everything is agreed’, in principle the UK will continue to benefit from all EU programmes, including Erasmus+, until the end of the current Multi-annual Financial Framework (2014-2020). The UK Government had previously announced, in 2016, that it would underwrite successful Erasmus+ bids which are submitted while the UK is still an EU Member State, even if payments continue beyond the UK’s exit. The Government has stated that, in the unlikely event that no formal agreement is reached during negotiations between the EU and the UK (a ‘no deal’ scenario), this guarantee still stands. Further information is available on the Erasmus+ [website][^5].

Teacher and Trainer Mobility

Under Key Action 1[^3], Erasmus+ provides mobility opportunities for teaching staff to travel to other participating countries in order to study, work, teach, train or develop professional skills and competences. Such mobility activities must be project-based and led by organisations. The aim of individual learning mobility is to provide opportunities for individuals to improve their skills, enhance their employability and gain cultural awareness.

Under the programme, teachers, trainers, mobility officers and staff with administrative or guidance functions working in vocational education and training (VET) can teach in a partner institution abroad,
or undertake professional development through a work placement, job shadowing or observation period in a business or VET organisation. Staff working in adult education can also teach or train in a partner organisation abroad, participate in structured courses or training events abroad, or complete job shadowing or observation periods in organisations active in adult education. The programme also supports the professional development of youth workers. Activities usually last from two days to two months.

For further information on the future of the Erasmus+ programme in the UK, see the subheading ‘Learner Mobility’ above.

Article last reviewed March 2018.

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[3] https://www.erasmusplus.org.uk/key-action-1