European Commission

Erasmus+ Programme
International credit mobility

What is Erasmus+?

Erasmus+ is the EU-funded programme to support individual exchanges and institutional cooperation in the fields of education, training, youth and sport. The programme has a strong international dimension, which opens up many of these opportunities to individuals and stakeholders from countries worldwide. Almost all projects are based on a partnership between the 27 EU Member States and eight associated countries[1] on the one hand (referred to as Programme countries), and non-associated third countries throughout the world on the other (referred to as Partner countries).

What is an International credit mobility project?

International credit mobility (ICM) supports the mobility of individuals in higher education institutions (HEIs), between Programme countries and Partner countries. Through ICM, European HEIs can set up mobility agreements with partners in almost all countries around the world[2] to send and receive students and staff[3].

What does an ICM project do?

The activities supported in ICM are:

Student mobility: can be carried out in **any study field and cycle** (short cycle/bachelor/master/doctoral), and is open to recent graduates. The physical mobility can last from **2 to 12 months** or between **5 and 30 days,** if part of blended mobility[4]. Student mobility can take the form of:

- A **study period** abroad at a partner HEI,
- A **traineeship** (work placement, internship) abroad in an enterprise, a research institute, a laboratory, an organisation or any other relevant workplace.

The two types of student mobility could be combined, if the total duration of the mobility period does not exceed the maximum of 12 months per study cycle.

Staff mobility: can be carried out by any type of higher education staff or by invited staff from outside the HEIs. The mobility period can last from **5 to 60 days**. It can take the form of:

- A **teaching period** for academic staff and for invited staff from non-academic organisations to teach at a partner HEI abroad,
- A **training period** for teaching and non-teaching staff in the form of training events abroad (excluding conferences), job shadowing, observation periods and/or training at a partner HEI.

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[1] The third countries associated to the Erasmus+ programme are the following: Iceland, Liechtenstein, Republic of North Macedonia, Norway, Serbia, and Türkiye. **Switzerland and the UK plan to associate to the programme in 2027, bringing the total of associated third countries to eight.**

[2] Countries in Regions 13 and 14 are not eligible for mobilities under ICM. See the Programme Guide for the complete list.

[3] Please consult the Programme Guide for more information about restricted mobility flows and types with specific countries worldwide.

[4] Blended mobility is a combination of physical mobility with a virtual component facilitating a collaborative online learning exchange and teamwork.

A staff mobility period abroad can combine teaching and training activities. Any teaching or training period abroad may be carried out as a blended mobility.

How is it funded?

Each Erasmus+ National Agency (NA) established in a Programme Country has a budget to fund a number of mobility projects between HEIs in that Programme Country and those in Partner Countries. Institutions from Programme Countries can apply to their NA to organise projects with HEIs in one or more Partner Countries. The NA awards the successful HEIs a grant to cover the mobility of a number of students and staff. This grant will cover individual and travel support for participants, top-ups for participants with fewer opportunities and include a portion for organisational support.

For individuals:

Student and staff participants may receive a different monthly or daily contribution to their expenses abroad depending on whether their mobility is incoming (to Europe) or outgoing (from Europe). In addition, each selected individual participant will get a travel contribution based on the distance between the sending and the receiving institutions.

For more information, see the Programme guide.

For institutions:

The project grant will include a contribution of EUR 500 per mobile participant in order to offset the costs to the institution of organising the mobility activities.

Who can apply and take part in an ICM project? How?

Taking part as an organisation:

Only HEIs from Programme Countries may submit an application to manage a project for mobility between Programme and Partner Countries.

Once the project is selected for funding, in order for the mobility to happen, the European HEI must sign an Inter-institutional agreement with a HEI in a Partner Country. Under this agreement, it can host or send students and recent graduates, doctoral candidates or academic and administrative staff from/to the Partner Country HEI. In the agreement, the sending and receiving institutions agree on the range of courses open to visiting students and on the options for staff mobility. These agreements make sure that the sending institution will recognise the credits gained by its students for successfully completed activities abroad, which will contribute to the student's degree once they return. Programme-Country HEIs require an Erasmus Charter for Higher Education to apply and take part; by signing the Inter-institutional agreement, Partner Country HEIs agree to adhere to the Charter's principles.

Taking part as an individual:

Students and staff may contact their HEI's international relations office for more information about the application and selection process.

More information

Erasmus+ webpage on ICM – click here.

Detailed information on the **criteria and funding rules**: Erasmus+ Programme Guide

International credit mobility mailbox: EAC-NA-ICM@ec.europa.eu