



Erasmus+ Programme International credit mobility

What is Erasmus+?

For over 30 years, Europe has funded the Erasmus programme, which has enabled over four million European students to study, train, and gain experience abroad.

Erasmus+ recognises the importance of opening up these opportunities, funding exchange of students, academics, ideas and good practice between Programme countries¹ and Partner countries² throughout the world.

In the framework of the new programme 2021-2027, the international activities will cover Higher Education (HE), Vocational Education and Training (VET), Youth and Sport.

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 around the world³ to send and receive students and staff.

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 mobility⁴. 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 days to 2 months**. 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.

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.

¹ EU member states and third countries associated to the Programme.

² Third countries not associated to the Programme.

³ With the exception of Andorra, Faroe Islands, Monaco, San Marino, Switzerland, Vatican City State and the United Kingdom.

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

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 the cost of the individual and travel grants 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 mobility 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 project.

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, doctoral candidates or 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.

What is new in 2021-2027?

- Focus on simplification. The application form is designed to have a regional approach, which will translate into a more flexible budget management during implementation.
- Enhanced opportunities. In addition to the student exchange of 2 to 12 months, an option for shorter blended mobilities (5-30 days) is introduced, along with opening up to recent graduates, and providing a more flexible format for doctoral candidates.

More information

Detailed information on the **criteria and funding rules**: [Erasmus+ Programme Guide](#)

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