



MOBILITY PROJECT FOR HIGHER EDUCATION STUDENTS AND STAFF

This mobility project can comprise one or more of the following activities:

Student mobility:

- a **study period** abroad at a partner higher education institution (HEI);
- a **traineeship (work placement)** abroad²⁰ in an enterprise or any other relevant workplace²¹.

A study period abroad may include a traineeship period as well. Such a combination creates synergies between the academic and professional experience abroad and may be organised in different ways depending on the context: either one activity after the other or both at the same time. The combination follows the funding rules and minimum duration of study mobility.

To ensure high-quality mobility activities with maximum impact on the students, the mobility activity has to be compatible with the student's degree-related learning and personal development needs. The study period abroad must be part of the student's study programme to complete a degree at a short cycle, first cycle (Bachelor or equivalent), second cycle (Master or equivalent) and third or doctoral cycle.

Traineeships abroad at a workplace are also supported during short cycle, first, second, third cycle studies and within a maximum of one year after the student's graduation. This also includes the 'assistantships' for student teachers.

Wherever possible, the traineeships should be an integrated part of the student's study programme. Student mobility can be in any subject area/academic discipline.

Staff mobility:

- **teaching periods:** this activity allows HEI teaching staff or staff from enterprises to teach at a partner HEI abroad. Staff mobility for teaching can be in any subject area/academic discipline.
- **training periods:** this activity supports the professional development of HEI teaching and non-teaching staff in the form of training events abroad (excluding conferences) and job shadowing/observation periods/training at a partner HEI, or at another relevant organisation abroad.

A period abroad can combine teaching and training activities.

The majority of the budget of this Action will support activities involving mobility between Programme Countries. However, a limited amount of the budget available for this Action can fund international activities between Programme and all Partner Countries of the world, except regions 5 and 12 (see section "eligible countries" in Part A of this Guide).

Funding for mobility between Programme and Partner Countries comes from several financial instruments of the European Union for external cooperation. To ensure that this action follows the EU's external priorities, the Commission has set a number of targets and rules for cooperation with Partner Countries.

Applicants for mobility projects between Programme and Partner countries should take into account the available budget for mobility with different regions of the world and the priorities explained hereafter in the section "additional information for mobility between Programme and Partner Countries".

WHAT IS THE ROLE OF ORGANISATIONS PARTICIPATING IN THIS PROJECT?

Participating organisations involved in the mobility project assume the following roles and tasks:

- Applicant organisation from a Programme Country: in charge of applying for the mobility project, signing and managing the grant agreement and reporting. The applicant can be a consortium coordinator: leading a mobility

²⁰ Traineeships between Programme and Partner Countries are not foreseen in 2016, either with an Erasmus+ grant, or as a zero-grant from EU funds.

²¹ Following courses at a higher education institution cannot be considered as a traineeship.



consortium of partner organisations of the same country aimed at organising any type of student and staff mobility.

- Sending organisation: in charge of selecting students/staff and sending them abroad. This also includes grant payments (for those in Programme Countries), preparation, monitoring and recognition related to the mobility period.
- Receiving organisation: in charge of receiving students/staff from abroad and offering them a study/traineeship programme or a programme of training activities, or benefiting from a teaching activity.
- Intermediary organisation: this is an organisation active in the labour market or in the fields of education, training and youth work in a Programme Country. It may be a partner in a national mobility consortium, but is not a sending organisation. Its role may be to share and facilitate the administrative procedures of the sending higher education institutions and to better match student profiles with the needs of enterprises in case of traineeships and to jointly prepare participants.

For mobility between Programme and Partner Countries, only higher education institutions from Programme Countries can apply and administer the payments for inbound and outbound mobility.

The sending and receiving organisations, together with the students/staff, must have agreed on the activities to be undertaken by the students - in a 'Learning Agreement' - or by staff members - in a 'Mobility Agreement' - prior to the start of the mobility period. These agreements define the target learning outcomes for the learning period abroad, specify the formal recognition provisions and list the rights and obligations of each party. When the activity is between two higher education institutions (student mobility for studies and staff mobility for teaching), an 'inter-institutional agreement' has to be in place between the sending and the receiving institutions before the exchanges can start.

By signing the Erasmus Charter for Higher Education (ECHE), higher education institutions commit to provide all the necessary support to mobile participants, including linguistic preparation. To support them, online linguistic support is being gradually implemented in the course of the Programme for all long-term mobility activities between Programme Countries lasting two months and longer. It is made available by the European Commission to eligible participants to assess their foreign language competences and to offer, where necessary, the most appropriate language learning before and/or during mobility (for more details, see Annex I of this Guide). Partner Country higher education institutions are not eligible to sign the ECHE, therefore details of the linguistic support offered to mobile participants should be made explicit in the inter-institutional agreement.

WHAT ARE THE CRITERIA USED TO ASSESS THIS PROJECT?

Here below are listed the formal criteria that a higher education mobility project must respect in order to be eligible for an Erasmus+ grant:

GENERAL ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

<p>Who can apply?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ For an application as individual HEI: higher education institutions established in a Programme Country and awarded with an Erasmus Charter for Higher Education (ECHE). For more information on the Charter, see the section "Erasmus Charter for Higher Education" below and the Annex I of this Guide). ▪ For an application as national mobility consortium: coordinating organisations established in a Programme Country and coordinating a consortium awarded with a higher education consortium accreditation. Organisations that do not hold a valid consortium accreditation can apply for this accreditation on behalf of a Mobility Consortium at the same time of applying for a mobility project grant. All the involved higher education institutions from eligible Programme countries must hold an Erasmus Charter for Higher Education (ECHE). These organisations will be eligible for a mobility project only if their application for the consortium accreditation is successful. <p>Higher education students and staff cannot apply directly for a grant; the selection criteria for participation in the mobility activities are defined by the higher education institution in which they study or are employed, in accordance with the provisions foreseen in Annex I to this Guide.</p>
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Eligible activities	A higher education mobility project must comprise one or more of the following activities: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Student mobility for studies; ▪ Student mobility for traineeships²²; ▪ Staff mobility for teaching; ▪ Staff mobility for training.
Eligible countries	Mobility between Programme Countries: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ any Programme Country Mobility between Programme and Partner Countries: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ any Programme Country; and ▪ any Partner Country of the world, except regions 5 and 12 (see section "eligible countries" in Part A of this Guide)
Number of participating organisations	The number of organisations in the application form is one (the applicant). It is either a single HEI or a national mobility consortium coordinator established in a Programme Country. During the implementation of the mobility project, a minimum of two organisations (at least one sending and at least one receiving organisation) from different Programme Countries must be involved. For mobility projects involving Partner Countries, the minimum is one from a Programme Country and one from an eligible Partner Country.
Duration of project	The applicant must choose the duration at application stage, based on the scale of the project and on the type of activities planned over time. Mobility between Programme Countries: 16 or 24 months. Mobility between Programme and Partner Countries: 16 or 26 months.
Where to apply?	To the National Agency of the country in which the applicant organisation is established.
When to apply?	Applicants have to submit their grant application by 2 February at 12:00 (midday Brussels time) for projects starting on 1 June of the same year.
How to apply?	Please see part C of this Guide for details on how to apply.
Other criteria	A HEI may apply for grants to its National Agency via two different channels: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • directly as an individual HEI, • via a consortium of which it is a member. A HEI can apply only once per selection round for a mobility project between Programme Countries as individual HEI and/or as member of a given consortium. However, a HEI may be part of or coordinate several different national mobility consortia applying at the same time. The same applies to mobility projects between Programme and Partner Countries. Both channels (individual application and consortium application) may be used simultaneously. However, the HEI/department remains responsible of preventing double funding of a participant when the two channels are used in the same academic year.

Applicant organisations will be assessed against the relevant **exclusion and selection criteria**. For more information please consult Part C of this Guide.

²² Traineeships between Programme and Partner Countries are not foreseen in 2017, either with an Erasmus+ grant, or as a zero-grant from EU funds.

ADDITIONAL ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA DURING IMPLEMENTATION FOR STUDENT MOBILITY

<p>Eligible participating organisations</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Student mobility for studies: All participating Programme Country organisations (both sending and receiving) must be HEIs awarded with an ECHE. All Partner Country organisations must be HEIs recognised by competent authorities and have signed inter-institutional agreements with their Programme Country partners before the mobility takes place. ▪ Student mobility for traineeships²³: The sending organisation must be a HEI awarded with an ECHE. The receiving organisation can be²⁴: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ any public or private organisation active in the labour market or in the fields of education, training and youth. For example, such organisation can be: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – a public or private, a small, medium or large enterprise (including social enterprises); – a public body at local, regional or national level; – a social partner or other representative of working life, including chambers of commerce, craft/professional associations and trade unions; – a research institute; – a foundation; – a school/institute/educational centre (at any level, from pre-school to upper secondary education, and including vocational education and adult education); ○ a non-profit organisation, association, NGO; ○ a body providing career guidance, professional counselling and information services; ○ a Programme Country HEI awarded with an ECHE.
<p>Duration of the activity</p>	<p>Study periods: from 3²⁵ to 12 months (including a complementary traineeship period, if planned).</p> <p>Traineeships: from 2 to 12 months.</p> <p>The same student may participate in mobility periods totalling up to 12 months²⁶ maximum per each cycle of study²⁷, independently of the number and type of mobility activities. Participation with a zero-grant from EU funds counts as well towards this maximum duration :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ during the first study cycle (Bachelor or equivalent) including the short-cycle (EQF levels 5 and 6); ▪ during the second study cycle (Master or equivalent - EQF level 7); and ▪ during the third cycle as doctoral candidate (doctoral level or EQF level 8). <p>The duration of a traineeship by recent graduates counts towards the 12 months maximum of the cycle during which they apply for the traineeship.</p>
<p>Venue(s) of the activity</p>	<p>Students must carry out their mobility activity in a Programme or Partner Country different from the country of the sending organisation and the country where the student has his/her accommodation during his/her studies.</p>

²³ Traineeships between Programme and Partner Countries are not foreseen in 2017 and are not eligible neither with an Erasmus+ grant, nor as a zero-grant from EU funds.

²⁴ The following types of organisations are not eligible as receiving organisations for student traineeships:

EU institutions and other EU bodies including specialised agencies (their exhaustive list is available on the website ec.europa.eu/institutions/index_en.htm); organisations managing EU programmes such as Erasmus+ National Agencies (in order to avoid a possible conflict of interests and/or double funding).

²⁵ Minimum duration of a study period is 3 months, or 1 academic term or trimester.

²⁶ Prior experience under LLP-Erasmus Programme and/or as Erasmus Mundus scholarship holders counts towards the 12 months per study cycle.

²⁷ In one-cycle study programmes, such as Medicine, students can be mobile for up to 24 months.



Eligible participants	<p>Students registered in a HEI and enrolled in studies leading to a recognised degree or another recognised tertiary level qualification (up to and including the level of doctorate). In case of mobility for studies, the student must be enrolled at least in the second year of higher education studies. For traineeships, this condition does not apply.</p> <p>Recent higher education graduates may participate in a traineeship. Recent graduates must be selected by their HEI during their last year of study, and must carry out and complete their traineeship abroad within one year of obtaining their graduation.</p>
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ADDITIONAL ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA DURING IMPLEMENTATION FOR STAFF MOBILITY

Eligible participating organisations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Staff mobility for teaching: The receiving organisation must be a Programme Country HEI awarded with an ECHE or a Partner Country HEI recognised by competent authorities and having signed an inter-institutional agreement with the sending Programme Country partner before the mobility takes place. The sending organisation must be: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ a Programme Country HEI awarded with an ECHE, or a Partner Country HEI recognised by competent authorities and having signed an inter-institutional agreement with the receiving Programme Country partner; or ○ any Programme Country public or private organisation active in the labour market or in the fields of education, training and youth. For example, such organisation can be: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – a public or private, a small, medium or large enterprise (including social enterprises); – a public body at local, regional or national level; – a social partner or other representative of working life, including chambers of commerce, craft/professional associations and trade unions; – a research institute; – a foundation; – a school/institute/educational centre (at any level, from pre-school to upper secondary education, and including vocational education and adult education); – a non-profit organisation, association, NGO; – a body providing career guidance, professional counselling and information services. ▪ Staff mobility for training: The sending organisation must be a Programme Country HEI awarded with an ECHE or a Partner Country HEI recognised by competent authorities and having signed an inter-institutional agreement with the receiving Programme Country partner before the mobility takes place. The receiving organisation must be: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ a Programme Country HEI awarded with an ECHE, or a Partner Country HEI recognised by competent authorities and having signed an inter-institutional agreement with the receiving Programme Country partner; or ○ any Programme Country public or private organisation active in the labour market or in the fields of education, training and youth. See examples in the previous page.
Duration of the activity	<p>From 2 days (5 days from and to Partner Countries) to 2 months, excluding travel time. In mobility between Programme Countries, the minimum 2 days must be consecutive. In all cases, a teaching activity has to comprise a minimum of 8 hours of teaching per week (or any shorter period of stay). If the mobility lasts longer than one week, the minimum number of teaching hours for an incomplete week should be proportional to the duration of that week.</p>
Venue(s) of the activity	<p>Staff must carry out their mobility activity in any Programme Country or Partner Country different from the country of the sending organisation and the staff country of residence.</p>



<p>Eligible participants</p>	<p>Staff mobility for teaching: staff working in a Programme or Partner Country HEI. Staff from enterprises working in any Programme Country public or private organisation active in the labour market or in the fields of education, training and youth (including employed doctoral candidates) that has been invited to teach at an HEI in a Programme Country.</p> <p>Staff mobility for training: staff working in a Programme or Partner Country HEI.</p>
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ADDITIONAL INFORMATION FOR MOBILITY BETWEEN PROGRAMME AND PARTNER COUNTRIES

The budget available for mobility between Programme and Partner Countries is divided between different regions of the world in 12 budgetary envelopes and the size of each budgetary envelope is different. Further information on the amounts available under each budgetary envelope will be published on the National Agencies' websites.

In general the funds will have to be used in a geographically balanced way. The EU has set a number of targets regarding geographical balance and priorities that have to be attained at European level over the whole duration of the programme (2014-2020). The targets do not have to be attained by individual higher education institutions, but National Agencies will take these targets into account in order to allocate the available budget. In addition, higher education institutions are encouraged to work with partners in the poorest and least developed Partner Countries.

These are the **geographical targets** set for mobility between Programme and Partner Countries at EU level by 2020:

- With Developing Asia and Latin America, 25% of the funds should be used to organise mobility with the least developed countries of the region. These countries are:
 - For Asia: Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Cambodia, Laos, Nepal, Bhutan and Myanmar;
 - For Latin America: Bolivia, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua and Paraguay;
- No more than 30% of the budget available for Asia should be spent on mobility with China and India;
- And no more than 35 % available for Latin America on Brazil and Mexico.

Due to the requirement to carry out mobilities with countries in regions 6, 7, 8, 9, 10 and 11²⁸ that contribute to development assistance, mobility for short-, first- and second cycle students is limited to inbound mobility from Partner to Programme Countries²⁹. Outbound mobility towards these regions is only available at doctoral level and for staff.

There will however be a few exceptions for certain Programme Countries. Please check your National Agency's website.

Finally, higher education institutions are free to apply for 100% staff mobility or 100% student mobility or any combination thereof, provided this complies with any secondary criteria set by the National Agency (see section below).

SECONDARY CRITERIA FOR MOBILITY BETWEEN PROGRAMME AND PARTNER COUNTRIES SET BY NATIONAL AGENCIES

Where the budget envelope for a particular Partner Region or Country is limited, a National Agency may choose to add one or more secondary criteria from the list below. In the event that a National Agency chooses to use secondary criteria this decision will be communicated in advance of the deadline, in particular on the National Agency's website.

- The degree level (for example limiting applications to one or two cycles only – BA, MA or PhD);
- Privileging only staff or only student mobility;
- Limiting the duration of mobility periods (for example limiting student mobility to 6 months, or limiting staff mobility to 10 days).

AWARD CRITERIA FOR A MOBILITY PROJECT WITHIN PROGRAMME COUNTRIES³⁰

There is no qualitative assessment (the quality has been assessed at the ECHE application stage or when selecting a national mobility consortium) and therefore there are no award criteria.

²⁸ Indicative only. Subject to the provisions of the revised Cotonou Partnership Agreement and multiannual financial framework 2014-2020.

²⁹ See section "eligible countries" in Part A of this Guide.

³⁰ Mobility in both directions



Any eligible grant application (after having passed the eligibility check) will get funding.

The maximum grant amount awarded will depend on a number of elements:

- the number of mobility periods and months/days applied for;
- the past performance of the applicant in terms of number of mobility periods, good quality in the implementation of activities and sound financial management, in case the applicant has received a similar grant in previous years;
- the total national budget allocated for the mobility Action.

AWARD CRITERIA FOR A MOBILITY PROJECT BETWEEN PROGRAMME AND PARTNER COUNTRIES

Eligible grant applications (after having passed the eligibility check) will be assessed on the basis of the following criteria:

Relevance of the strategy (maximum 30 points)	The extent to which the planned mobility project is relevant to the internationalisation strategy of the higher education institutions involved (both in the Programme and in the Partner country) and the rationale for choosing staff and/ or student mobility.
Quality of the cooperation arrangements (maximum 30 points)	The extent to which the applicant organisation has previous experience of similar projects with higher institutions in the partner country and the clarity of the description of responsibilities, roles and tasks between partners.
Quality of the activity design and implementation (maximum 20 points)	The completeness and quality of arrangements for the selection of participants, the support provided to them and the recognition of their mobility period (in particular in the Partner country).
Impact and dissemination (maximum 20 points)	The potential impact of the project on participants, beneficiaries, partner organisations, at local, regional and national levels and the quality of measures aimed at disseminating the results of the mobility project at faculty and institution levels, and beyond where applicable, in both the programme and partner countries.

The applicant will explain how the project meets these four criteria from the point of view of its own institution (or institutions in the case of applications submitted by consortia) and the Partner countries' institutions.

To be considered for funding, proposals must score at least 60 points in total, with a minimum of 15 points for "relevance of the strategy".

In order to allocate the available budget for each region, the mobilities planned with each Partner Country will be listed in order of merit in a regional ranking.

The grant awarded to a higher education institution will depend on a number of elements:

- the number of mobility periods and months/days applied for;
- the budget allocated per country or region;
- the geographical balance within a given region or sub-region.

The National Agency may fund mobilities with a Partner Country that is ranked lower in the regional ranking, when it is necessary to ensure geographical balance within that region, as defined by the geographical targets mentioned above.

The National Agency is not obliged to fund all the mobilities requested for a particular Partner Country if the request is considered excessive with respect to the budget available.

Where possible and in addition to the overarching criteria of order of merit and geographical balance, the National Agency will seek to spread the available budget widely to avoid dominance of a small number of HEIs. The National Agency will strive to be as inclusive as possible, maximising participation of stakeholders without undermining quality, geographic balance or the minimum critical size per mobility project to ensure feasibility.