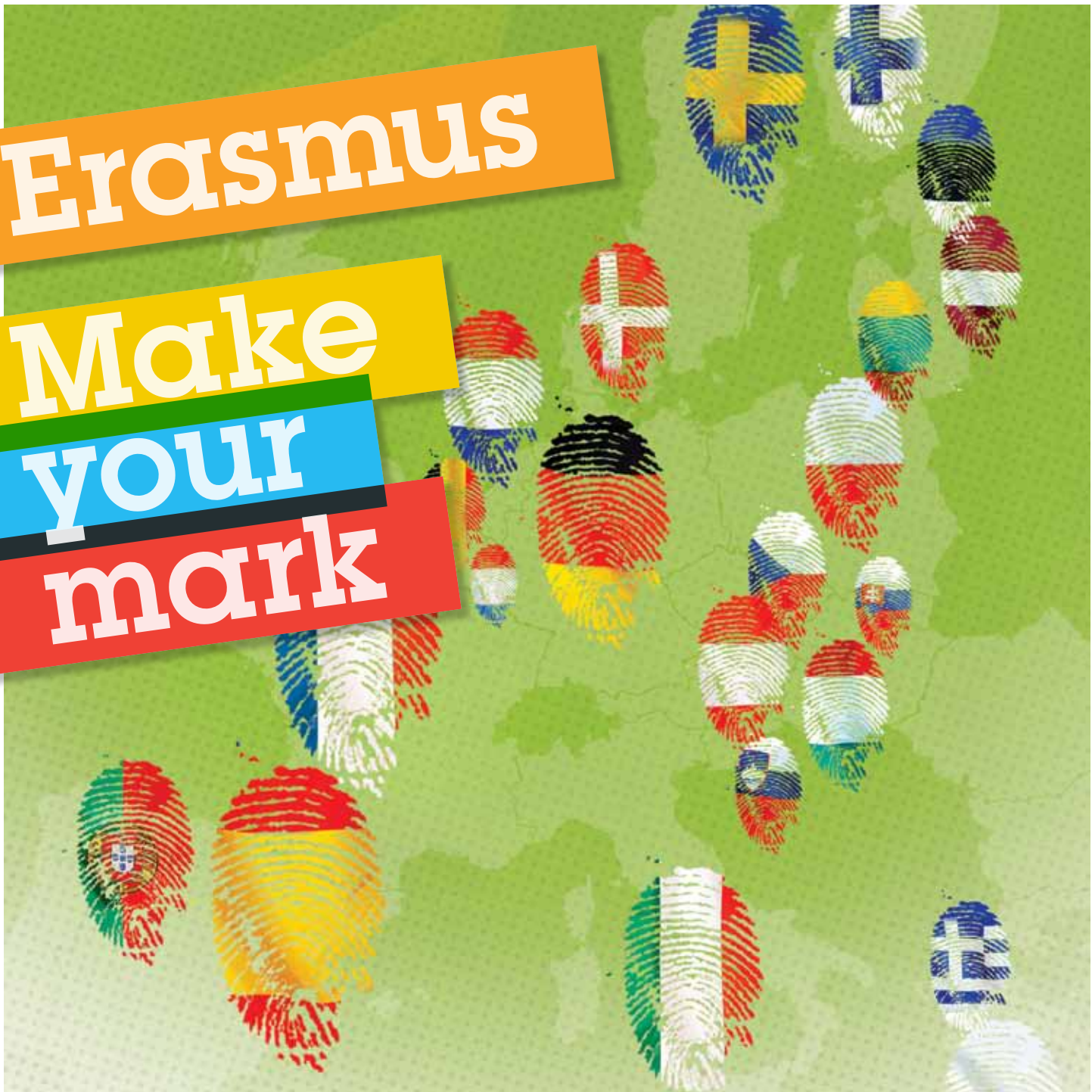



Erasmus

Make
your
mark





You will learn much about the world – how large and how small it can be – much about dealing confidently with and overcoming situations that you would never have believed you could deal with, and most importantly, much about yourself, and how flexible and resilient you can become. Imagine how valuable that would be to you in the future, and how valued it would be by an employer.”

Katrina Maitland Brown, Erasmus student

“Jam-packed with amazing experiences”

“The single most important educational experience of my life”

“Realise my potential”

“Gained new skills”

“An unrivalled chance to develop”

“Benefited me enormously”

“Whole host of friends world-wide”

“A wonderful opportunity”

“A life-enhancing four months”

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INTRODUCTION

Rotterdam,
Netherlands



The programme is named after the humanist and theologian Desiderius **Erasmus of Rotterdam** (1465-1536) whose travels for work and study took in the era's great centres of learning. Like the man, the Erasmus programme places great importance on mobility and developing personally and professionally through learning.



Make the most of your time at university by taking part in the Erasmus exchange programme for higher education students and staff. Since 1987, over two million people have benefited from the Erasmus programme and found it to be a life-changing and highly rewarding experience. Erasmus students return more motivated, independent and confident. Staff come back with fresh ideas and a better understanding of educational systems in other countries.

Erasmus, part of the European Union's Lifelong Learning Programme, is managed in the UK by the British Council. It enables students and staff to study and work, teach and train in a different European country and promotes co-operation projects among universities across Europe.

“Exciting, fun and liberating! I have returned a much more independent person and motivated to travel and experience life to the full wherever I am in the world.”

Kamila Woynarska

STUDENTS

"Studying in Milan was an incredible experience, a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity which really inspired me. I enjoyed every moment, especially speaking the language, mixing with Italian students, the nightlife and travelling around Europe. I gained an understanding of different cultures and acquired an international perspective. I was able to meet people from all over the world and gain an understanding of their culture. I became more open-minded in my thinking and adaptable to different situations I encountered. I travelled around mainland Europe and visited some extraordinary places, including Berlin, Stockholm, Paris, Rome, Florence and Venice. It has helped me decide what I would like to pursue in the future as a career and provided me with the drive and inspiration to achieve great things in life. I look forward to using the knowledge and skills I gained for my final year and future career."

Sara Lyons



➡ As higher education students, the Erasmus programme gives you the opportunity to study or carry out a work placement for three to 12 months in one of 30 other European countries as part of your degree course. You can even combine a study period with a work placement and get the best of both worlds.

Students from all subject areas can take part– it's not just for language students. Whether you are studying maths, medicine or marketing you can participate. Even though more and more courses are taught in English, learning another language will be an extra skill to add to your CV and help you in your daily life. Taking part in the Erasmus programme is part of your course so you should receive formal academic recognition for your period abroad from your home institution.

Students enrolled in a short term higher vocational education course, which includes foundation degree courses, can also take part. Part-time students can also participate, providing you study full-time during your mobility period.

CASE STUDY

Ahmed
DEKMAK



For my exchange I studied Software Engineering at Umeå University in Sweden. Umeå is a small but lively little city found in the north of the country. I can say that choosing to study there will forever go down as one of the best decisions of my life.

I opted to sign up for the Erasmus intensive language course, so had to go to Sweden one month earlier. These courses are very useful because they get you adapted and more involved in the country that will be your home for a term or two, while enabling you to meet some extraordinary people from all across Europe. The bonus of this optional course is in the way these courses are run. You are studying a new language at an intensive level but at the same time there are numerous trips and events being held by the institution which means that you are constantly active for a whole month.

In Umeå there is a massive international student community and numerous trips were organised around the year to places such as Finland, Estonia and St Petersburg. 'It's the people that make the place' has never made more sense to me. Every international student is in the same situation, they are all here to study but want to meet new people and enjoy their time. Due to that fact, everyone is extremely friendly towards each other and you find that in no time you know half the campus.

Overall I would recommend to anyone to take that leap of faith and do an exchange. There is nothing to lose but so much to gain. I picked up numerous skills that I would not normally have had the time for if I was in the UK, such as learning the Swedish language, in which I am now half fluent. I have come out a better and bigger person who can stand on his own two feet wherever situated and proudly say that he is not afraid to follow his dreams and seize the opportunity.



CASE STUDY

Amy
ASHKEN



I WAS LUCKY ENOUGH TO SPEND MY RESIDENCE ABROAD IN CENTRAL PARIS WORKING FOR THREE VERY WELL-KNOWN ADVERTISING AGENCIES DURING THE COURSE OF THE YEAR, AND AS I STUDY MEDIA, THIS WAS A HUGE BENEFIT TO ME. NOT ONLY DID I LEARN ABOUT THREE DIFFERENT JOB ROLES, I GOT TO REALLY UNDERSTAND EXACTLY HOW THE ADVERTISING INDUSTRY WORKS, AND MEET LOTS OF PEOPLE FROM ALL OVER THE WORLD, AND HAVE A LOOK AT WHAT WORKING LIFE IS LIKE, WHICH MADE ME DECIDE EXACTLY WHERE I SEE MYSELF AFTER FINISHING MY STUDIES AT UNIVERSITY.

Working in France has also enhanced my CV and employability as a graduate. In hindsight, my Erasmus year really helped me to develop professionally and personally, particularly with regards to my level of French. When I got back to England and resumed my final year, I instantly noticed the difference. I could tell that I had become a lot more confident, and could really hold a proper conversation in French.

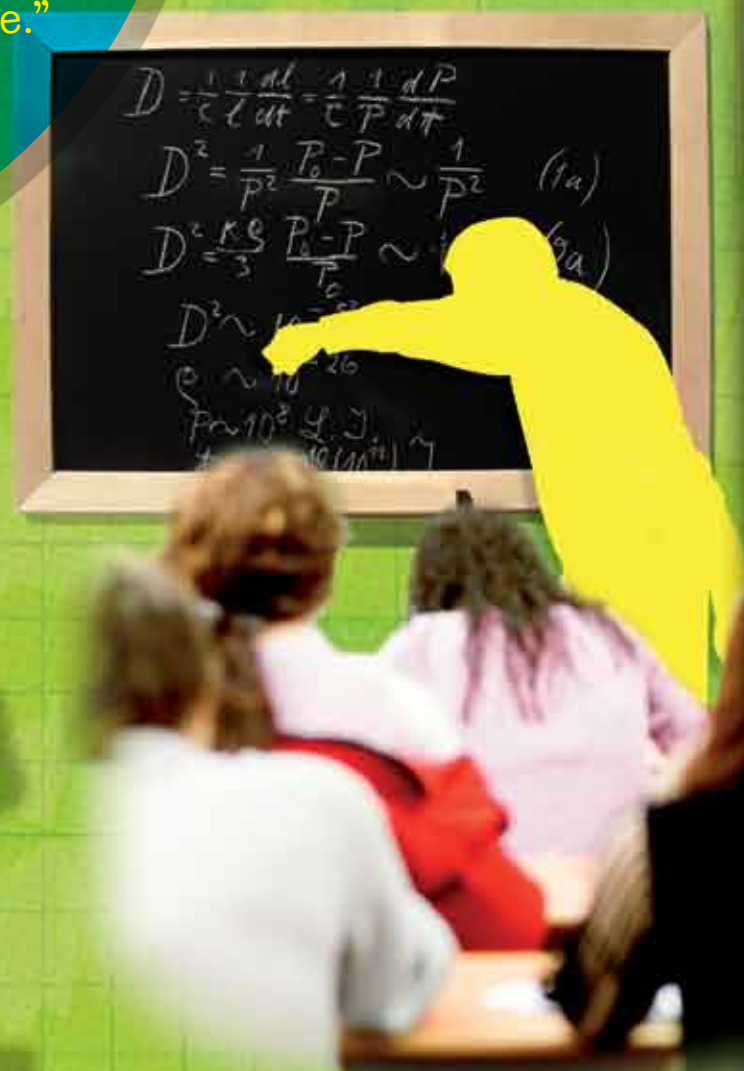
I feel that my year in Paris was a real eye-opener for me. I got to meet people from all over the world, experience things I'd never have had the opportunity to experience had I stayed in England. One of the best things from my Erasmus year was the flexibility I had to travel and to meet like-minded people. I made friends from all over the world, and I became a lot more independent.



STAFF

“It has benefited me enormously, providing a great opportunity to meet staff and students from universities abroad, to see how they teach and how they can work together. It has allowed me to see the way in which different scientists think about projects and I have also greatly enjoyed meeting people outside of the University, learning about their cultures and appreciating life from their perspective.”

Dr Dennis Francis



Erasmus also offers great opportunities for academic and administrative staff at Higher Education Institutions to teach or work elsewhere in Europe. It provides an opportunity to learn about new working environments, get to know first-hand the workings of another European educational system, learn new ideas and exchange best practice. You will also develop your international networks and improve your language skills as well.



A teaching assignment can last from one day up to six weeks with funding available to teach in all subject areas. Staff training is an option for teaching and non-teaching staff from Higher Education institutions who may go abroad to receive training in businesses and also at other institutions. The stay is an opportunity to encourage further exchange and co-operation. There is also an opportunity for staff from businesses and commercial organisations to take part in the programme.

Intensive Programmes (IP) are short programmes of study (two to six weeks of subject related work) which bring together students and staff from higher education institutions in at least three participating countries in order to encourage efficient and multinational teaching of specialist topics which might otherwise not be taught at all, or only in a very restricted number of universities.



WHERE CAN YOU GO?

"A fantastic part of Erasmus is the opportunity it provides to travel."
Amber Cuttill

"Finnish, Swedish, Russian, French, German, Slovakian, Romanian... The mix of backgrounds resulted in exciting debates, enlightening stories and a whole of host of friends worldwide" Sara Thomas

Erasmus students, teachers and staff can go to any of the 27 EU member states as well as Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway and Turkey. Europe is such a diverse and exciting region – culturally, historically, politically and geographically – that you're bound to find somewhere interesting.

WHY TAKE PART?

"The transferable skills and competencies that students gain through the Erasmus programme can bring graduates the added value that employers are looking for. Plus it also happened to be the most fun year I had at university!"

Elisa Chami-Castaldi

"Living in a different country has given me the opportunity to face new challenges, make new friends, and learn a new language. I feel from these experiences that I have grown as a person with more confidence, maturity and gained new skills."

Catherine Ward



Skills for Life

Learning to manage your life within another culture brings maturity, confidence and self reliance – great life skills. By demonstrating that you have lived, studied and worked in another environment, using another language, you can compete more effectively in the European job market. You'll stand out from the crowd and employers will notice you. Studies, such as the HEFCE report on Student Attainment 2009, have shown that a period spent abroad not only enriches students' lives academically, but they are also more confident, self-reliant, have better career prospects and are more likely to have above-average salaries. Staff exchanges have similar beneficial effects, both for those participating and for the home and host institutions.

Learning new skills and developing personally, academically and professionally are benefits of the Erasmus programme. Younger people develop confidence, maturity, open minds and improve academically and socially. Staff discover new ideas and new approaches, become more flexible and gain a renewed enthusiasm in their profession.

The Council for Industry and Higher Education (CIHE) 2008 report 'Global Horizons and the Role of Employers' states that global businesses are increasingly recruiting globally and graduates who have international experience are highly employable because they have demonstrated that they have drive, resilience and inter-cultural sensitivities as well as language skills.



A different outlook

Erasmus offers you the chance to study or teach your subject in different contexts, with different teachers and different students. You'll be surprised by the different approach and the insights that living in another country can bring. It's both challenging and highly rewarding.

A life-enhancing four months

A wonderful opportunity to meet people from across Europe

I now have a number of career prospects open to me

We returned more motivated, more independent and more confident

The single most important educational experience of my life



"First and foremost, I was able to hone my language skills to a level of fluency and cultural awareness that I could never have attained without spending a prolonged stint in-country. Secondly I broadened my network of contacts to take in professors, practitioners and peers not only in Germany, but also from scores of other countries in Europe and beyond. Thirdly I was able to immerse myself in a foreign culture and adopt new perspectives on the world, new goals and ambitions, and even new lifestyle choices. I put a lot into my year overseas (studied hard, took risks, led a diverse and enjoyable social life) and I feel that I reaped the rewards of the experience ten times over. Since graduating from Glasgow University School of Law I have regularly had cause to thank my good fortune at having taken part in the Erasmus programme."

Gavin Simpson



Language Skills

There is considerable current interest in the employability of graduates with language skills. Recruiters see competence in at least one other language as critical for business success and graduates who speak more than one language will have a significant competitive advantage.



Cultural Awareness

Studying or working in another European country breaks down barriers between people and enables interaction with different cultures, in a way no lecture hall can. It is a great opportunity to explore new countries and cultures, make new friends and learn another language. Mobility also broadens your horizons in many other ways; it triggers independent thought, improves your ability to deal with difference and makes you question the established ways of seeing and doing things.



Motivation

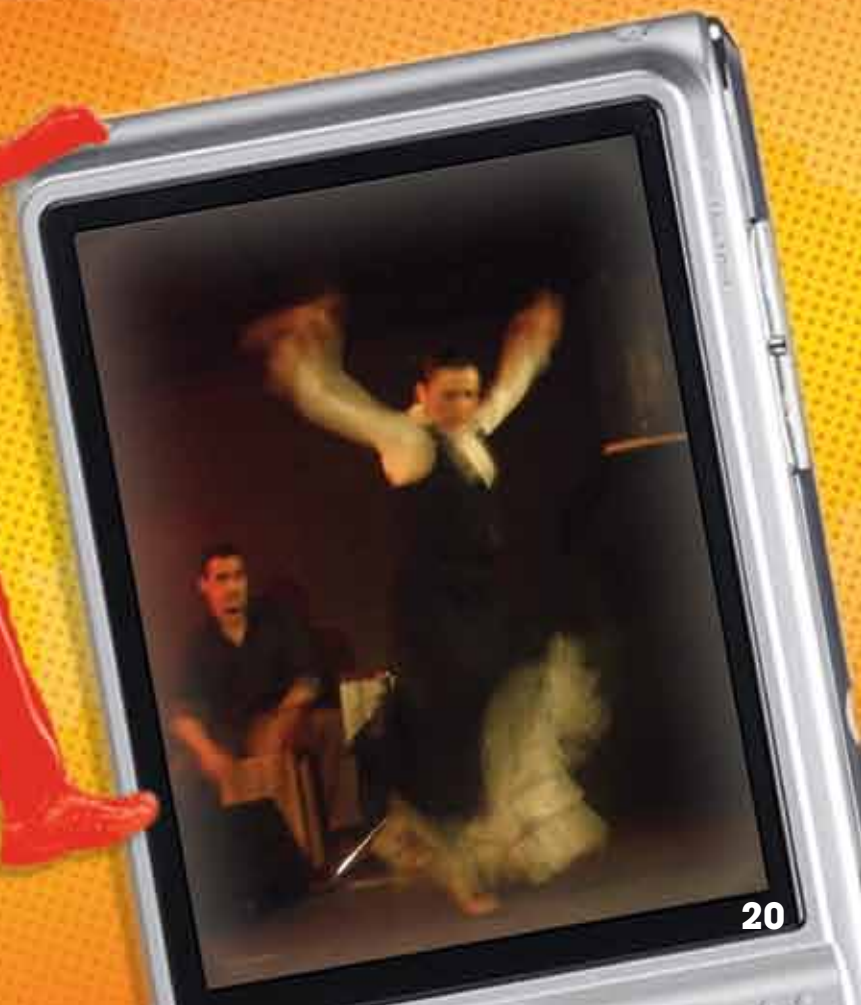
Erasmus students say it is the best part of their time at university, returning from their time abroad not only with an international network of new friends and some fantastic memories, but also highly motivated, with more life experience and language skills.

"I loved every day of my Erasmus experience and felt extremely lucky to have had the opportunity to live and work with people who appreciated the arts. In addition, I broadened my mind to areas of the art world that I had not considered previously, such as performance art. It was a life-enhancing four months that I would thoroughly recommend to any potential student looking to broaden their lives, both educationally and culturally. I have gained self-confidence, both in my abilities as an artist and as a person. The learning opportunities have been immense, helping me to realise my potential and extend my ambitions."

Lindsay Sunley



Staff say it is a life-enhancing experience, helping to keep their outlook fresh and positive by providing new ideas, and of course a European perspective. It is a valuable means not only of improving the international dimension of your university or college, but also of providing stimulating contact with new colleagues and students and offers different approaches to teaching and working for both host and visitor.



FUNDING

There is no fee for taking part in the programme; in fact students receive a grant from the European Union which contributes towards the extra costs arising from studying abroad.

During your Erasmus period, you continue to receive any student grant or loan to which you are entitled and do not pay any tuition fees to the university you are visiting. Currently, if you spend a full academic year on an Erasmus study period or work placement you do not pay any UK tuition fees for that year, making it a tuition-free year.

Mobility grants are provided to staff as contributions towards subsistence and travel costs and vary depending on which countries you visit.

To ensure that students or staff with special needs can take full advantage of European mobility arrangements, the Erasmus programme provides additional funding, higher than the normal study or placement grant, to offset the specific difficulties with which you are faced (such as physical access and the organisation of content).

More than
4,000
European higher education
institutions are involved

31 countries
from across
Europe are
involved

Over
2 million
students have
participated since
1987

over **200**
UK Higher Education
institutions take part

In 2008/09:

7,437 UK students
studied abroad

almost
200,000
students from across
Europe took part

Over
1,700 UK staff
took part

3,406
UK students undertook
a work placement

almost
11,000 UK students
took part



Fulfil your potential



The Erasmus experience will enhance your academic and personal development, your job opportunities, your confidence and your enjoyment of life. Not only will you acquire a broader range of skills but you'll have fun doing it.



So, discover a different culture, make new friends from all over Europe, learn a foreign language, acquire new skills and make your mark. Experience Erasmus for yourself!

www.britishcouncil.org/erasmus



Education and Culture DG

Lifelong Learning Programme

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