

# Briefing: Start a Welsh student Erasmus Scheme for students who study in Wales with European Union countries

Y Pwyllgor Deisebau | 04 Hydref 2021  
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**Petition title:** Start a Welsh student Erasmus Scheme for students who study in Wales with European Union countries

**Text of petition:**

When we were members of the European Union we were on the Erasmus scheme.

Now we are out we would like to start an Welsh student version of the Erasmus scheme.



## 1. Summary

Welsh Government cannot enter into international agreements and so cannot re-join the ERASMUS+ programme.

Welsh Government has instead launched its own 5 year, £65m International Learning Exchange programme that shares a number of the characteristics of the 2014 ERASMUS+ programme.

The first mobilities are intended to begin from 2022/23. The scheme will operate in Wales in parallel with the UK Government's own Turing mobility scheme.

## 2. Background

The UK no longer participates in the ERASMUS+ EU staff and student mobility scheme. Welsh Government cannot enter into international agreements, meaning it is not possible for Wales to re-join the scheme.

In its place, the UK Government has launched the Turing Scheme with projects operating from 01 Sep 2021. The Turing scheme is open to all UK nations but has significant differences from the ERASMUS+ scheme.

- Whilst ERASMUS+ provided for inward and outward mobility (i.e. institutions could send persons abroad, and also fund persons to come to the UK) the Turing Scheme is an outward mobility only scheme. This means it is not a reciprocal scheme.
- The ERASMUS+ scheme facilitated mobility of staff and students. The Turing Scheme funds only students and learners.
- Whilst ERASMUS+ supported mobilities to EU member states and specific third-party countries, the Turing Scheme is a global scheme meaning persons can potentially mobilise anywhere.
- The Turing Scheme allows for shorter periods of mobility (4 weeks) than the ERASMUS+ scheme did. Shorter periods of mobility are intended to be more attractive to students from under-represented and deprived backgrounds.
- Both schemes provide participants with fixed rate grants for living costs and travel, however the Turing Scheme targets additional living cost

funding at students from 'disadvantaged' backgrounds and provides an additional travel grant.

- 'Sending' institutions under the Turing Scheme are expected to make reciprocal agreements with the 'receiving' institutions regarding fees – students should not have to pay additional fees.
- The range of projects funded by the Turing Scheme is narrower than ERASMUS+. The Turing Scheme funds mobilities only, not wider partnership and capacity building projects.

### 3. Welsh Government action – launching the 'ILE'

The previous Welsh Government set out its disappointment that the UK would not continue to participate in the ERASMUS+ scheme post EU exit.

On 21 March 2021 Welsh Government announced its own International Learner Exchange (ILE) Scheme. Institutions will be able to participate in both the Turing Scheme and the ILE. The first mobilities under the ILE Scheme are intended to begin in academic year 2022/23, with £65m of funding committed until 2026/27. Welsh Government intends that 15,000 participants will be 'sent' overseas, and 10,000 will be 'received' from overseas.

Full details on the operation of the Scheme are not yet available, however Welsh Government has explained that the Scheme is intended to share some characteristics of the ERASMUS+ Scheme that are absent from the Turing Scheme, including:

- Funding outward *and* inward mobility (although it is proposed that there will in practice be a limit placed on inward mobility funding).
- Funding students *and* staff
- Potentially supporting a wider range of mobility types beyond the learning and work-placements available under the Turing Scheme.
- Supporting youth-work settings.

#### 3.1. Further details of the ILE

Welsh Government have issued a Written Statement and an update in July 2021 regarding the development of the scheme.

Welsh Government has awarded funding to Cardiff University to establish, develop and operate the programme, which will be done via a wholly owned subsidiary company. The University will serve as the 'Programme Executive' and has established an Advisory Board.

It is intended that the scheme will allow applications from the following sectors:

- Higher Education
- Vocational Education and Training, including Adult Education
- Schools
- Youth Work

Welsh Government explains in its written statement that it intends for the programme to achieve the following (directly quoted):

- 'Enable reciprocal exchanges (whether based on physical mobility or co-operation remotely) between educational and training institutions as well as youth work settings in Wales and internationally;
- Support, as far as possible, the entire range of activities which have been available to learners in Wales under the EU's Erasmus+ programme 2014 - 2020;
- Build on the success of Global Wales in developing links with priority countries across the world, including the US, Vietnam and India, and supporting an ambitious range of scholarships that will attract the best and brightest students from across the world to study in Wales;
- Ensure that opportunities are available to the widest range of learners and young people, including underrepresented groups, those with additional learning needs and protected characteristics;
- Include additional flexibilities, notably allowing for shorter exchanges involving higher education;
- Support capacity building necessary to facilitate a wide range of participation in the Programme;
- Potentially, support exploratory exchanges to broker international research partnerships,;
- Align closely with our International Strategy'.

Every effort is made to ensure that the information contained in this briefing is correct at the time of publication. Readers should be aware that these briefings are not necessarily updated or otherwise amended to reflect subsequent changes.