

General

1. What is international credit mobility?

For over 25 years, Europe has funded the Erasmus programme, which has enabled over 3 million European students to spend part of their studies in another higher education institution (HEI) elsewhere in Europe. Erasmus+ now opens up these opportunities to students and staff from other parts of the world.

Under international credit mobility, a HEI in a Partner Country can send its students, doctoral candidates or staff to a partner HEI in a Programme Country, and vice versa. Students or doctoral candidates are able to study abroad for a limited period of 3 to 12 months for which credits are obtained. After the mobility phase, the students return to their sending institution to complete their studies. Similarly, staff can spend a teaching and/or training period abroad for up to 2 months.

2. What are "Programme" and "Partner Countries"?

The Erasmus+ programme refers to 'Programme Countries' and 'Partner Countries'.

Programme Countries are those countries participating fully in the Erasmus+ programme. To do so, they have set up a National Agency and contribute financially to the programme. The 33 Programme Countries are:

- The 28 EU Member States, and;
- Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway, the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Turkey.

Partner Countries are all the other countries in the world, grouped together in different regions. Not all Partner Countries are eligible for international credit mobility (see question 3).

3. Is international credit mobility available with any country in the world?

Not all Partner Countries are eligible for international credit mobility. Switzerland, Andorra, Monaco, San Marino, the Vatican City State, as well as Iran, Iraq, Yemen and the countries of the Gulf Cooperation Council (Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and United Arab Emirates) are not eligible for international credit mobility.

For a list of eligible Partner Countries, please refer to pp.23-24 of the [Erasmus+ Programme Guide](#).

4. Is the Partner Country's geographical location of any significance?

The budget available for mobility between Programme and Partner Countries is divided between different regions. The different regions of the world are prioritised, meaning that some regions benefit from larger budget envelopes, funding more mobilities.

The regions with the biggest budgets include the EU's neighbouring countries (East and South), Asia and Central Asia, and the Western Balkans. The regions with smaller budgets include Latin America, African, Caribbean and Pacific countries, the industrialised Americas and industrialised Asia, and South Africa.

Further information on the amounts available under each budgetary envelope will be published on the [National Agency](#)'s website.

5. What are the EU priorities and targets for this action?

For each region, the EU has set a number of targets which will need to be reached **at European level** over the whole duration of the Erasmus+ programme (2014-2020):

With Neighbouring countries (East and South), mobility should be mainly inbound to Europe: no more than 10% of the mobility should be outbound to these countries. This does not apply to Russia;

With Developing Asia and Latin America, at least 25% of the mobility should be organised 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 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 should be spent on Brazil and Mexico.

The targets do not have to be attained by individual HEIs, but National Agencies will take these targets into account when allocating the available budget. In addition, HEIs are encouraged to work with partners in the poorest and least developed Partner Countries.

6. Are there any rules or limitations linked to a Partner Country's geographical location?

In addition to the targets mentioned in question **5**, a few more rules apply:

Outgoing mobility of European students to Asia, Latin America, South Africa and other African, Caribbean and Pacific countries cannot be funded by the EU's external cooperation budget. Outgoing mobility from Europe can therefore only be at doctoral level and for staff. There will however be a few exceptions for students and staff from certain Programme Countries. Please check your [National Agency](#)'s website.

Higher education institutions are free to apply for 100% staff mobility or 100% student mobility or anything in between.

Where the budget envelope for a particular Partner Country or region is limited, a National Agency may choose to add one or more secondary criteria. Programme Country HEIs are therefore encouraged to check their [National Agency](#)'s website to find out if any additional limitations apply.

In general, the funds will have to be used in a geographically balanced way. For this reason, higher education institutions are strongly encouraged to work with

partners in the poorest and least developed Partner Countries in addition to the large emerging economies.

7. Can an institution established in a Partner Country exchange students or staff with an institution from another Partner Country?

No, international credit mobility is only possible between a HEI or a consortium established in a Programme Country and a HEI established in a Partner Country.

Application process

8. Who can submit an application?

International credit mobility is open to participants from HEIs established in Programme and Partner Countries. The application form, however, can only be filled in and submitted by a HEI from a Programme Country on behalf of the partners.

The applicant Programme Country HEI will need to hold an [Erasmus Charter for Higher Education \(ECHE\)](#). See p.35 of the [Erasmus+ Programme Guide](#) for more information on eligibility criteria.

9. Where can I find the application form?

The application form will be available on the [National Agency](#)'s website from October 2016. The applicant HEI must submit the application to the National Agency.

Please note that there are two different applications forms for intra-EU mobility and international credit mobility. Please make sure you fill out the right one.

10. Are there technical guidelines to help HEIs fill out the application form?

HEIs will find the technical guidelines to help them complete the electronic application forms at the following link:

http://ec.europa.eu/programmes/erasmus-plus/discover/guide/documents/eform-technical-guide_en.pdf

11. How many application forms can a HEI from a Programme Country submit?

A HEI from a Programme Country can only submit **one application form** for international credit mobility as an individual institution, covering all the Partner Country HEIs it intends to work with. However, the Programme Country HEIs can also apply for international credit mobility as part of a **consortium**, in which case it is responsible for preventing double funding of the same mobility should the two channels be used simultaneously (see question [99](#)).