

ERASMUS

(European Region Action Scheme for the Mobility of University Students)

Higher Education Student Finance in England 2018/19 Academic Year – Version 1.0

Summary

This guidance looks at the particular eligibility criteria for students who are undertaking a period abroad as part of their course under the ERASMUS scheme, either on a study placement, a work placement, or a combined work and study placement.

The main eligibility criteria can be found in the 18/19 Assessing Eligibility guidance chapter. Administration guidance relating to ERASMUS study can be found in the [Administration](#) section of this chapter.

Disclaimer

This guidance is designed to assist with the interpretation of the Education (Student Support) Regulations 2011 (as amended) (“the Regulations”) as they stand at the time of publication. It does not cover every aspect of student support nor does it constitute legal advice or a definitive statement of the law. Whilst every endeavour has been made to ensure the information contained is correct at the time of publication, no liability is accepted with regard to the contents and the Regulations remain the legal basis of the student support arrangements for the academic year (AY) 2018/19. In the event of anomalies between this guidance and the Regulations, the Regulations prevail. Please note the Regulations are subject to amendment.

ERASMUS study and/or work placements cannot be undertaken if the student attends a private higher education provider (HEP) in the UK.

For the latest information on Erasmus+, HE Practitioners should contact the UK National Agency for Erasmus+:

British Council Tel: 0161 957 7755

Email: erasmusplus.enquiries@britishcouncil.org

Website: <https://www.erasmusplus.org.uk/>

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Abbreviations

Abbreviation	Full
AY	Academic year
ECHE	ERASMUS Charter for Higher Education
EDF	European Development Fund
EEA	European Economic Area
HE	Higher education
HEFCE	Higher Education Funding Council for England
HEP	Higher Education Provider
OFFA	Office for Fair Access
OFS	Office for Students
PI	Partnership Instrument
SFE	Student Finance England
TEF	Teaching Excellence and Student Outcomes Framework
TFL	Tuition Fee Loan

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1 What is Erasmus?

ERASMUS (European Region Action Scheme for the Mobility of University Students) is the higher education strand of the European Union Erasmus+ programme (formerly Lifelong Learning Programme) funded by the European Commission. The main aim of ERASMUS is to promote mobility of university students, teachers and academic staff throughout Europe via a system of partnerships between universities and colleges in the countries currently participating in the scheme (the 28 EU Member States and certain non-EU countries). A full list of the countries taking part in the ERASMUS scheme can be found in [section 13](#). Please note that from 1 January 2014, Switzerland ceased to be part of the ERASMUS scheme.

ERASMUS placements abroad last for a minimum of two months (work placements) or three months (study placements) to a maximum of a full academic year. Students are not eligible for ERASMUS study placements in the first year of study, but these placements can take place in any year of study after that. Students are however eligible for ERASMUS work placements in the first year of study.

Students may be allowed more than one ERASMUS grant during a course provided their time abroad does not exceed 12 months in total. Note that although the ERASMUS scheme permits postgraduate students to undertake mobility, the advice in this guidance is applicable only to first degree (undergraduate) students.

2 Placements under ERASMUS

The ERASMUS scheme allows students to participate in study placements, work placements, or combined work and study placements abroad. The programme works on the basis that the ERASMUS student must be enrolled at a higher education provider (HEP) which holds an ERASMUS Charter for Higher Education (ECHE). ERASMUS work placements have to be recognised by the HEP and will contribute to the final qualification. This is because the training agreement between a student, a HEP and a host enterprise abroad sets out the specific programme for the student to complete. This means that the ERASMUS work placement is contained within a three or four year undergraduate course and students do not stay in HE for additional time like students on sandwich placements.

ERASMUS work placements are not sandwich placements. It is participation in ERASMUS that is the overriding factor for determining the amount of statutory financial support received by the student, not the type of ERASMUS placement that the student undertakes.

3 Fee support for ERASMUS

3.1 Definition of an ERASMUS year

The definition of an 'ERASMUS Year' in 2018/19 is set out in Regulation 2(1) of the Education (Student Support) Regulations 2011, as amended:

“Erasmus year” means an academic year of a course where a student is participating in the action scheme of the EU for the mobility of university students known as ERASMUS and the student’s course is a course referred to in regulation 5(1)(d) or 139(1)(d) and—

- *where the course began on or after 1 September 2012 and is provided by an institution in England, Scotland or Wales—*
 - *at least one period of study or work placement is attended at an institution or workplace outside the United Kingdom (as the case may be); and*
 - *either—*

- *in respect of that academic year the aggregate of any one or more periods of full-time study at the institution in the United Kingdom is less than 10 weeks; or*
- *in respect of that academic year and any previous academic years of the course the aggregate of any one or more periods of attendance which are not periods of full-time study at the institution in the United Kingdom (disregarding intervening vacations) exceeds 30 weeks; or*
- *where the course began before 1 September 2012, all the periods of study or work placement during the academic year are attended at an institution or workplace outside the United Kingdom (as the case may be);*
- *where the course began on or after 1 September 2012 and is provided by an institution in Northern Ireland, all the periods of study or work placement during the academic year are attended at an institution or workplace outside the United Kingdom (as the case may be).*

3.2 Definition history and fees across domiciles

The definition of an 'ERASMUS Year' from AY 2014/15 onwards was updated in the Regulations to reflect the policy to:

- charge English domiciled students starting courses at English institutions on or after 1 September 2012 (2012 cohort students), who were undertaking an ERASMUS study or work placement, up to £1,350 in fees (15% of the then maximum £9,000 fee), and
- allow students to apply for a Tuition Fee Loan (TFL) of up to £1,350 to meet the costs of their tuition fees at HEPs in England and Wales

For institutions with a Teaching Excellence and Student Outcomes Framework (TEF) award and an access plan with the Office for Fair Access¹(OFFA), this amount increased to £1,385 for 2017/18 and 2018/19. This equates to 15% of the maximum TFL of £9,250 that can be charged in England for institutions with a TEF award and an OFFA access plan. For institutions with an OFFA access plan but no TEF award, the maximum fee/fee loan for an ERASMUS year remains at £1,350 for the 2018/19 academic year.

Corresponding changes were made to fees from AY 2014/15 onwards in the Education (Fees and Student Support) (Amendment) Regulations 2013 in respect of maximum fees for English HEPs. The definition of an ERASMUS year that applied before AY 2014/15 and the fee waiver for full year ERASMUS will continue to apply in AY 2018/19 for:

- English domiciled students who started their courses at English HEPs before 1 September 2012, and
- English domiciled students studying at HEPs in Northern Ireland.

The introduction of tuition fees for ERASMUS years for England, Wales and Northern Ireland students attending Scottish HEPs from AY 2017/18 brings Scotland in line with England and Wales, who made the same change in 2014/15. There is therefore no longer a fee waiver for students studying ERASMUS years in Scotland and HEPs will also be able to charge up to £1,385.

¹ From April 2018, the functions of the Office for Fair Access and the Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE) have been taken over by the new Office for Students (OfS).

4 Full-year ERASMUS

4.1 Full –year ERASMUS with reduced fees

Students undertaking ERASMUS for a full academic year who are charged tuition fees and are eligible to apply for a TFL.

In AY 2018/19, students who started a course on or after 1 September 2012 at a HEFCE funded institution in England with a TEF award and OFFA access agreement who are undertaking a full year ERASMUS study or work placement may be charged up to £1,385 (or £1,350 at an institution in Wales). The corresponding maximum tuition fee for an institution with a TEF award but no OFFA access agreement is £920. Students can apply for fee loans to meet the full costs of their tuition. Fee loan caps are set out in regulation 23.

4.2 Tuition Fee Waiver

Students listed below who are undertaking a full-year ERASMUS placement are not charged fees by their institution (tuition fee waiver) and are not eligible for tuition fee loans.

The tuition fee waiver, or concession, is available in AY 2018/19 for:

- English domiciled students who started their course at a UK institution before 1 September 2012 and who go abroad for a full academic year on an ERASMUS placement in AY 2018/19
- English domiciled students who started their course on or after 1 September 2012 who are attending an institution in Northern Ireland and go abroad for a full academic year on an ERASMUS placement in 2018/19

The tuition fee waiver does not apply to:

- Students who are not eligible for tuition support because of previous study.
- Students who are not eligible for any student support under the Regulations. They may, for example, not meet the residence criteria; the fees for these students are set by HEPs themselves and it is for the institution concerned to determine what fees a student in this situation should pay.
- Students who started a course on or after 1 September 2012 at an institution in England and who are undertaking a full year ERASMUS study or work placement in 2018/19. These students may be charged up to £1,385 for tuition at a HEFCE funded institution with a TEF award and an OFFA access agreement (or up to £920 if no OFFA access agreement is in place).

The ERASMUS tuition fee waiver only applies to eligible students who spend a full academic year abroad under the ERASMUS scheme (including any periods of work experience under the scheme and regardless of the subject of study). The definition of a complete academic year for this purpose is at least 24 weeks (excluding holidays). Within the rules of the ERASMUS scheme, students cannot spend a full year abroad on an ERASMUS placement if it is spread across two different academic years.

5 Part-year ERASMUS

Students starting their courses before 1 September 2012

As per the definition set out in [section 3.1](#), an ERASMUS year for a course that began before 1 September 2012 means an academic year where all the periods of study or work placement during that academic year are attended at an institution or workplace outside the United Kingdom.

Students that began their course before 1 September 2012 and undertake only part of an academic year on ERASMUS study/work placement are therefore not classed as on an ERASMUS year. Their eligibility for and entitlement to support will depend on what they do for the other periods of study during that academic year.

Students starting their courses on or after 1 September 2012

The reduced rate TFL for students undertaking a full year on an ERASMUS placement for AY 2018/19 is also available to students on an ERASMUS work or study placement for part of the year. In AY 2018/19, students who start their course on or after 1 September 2012 at HEFCE funded institutions in England with a TEF award and an OFFA access agreement can be charged up to £1,385 for their tuition or up to £920 where no access agreement is in place with OFFA.

As in AY 2017/18, in AY 2018/19 students who started their courses on or after 1 September 2012 and spend time on an ERASMUS placement that spans two academic years may be charged fees of up to £9,250 in the first academic year and up to £1,385 in the second academic year (where institutions have a TEF award and an OFFA access agreement).

As per the definition set out in [section 3.1](#), an ‘ERASMUS year’ for a course that began on or after 1 September 2012 means an academic year where at least one period of study or work placement is attended at an institution or workplace outside the United Kingdom. Students that undertake a period of ERASMUS study or work placement in the same academic year as a period of non-ERASMUS work placement or sandwich course are therefore classed as being on an ERASMUS year. As such, these students are subject to the ERASMUS fee support arrangements outlined above.

Students studying at institutions in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland on an ERASMUS placement in AY 2018/19

Students who started their courses on or after 1 September 2012, are studying on a course in Wales or Scotland and are undertaking an ERASMUS study or work placement in AY 2018/19 will be subject to the same fee charging and student support arrangements as those studying at an English HEP. The full year ERASMUS fee waiver will continue to apply to all English domiciled students studying at HEPs in Northern Ireland.

Maximum fee loans for students studying at HEPs in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland who are undertaking an ERASMUS study or placement year in AY 2018/19 as defined above are set out in the tables below. Please note that ERASMUS study and/or work placements cannot be undertaken if the student attends a private HEP in the UK.

1. Fee loan caps for English domiciled students undertaking an Erasmus year in 2018/19			
	Course provided at institution in	Fee loan cap (please see information on ‘full-year Erasmus’ on page 5 which describes when these rates apply)	
		Course started before 1 September 2012	Course started on or after 1 September 2012
ERASMUS available at publicly funded institution (or regulated institution in Wales)	England	n/a (fee waiver)	£1,385
	Wales	n/a (fee waiver)	£1,350
	Scotland	n/a (fee waiver)	£1,385

	Northern Ireland	n/a (fee waiver)	n/a (fee waiver)
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2. Fee loan caps for English domiciled students undertaking part-year Erasmus Study or part-year Erasmus work placements in 2018/19

	Course provided at institution in	Fee loan cap (please see information on 'Part-year Erasmus' on page 6 which describes when these rates apply)		
		Course started before 1 August 2012	Course started between 1 August - 31 August 2012	Course started on or after 1 September 2012
Erasmus available at a publicly funded institution (or regulated institution in Wales)	England	£1,725	£1,725	£1,385
	Wales	£1,725	£1,350	£1,350
	Scotland	£1,725	£4,625	£1,385
	Northern Ireland	£2,070	£2,070	£2,070

Please refer to the 18/19 Assessing Eligibility and 18/19 Assessing Financial Entitlement guidance chapters for students who spend a period abroad which is not under the ERASMUS scheme.

6 Students from elsewhere in the EU

EU nationals studying at an English HEP and taking part in the ERASMUS scheme will be subject to the same fee and fee support arrangements as English domiciled students.

7 Maintenance Support

There are no special provisions in the student support regulations for the assessment of living costs support (grants and loans) for students undertaking a period abroad under the ERASMUS scheme. Such students should be assessed for grants and loans for living costs in the usual way depending on whether students are 2008, 2009, 2012 or 2016 cohort students and current system students who are not defined under the cohort categories.

The overriding factor for consideration is that such students participate in the ERASMUS scheme, and it is not relevant whether they undertake a period of ERASMUS mobility for the purpose of work, study, or combined work and study. Work placements under ERASMUS scheme are not sandwich placements, as explained in regulation 2(1). Students on 'ERASMUS years' are eligible to apply for the overseas rate of maintenance loan.

8 Travel Grant

Where ERASMUS students meet the eligibility criteria for travel grant, under regulation 52 they shall be eligible for a grant equal to such reasonable expenditure which they are obliged to incur within or outside the United Kingdom for the purpose of attending, as part of their course, an overseas HE institution or undertaking a work placement overseas. The travel grant is therefore available for all eligible ERASMUS students undertaking study or work periods overseas as part of their course. The first £303 of such expenditure is disregarded when determining the amount of travel grant due. The travel grant is also subject to an income assessment.

Student Finance England (SFE) are responsible for assessing the eligibility for and entitlement to the travel grant. It is therefore for SFE to determine whether expenditure is reasonable. However, in determining this, SFE should not take into account the student's income from other sources such as ERASMUS grant. The student's contribution depends on the household income which is determined in accordance with paragraph 3 of Schedule 4 of the Regulations and is applied to grants and loans in accordance with regulation 101 for current system students who are not 2008, 2009, 2012 or 2016 cohort students, and regulation 100 for 2008, 2009, 2012 and 2016 cohort students as described below and in the 'Assessing Financial Entitlement' guidance chapter.

9 Financial assessment

Schedule 4 of the Education (Student Support) Regulations 2011, as amended, provides for the calculation of students' household income for full-time living costs support by reference to 'taxable income'. Any payments for fees under the ERASMUS scheme are disregarded when determining students' income; such payments are not taxable.

10 Application of Household Contribution

For current system students who are not 2008, 2009, 2012 or 2016 cohort students, the household contribution is applied in the following way:

- Applied in full first to any grant for dependants
- Then the income assessed portion of the student loan
- Lastly, any travel grant (regulations 101 and 104).

For current-system students who are 2008, 2009, 2012 and 2016 cohort students, the household contribution is applied in full first to any grant for dependants, then the long courses loan and lastly, any travel grant (regulations 100 and 103).

See the chapter on 'Assessing Financial Entitlement' for further information on the calculation of the student or household contribution and its application to the assessed student support.

11 Previous Study and ERASMUS

ERASMUS study and work placement years that meet the definition of an 'ERASMUS year' which are being undertaken by English domiciled students who started their courses in England and Wales on or after 1 September 2012, and in Scotland on or after 1 August 2017, are included in the definition of 'ordinary duration' and 'standard academic year' in AY 2018/19. This means that ERASMUS years undertaken at institutions in England, Wales and Scotland by these students count as years of previous study when calculating entitlement to tuition fee loans. See the 2018/19 Assessing Eligibility guidance chapter for further information.

12 List of countries in the ERASMUS scheme

All member states of the EU participate in the ERASMUS scheme². These are:

² According to Article 33.3 of the Council Decision 2013/755/EU* on the Association of the OCTs with the European Union adopted on 25 November 2013), the Union shall ensure that individuals and organisations

Austria	Estonia	Italy	Portugal
Belgium	Finland	Latvia	Romania
Bulgaria	France	Lithuania	Slovakia
Croatia	Germany	Luxembourg	Slovenia
Cyprus	Greece	Malta	Spain
Czech Republic	Hungary	Netherlands	Sweden
Denmark	Ireland	Poland	United Kingdom

ERASMUS also includes the EU candidate countries (Turkey and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia) and the European Economic Area (EEA) countries (Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway).

From 2017/18, students will also be able to undertake Erasmus+ study placements, but not work placements, in most third countries (referred to as Partner Countries). Students from institutions in the partner countries will also be able to participate. A list of partner countries is included below; note that mobility to regions 5 and 12 is not possible.³

Western Balkans (Region 1)	Eastern Partnership countries (Region 2)	South Mediterranean countries (Region 3)	Russian Federation (Region 4)
Albania	Armenia	Algeria	Russia
Bosnia and Herzegovina	Azerbaijan	Egypt	
Kosovo ⁴	Belarus	Israel	
Montenegro	Georgia	Jordan	
Serbia	Moldova	Lebanon	
	Ukraine	Libya	
		Morocco	
		Palestine ⁵	
		Syria	
		Tunisia	

Students who wish to study in other institutions that have signed an 'inter-institutional agreement' with their institution should note that studying at an institution located in a specific Partner Country under the scheme is only possible if the institution has requested and received Erasmus+ funding for this country and their institution is located in a Programme Country (such as the UK).

from or to Overseas Countries and Territories (OCT) shall be eligible for the Erasmus+, subject to the rules of the Programme and the arrangements applicable to the Member State with which these OCTs they are connected. This means that individuals and organisations from the OCTs are participating in the programme on a 'Programme country' status, the 'Programme country' being the Member State with which they are connected. The list of OCTs can be found at: https://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/regions/overseas-countries-and-territories-octs/oct-eu-association_en

³ The eligibility criteria formulated in commission notice Nr.2013/C-205/05 (OJEU C-205 of 19/07/2013, pp. 9-11) shall apply for all actions implemented through this Programme Guide, including with respect to third parties receiving financial support in the cases where the respective action involves financial support to third parties by grant beneficiaries in accordance with article 137 of the EU's Financial Regulation.

⁴ This designation is without prejudice to positions on status, and is in line with UNSCR 1244 and the ICJ Opinion on the Kosovo declaration of independence.

⁵ This designation shall not be construed as recognition of a State of Palestine and is without prejudice to the individual positions of the Member States on this issue.

13 Other Partner Countries

Some Actions of the Programme are open to any Partner Country of the world listed below. For some other Actions the geographical scope is less broad.

The Partner Countries below are regrouped according to the financial instruments of the EU external action.

Region 5	Andorra, Monaco, San Marino, Vatican City State, Switzerland
Region 6⁶ - Asia	Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Cambodia, China, DPR Korea, India, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Maldives, Mongolia, Myanmar, Nepal, Pakistan, Philippines, Sri Lanka, Thailand and Vietnam
Region 7⁷ - Central Asia	Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan
Region 8⁸ - Latin America	Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Uruguay, Venezuela
Region 9⁹	Iran, Iraq, Yemen
Region 10¹⁰	South Africa
Region 11 - ACP	Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Benin, Botswana, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Cape Verde, Central African Republic, Chad, Comoros, Congo, Congo – Democratic Republic of the, Cook Islands, Djibouti, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Fiji, Gabon, Gambia, Ghana, Grenada, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, Republic of Cote d'Ivoire, Jamaica, Kenya, Kiribati, Lesotho, Liberia, Madagascar, Malawi, Mali, Marshall Islands, Mauritania, Mauritius, Micronesia – Federated States of, Mozambique, Namibia, Nauru, Niger, Nigeria, Niue, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Rwanda, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and The Grenadines, Samoa, Sao Tome and Principe, Senegal, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Solomon Islands, Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan, Suriname, Swaziland, Tanzania, Timor Leste – Democratic Republic of, Tanzania, Togo, Tonga, Trinidad and Tobago, Tuvalu, Uganda, Vanuatu, Zambia, Zimbabwe
Region 12¹¹ - Industrialised Gulf Cooperation countries	Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates
Region 13¹² - Other Industrialised countries	Australia, Brunei, Canada, Hong Kong, Japan, (Republic of) Korea, Macao, New Zealand, Singapore, Taiwan, United States of America
Region 14	Faroe Islands, Switzerland

Annex A – List of applicable regulations

This guidance applies to full-time students and those who are treated as full-time students for the purposes of the Education (Student Support) Regulations 2011, as amended by:

- The Education (Student Fees, Awards and Support) (Amendment) Regulations 2012

⁶ Classification used in the framework of the Development and Cooperation Instrument (DCI)

⁷ As above ⁸ As above

⁸ As above

⁹ As above

¹⁰ As above

¹¹ Classification used in the framework of the Partnership Instrument (PI).

¹² Classification used in the framework of the Partnership Instrument (PI)

- The National Treatment Agency (Abolition) and the Health and Social Care Act 2012 (Consequential, Transitional and Saving Provisions) Order 2013
- The Universal Credit (Consequential, Supplementary, Incidental and Miscellaneous Provisions) Regulations 2013
- The Education (Student Support and European University Institute) (Amendment) Regulations 2013
- The Education (Fees and Student Support) (Amendment) Regulations 2013
- The Further and Higher Education (Student Support) (Amendment) Regulations 2014
- The Special Educational Needs (Consequential Amendments to Subordinate Legislation) Order 2014
- The Education (Student Support) (Amendment) Regulations 2014
- The Education (Student Support) (Amendment) Regulations 2015
- The Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014 (Consequential Amendments) (Secondary Legislation) Regulations 2016
- The Education (Student Support) (Amendment) Regulations 2016
- The Education (Student Fees, Awards and Support) (Amendment) Regulations 2016
- The Regulation and Inspection of Social Care (Wales) Act 2016 (Consequential Amendments to Secondary Legislation) Regulations 2017
- The Education (Student Fees, Awards and Support) (Amendment) Regulations 2017
- The Employment and Support Allowance and Universal Credit (Miscellaneous Amendments and Transitional and Savings Provisions) Regulations 2017
- The Education (Student Support) (Amendment) Regulations 2018
- The Education (Student Fees, Awards and Support) (Amendment) Regulations 2018
- The Education (Student Support) (Revocation, Amendment and Saving Provision) Regulations 2018
- The Education (Student Support) (Amendment) (No. 2) Regulations 2018
- The Education (Student Support) (Amendment) (No. 3) Regulations 2018
- The Education (Postgraduate Doctoral Degree Loans and the Education (Student Loans) (Repayment) (Amendment) (No. 2) etc.) Regulations 2018

Annex B – Updates log

Date	Updates
v1.0	First version published

Annex C – Student Finance England Practitioners’ helpline

If you have any queries on this guidance, please contact:

Student Finance England

Practitioners Support Team

Tel: 0300 100 0618

Email: ssin_queries@slc.co.uk

Annex D – Other authorities’ contact details

For the latest information on Erasmus+, HE Practitioners should contact the UK National Agency for Erasmus+ at:

British Council

Tel: 0161 957 7755

Email: erasmusplus.enquiries@britishcouncil.org

Website: <https://www.erasmusplus.org.uk/>