



ERASMUS+ AND EUROPEAN SOLIDARITY CORPS GUIDANCE – FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

This document should be read in conjunction with the guidance [Register to claim Erasmus+ and ESC funding from the government guarantee](#).

Delivering a deal negotiated with the European Union (EU) remains the government's top priority. This has not changed, and we encourage organisations to continue to bid into Erasmus+ and the European Solidarity Corps (ESC) on this basis.

However, the government must prepare for every eventuality, including a scenario where the UK leaves the EU with no withdrawal agreement in place (a 'no deal' scenario). It has always been the case that as we get nearer to exit day, preparations for a 'no deal' scenario would be accelerated.

The Commission's Erasmus+ contingency Regulation establishes that Key Action 1 mobilities that are ongoing when the UK withdraws from the EU do not have to be interrupted, even in the no deal scenario. The Regulation applies to mobility activities starting at the latest on the date of withdrawal (31 October 2019) and which take place in the United Kingdom or involve entities or participants from the United Kingdom. All other activity – including mobilities starting after the date of withdrawal - should be registered for the HMG guarantee.

1. [Should I register for the HMG guarantee?](#)

- If you have a grant for a project that includes participants who would be covered by the EC's [Erasmus+ Contingency Regulation](#), please continue to make claims for interim and final payments as normal. If your project's payments are covered by the EC, you will not need to make a claim against the guarantee.
- If the UK leaves the EU without a deal, you may no longer receive EU funding for Erasmus+ and ESC projects and may need to make a claim against the HMG guarantee. The guarantee will cover the payment of awards to UK applicants for all successful Erasmus+ and ESC applications submitted before the end of 2020. Successful applications are those that are approved by the European Commission or approved by the UK National Agency and ratified by the European Commission.
- Registration for Erasmus+ and ESC claims is available now. This form is available on the [Grants Management Function page of GOV.UK](#).
- You will need to submit a recipient registration form to make a claim against the HMG guarantee. This includes centralised, decentralised and UK partners who are involved in successful Erasmus+ applications before the end of 2020.

2. Will the HMG guarantee cover funding for [Key Actions 105 \(Youth mobilities\)](#) and [107 \(Higher Education staff and student mobilities\)](#) for UK organisations?

- The government has guaranteed funding for all EU projects agreed by the EU before the end of 2020, and organisations are encouraged to continue to plan for KA105, KA107 (International Credit Mobilities) and KA1 activity as normal.
- This ensures that UK organisations will continue to receive funding over a project's lifetime if they have a live EU project or if they successfully bid in to EU programmes before the end of 2020.
- This funding can be used by UK organisations to finance incoming and outgoing KA105 and KA107 mobilities as normal, but the HMG guarantee does not cover funding committed to partner organisations in other Member States and other participating countries.

3. How will the guarantee apply to decentralised partnership projects under Erasmus+ Key Action 2 and ESC Volunteering activity where UK organisations are:

a) *The project coordinator*

- The HMG guarantee will cover the payment of awards to UK organisations for all successful Erasmus+ and ESC applications submitted before the end of 2020. Successful applications are those that are approved directly by the Commission or by the UK National Agency and ratified by the Commission.
- The guarantee covers funding committed to UK organisations. It does not cover funding committed to partners and organisations in other Member States and other participating countries. This means that where a UK organisation is the lead member of a partnership, any funding it distributes to non-UK associated beneficiaries is not covered by the guarantee.
- In the event that the HMG guarantee is called upon, it will be for the Commission and other countries to consider how to fund non-UK organisations. The government will need to reach agreement with the EU for UK organisations to continue participating in Erasmus+ and ESC projects and is seeking to hold these discussions with the EU.

b) *One of the partners*

- The HMG guarantee will replace funding for UK organisations' participation in projects.
- In projects involving multiple partner organisations, we expect non-UK partner organisations will still receive funding through the coordinating organisation, but this is dependent on the EC.
- The government will need to reach agreement with the EU for UK organisations to continue participating in Erasmus+ and ESC projects and is seeking to hold these discussions with the EU.

4. What does this mean for the 2019 call for proposals?

- The European Commission has given the Erasmus+ UK National Agency delegated authority to approve applications made in the Erasmus+ and ESC 2019 call rounds. The UK National Agency will be contacting organisations to confirm whether their application was successful in due course. For centralised applications, the Commission will be directly approving these and will contact organisations directly.
- All successful applications will be eligible for the HMG guarantee, in the event that the UK leaves the European Union without a deal.
- We continue to recommend that applications are submitted to the UK National Agency or to the European Commission for the 2019 Erasmus+ and ESC Call for Proposals as normal.
- If the UK leaves the EU under the terms of the withdrawal agreement, Erasmus+ and ESC funding payments and applications will continue as normal until the end of the programme in 2020. It is important that UK organisations and participants are in a position to benefit from the UK's continued participation in Erasmus+ and ESC.
- In the event that the UK leaves the EU with no deal in place, the government's guarantee will cover the payment of awards to UK applicants for all successful Erasmus+ and ESC applications. Successful Erasmus+ applications are those that are approved by the European Commission or approved by the UK National Agency and ratified by the European Commission.
- The government will need to reach agreement with the EU for UK organisations to continue participating in Erasmus+ and ESC projects and is seeking to hold these discussions with the EU.

5. I am a UK organisation and am the lead partner in an Erasmus+/ ESC partnership project¹ which has activity up to and/ or beyond exit day. Can I:

a) *and all partners, both UK and non-UK, prepare for project activity after exit day, as required by my existing Grant Agreement with the UK National Agency, including entering into financial commitments, or should we delay planning activity until a decision on the UK's status in Erasmus+ and ESC is known?*

- Leaving the EU with a deal remains the government's top priority. Organisations should continue to plan as usual as if there is a deal the UK will be able to continue to fully participate in Erasmus+.
- In the event the UK leaves the EU without a deal, the UK organisation's costs would be covered by the HMG guarantee, but the non-UK organisations would not be covered. The

¹ 'partnership project' refers to Erasmus+ Key Action 2 projects and ESC projects, where organisations from different countries work together as partners. 'Lead partner' refers to the organisation coordinating the Erasmus+ grant.

HMG guarantee would also cover UK organisations where projects are able to progress outside of Erasmus+ structures. This would require organisations to establish bilateral or multilateral agreements to confirm that the projects are still viable. The DfE is currently working with stakeholders to develop resources to support this.

b) *be assured that in the event of a no-deal scenario, any non-recoverable financial commitments - that my organisation, plus my non-UK partners have entered into whilst planning for activity after exit day- can be recovered through the HMG guarantee?*

- The HMG guarantee will cover lost grant funding to UK organisations. It will not cover lost grant funding to non-UK partners.

c) *make a payment before exit day to my non-UK partners, as required by my existing Grant Agreement with the UK National Agency or should I delay making the payment until a decision on the UK's status in Erasmus+ and ESC is known?*

- We recommend that all pre-financing payments are made as normal ahead of exit day.

6. How will my non-UK partner in my UK-led Erasmus+ or ESC project access funding to replace that which was originally allocated to them, in the event of a no-deal?

- The guarantee covers funding committed to UK organisations. It does not cover funding committed to partners and organisations in other Member States and other participating countries. This means that where a UK organisation is the lead member of a partnership, any funding it distributes to non-UK associated beneficiaries is not covered by the guarantee.
- In the event that the HMG guarantee is called upon, it will be for the Commission and other countries to consider how to fund non-UK organisations.

7. Where can I find information about the government's no deal preparations?

- The government has launched a public information campaign to ensure that [UK citizens](#), [businesses](#), [EU citizens living in the UK](#) and [UK nationals living in the EU](#) are well informed about how EU Exit will affect them, and the practical steps they will need to take to be ready.
- All information will be published on the [Prepare for EU Exit website](#) and will be updated as necessary.
- For a summary of EU exit no deal preparations specific to your sector, please see:
 - [EU exit: no deal preparations for higher education institutions](#)
 - [EU exit: no deal preparations for further education and apprenticeship providers](#)
 - [EU exit: no deal preparations for schools in England](#)

8. What advice can I give participants?

- The National Agency does not deal directly with participants, but primarily provides guidance for organisations.
- To help your participants prepare for travel after EU Exit, you should direct them to the [Visit Europe after Brexit](#) guidance and the [healthcare](#) advice for UK nationals. This guidance covers both deal and no deal scenarios.
- For country specific information, we strongly recommend that Erasmus+ and ESC participants also subscribe to the relevant [Living in Guides](#).
- Higher education students should also see [student finance arrangements in a no deal scenario](#).

9. In a 'no deal' scenario, will UK nationals need a visa for short mobilities to the EU after exit?

- If there's no deal, UK nationals will not need a visa for short trips, according to European Commission proposals. You could stay for up to 90 days in any 180-day period. You may need a visa or permit to stay for longer, or to work or study.
- You should refer to the [Visit Europe after Brexit](#) page and the [FCO Living In guides](#) which will be updated as and when things change. To get the latest information, you can also [sign up to get email alerts](#).

10. Will Erasmus+ participants be able to work under the 90 day visa free travel proposal?

- The 90-day visa-free period does not entitle UK nationals to undertake paid work in the Schengen area. They will however be able to undertake business meetings, training, sports/cultural events and short-term study. If UK nationals are undertaking activity outside of these areas or intend to stay for more than 90 days in any 180 day period, you will need to check with the host country authorities, as visa and work permit requirements vary between member states.
- You should check with the Embassy of the country where you plan to travel for what type of visa, if any, you or your participants will need. The FCO provides advice on their [country-specific travel advice pages](#). You can also find information about entry requirements if you are intending to work or provide a service in an EU member state on our [advice pages for UK businesses](#).

11. Where can I find the latest information?

We will update these FAQs as more information becomes available. For further information, please contact:

- erasmus@britishcouncil.org for enquiries about higher education
- erasmusplus.enquiries@britishcouncil.org for enquiries about schools or youth projects under Key Actions 2 and 3
- erasmusplus@ecorys.com for enquiries about vocational education and training (VET), adult education or youth projects under Key Action 1
- eusolidaritycorps@ecorys.com for enquiries about the European Solidarity Corps
- ocseusubteam@culture.gov.uk for enquiries regarding ESC and Erasmus+ youth
- [The Department for Education](#) for enquiries about the technical notice and the HMG guarantee

This information is meant for guidance only. You should consider whether you need separate professional advice before making specific preparations.