



Under the new deal, the UK will pay £570m to join an expanded Erasmus + scheme in 2027. (Istock)

THE INDEPENDENT SOPHIE WINGATE

UK to rejoin EU's Erasmus student exchange scheme

The UK to return to the Erasmus exchange programme

Après plusieurs années d'absence liée au Brexit, le Royaume Uni réintègrera Erasmus+ dès janvier 2027. Étudiants, apprentis et adultes en formation pourront de nouveau partir étudier, se former ou effectuer des stages dans toute l'Europe, ouvrant ainsi de nouvelles perspectives éducatives et professionnelles pour plus de 100 000 Britanniques.

The UK will rejoin the European Union's Erasmus student exchange scheme, the Government has confirmed. EU relations minister Nick Thomas-Symonds said the breakthrough "is a huge win for our young people", who will be able to study, train or gain work experience under the EU scheme from January 2027.

2. Work on the UK joining the Erasmus programme was announced as part of Prime Minister Sir Keir Starmer's post-Brexit reset deal with Brussels in May. The UK left the

1. **to rejoin** to return to an organisation / **scheme** programme / **breakthrough** important development, advance / **huge** enormous, very big / **to train** to learn a professional skill.

2. **reset** new start /

scheme under Boris Johnson, who argued it did not offer value for money.

3. The Cabinet Office said the UK has now negotiated financial terms that "strike a fair balance between our contribution and the benefits the programme offers", including a 30% discount compared to what it would have paid under its post-Brexit trade agreement for the first year. The UK will pay around £570 million in 2027, with the cost for future years to be agreed with the bloc.

to argue to present arguments / **value for money** cost-effective, advantageous use of financial resources.

3. **to strike a balance** to find a compromise / **fair** just, equitable / **benefit** advantage / **discount** reduction in price / **trade** commerce / **agreement** accord / **around** about.



Notez la traduction du nom de ces organisations et de leurs sigles :

- EU European Union → **UE** Union européenne
- UN(O) United Nations (Organization) → **ONU** Organisation des Nations Unies
- NATO North Atlantic Treaty Organization → **OTAN** Organisation du traité de l'Atlantique Nord
- WHO World Health Organization → **OMS** Organisation mondiale de la santé
- WTO World Trade Organization → **OMC** Organisation mondiale du commerce

4. Downing Street insisted it is "a good deal", while declining to deny reports the UK had pushed for a larger reduction in fees, saying only that negotiators, "as with every area of international engagement, pushed for the best deal for the British people".

5. Of the £570 million fee, the Prime Minister's spokesman said: "The UK will receive most of that money back to distribute amongst the UK beneficiaries. We will also have the opportunity to compete for grants from a £1 billion central pot directly managed by the European Commission." Mr Thomas-Symonds also said some of the money would "come back" in funding for UK students to go abroad.

6. There will be a review 10 months in to ensure there is a "fair balance" in the number of UK students going abroad and EU students coming here, he told broadcasters. More than 100,000 Britons could benefit from the scheme in the first year alone, according to the Government.

An array of opportunities

7. As well as university-based study exchanges, Erasmus+ will allow further education students and apprentices to take up work placements in European firms. There will be exchange opportunities for adult learners, school groups and sports coaches – and job shadowing and training abroad will be available to education staff. Ministers aim to maximise take-up, particularly among dis-

advantaged groups, by working with institutions and young people.

8. A UK national agency will be set up to run the programme. The Government also hailed an agreement to start talks on the UK participating in the EU's internal electricity market, which it says could lower electricity costs at home.

9. The Cabinet Office minister said: "Joining Erasmus+ is a huge win for our young people, breaking down barriers and widening horizons to ensure everyone, from every background, has the opportunity to study and train abroad.

MORE THAN 100,000 BRITONS COULD BENEFIT FROM THE SCHEME IN THE FIRST YEAR ALONE.

10. "This is about more than just travel: it's about future skills, academic success, and giving the next generation access to the best possible opportunities. Today's agreements prove that our new partnership with the EU is working. We have focused on the public's priorities and secured a deal that puts opportunity first."

11. News of the breakthrough was welcomed by UK education and EU figures, as well as pro-EU campaigners. European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen said the UK's reintegration into the scheme opens the door to "new shared experiences and lasting friendships" for young people.

12. Paul Whiteman, general secretary at the school leaders' union NAHT, said: "From helping to facilitate school trips to teacher exchanges which help with professional

disadvantaged less privileged.

8. to set up to establish / to run to organise / to hail to approve enthusiastically / talks discussions, negotiations / to lower to reduce.

9. win advantage, gain / to break down barriers to remove obstacles to improve understanding and communication between two groups / to widen to expand, to enlarge / background social origins.

10. partnership association, collaboration / to focus on to concentrate on / to secure to obtain.

11. to welcome to receive with pleasure / figure important person / campaigner active supporter of a cause, militant / shared common / lasting continuing for a long time.

12. union organisation which protects workers' rights / trip journey, visit /

A Quick History of Erasmus

Launched in 1987, the Erasmus programme has encouraged student mobility and cultural exchange across Europe. Named after the Dutch humanist Desiderius Erasmus, it has enabled over 10 million Europeans to study, train, or work abroad, becoming one of the EU's most successful educational initiatives.

across ici, partout dans, à travers / to be named after porter le nom de, être baptisé en l'honneur de / Dutch hollandais / over ici, plus de / to train se former / abroad à l'étranger.

development, we know from the UK's previous involvement in the programme that it has huge potential to foster learning, enrichment, skills development, and cultural understanding.

13. Sir Nick Harvey, chief executive of European Movement UK, said: "The UK's former hostility to the idea could not be justified when the benefits of such a scheme are so obvious. Young people want and deserve the chance to study or work in Europe. The Government owes it to them to make sure they get that chance, and rejoining Erasmus+ is a giant step forwards."

14. Liberal Democrats universities spokesman Ian Sollom said: "While this is a welcome breakthrough, it must be viewed as a crucial first step on a clear road-map to a closer relationship with Europe." But Tory shadow foreign secretary Dame Priti Patel accused ministers of "throwing away billions of pounds of hard-pressed taxpayers' money on rejoining Erasmus" as they "continue to betray Brexit". ●

previous past / involvement participation / to foster to encourage, to promote.

13. former past / obvious evident, clear / to deserve to merit / chance opportunity / to owe sth to sb to have a moral obligation to offer sth to sb / step forwards progress, advance.

14. while although / welcome favourable, positive / to view to see / crucial important / step stage, move forward / road-map plan / Tory Conservative / shadow ministerial member of the official political party in opposition to the party in power in the UK / foreign secretary minister of foreign affairs / to throw away to waste / pound = £ (currency of the UK) / hard-pressed overworked, in financial difficulties / taxpayer person who pays (income) tax / to betray to be a traitor to.

4. Downing Street = the Prime Minister, (10 Downing Street London residence and offices of the British Prime Minister) / to decline to refuse / to deny to refuse to accept / to push to put pressure on sb to do sth / area part.

5. fee cost / spokesman representative / back in return / to compete for to apply for (in competition with others) / grant financial aid / to manage to organise / abroad outside the country, to a foreign country.

6. review re-examination / to ensure to guarantee, to make sure / broadcaster TV/radio journalist / Briton British person / alone only.

7. as well as in addition to / to allow to enable, to make sth possible / further more / firm company / job shadowing observing a professional at work / staff personnel / to aim to to have as an objective / take-up participation /