Career Bites
Erasmus+ Funding for Traineeships

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Erasmus+

Erasmus+ programme offers funding to support students to study abroad for up to one year in another European university or to gain valuable international work experience in a European organisation.

Typical ‘work experience’/traineeship activities include:

- English language placements
- Industrial placements
- Degree projects abroad
- Summer placements
- Graduate placements

It IS funding* for relevant traineeship activity, it IS NOT a traineeship offer.
Funding*

BREXIT disclaimer

Like everything else Brexit-related, there is some uncertainty around whether the UK will still be able to participate in Erasmus after 29 March (or whenever the exit takes place).

We are lobbying for continued participation, and if this isn’t possible, for a replacement national scheme.

But we don’t yet know what the situation will be. This will have an obvious impact on funding, so be mindful of this when considering your options, eg paid vs unpaid traineeships, destinations with a lower cost of living, etc.
A traineeship abroad – why you should do it!

- Working abroad makes you half as likely to face unemployment than graduates who have not worked abroad
- Average starting salary of students who have worked abroad is higher than those who have not worked abroad
- Students who have worked abroad are more likely to achieve a higher degree classification
- One in three students who have worked abroad have been offered permanent jobs by their host company
- Develop and evidence skills highly valued by employers:
  - working with colleagues from a wide range of cultural backgrounds
  - embracing multiple perspectives
  - challenging traditional ways of thinking
  - high degree of resilience

Gone International Study, 2016
Who can apply? Everyone!

- Some degree programmes (typically 5 year programmes) have a compulsory year abroad which can incorporate an Erasmus traineeship e.g. Modern language programmes and programmes ‘with industrial placement’ in the title.
- Other degree programmes offer the option to undertake the final year project abroad at a European university/institution e.g. Engineering, Chemistry, Medical Sciences.
- Where there is not a ‘window’ for traineeship activity within the degree programme, consider applying for a summer or graduate traineeship.
Funding criteria

To qualify for Erasmus+ funding your traineeship must:

• take place in a participating country (EU/EEA + Turkey + North Macedonia). You cannot receive funding for traineeships taking place in the UK, nor your home country.
• be at least 60 days duration
• be full-time, applicable to the type of work
• be relevant to your subject area (this does not apply to graduate traineeship or traineeships in digital skills)

EU bodies, including those managing EU programmes, are not eligible as host organisations for Erasmus+ funded traineeships.
Funding criteria cont.

Have you received Erasmus+ funding before?

Over the course of your degree cycle (e.g. undergraduate) you are eligible for a maximum of 12 months Erasmus funding across study and traineeship activities. If you have received funding previously you must email erasmus@abdn.ac.uk to enquire about your remaining entitlement.
Summer traineeships

- Great opportunity to experience time abroad, particularly if your degree programme is not flexible
- Check dates carefully – you shouldn’t overlap with Aberdeen semester dates but need to meet minimum funding duration of 60 days
- Included on your Academic Transcript upon graduation
- Host institution must agree to sign off your Erasmus+ paperwork

Past Aberdeen students have supported Syrian refugees in Italy, undertaken lab work at universities, worked with a technology start-up in Ireland and monitored marine life in Greece.
Graduate traineeships

- Must take place (start and end) within 12 months of your graduation date
- Must apply for funding during your final year of study, ie while you are still a fully registered student at University of Aberdeen
- Funding entitlement relates to the degree cycle you have just graduated from
- Host institution must agree to sign off your Erasmus+ paperwork

Graduated Aberdeen students have gained experience working for a start-up pet-sitting company in France, gained lab experience in Portugal and taught English in Spain (British Council ELA programme).
STEP 1
Find a relevant traineeship

• Search websites and sign up for internship alerts. Start with:
  o erasmusintern.org
  o leonet.joeplus.org
  o EURES platform
  o goabroad.com
  o iagora.com
  o aiesec.org

• Visit the Careers Service!
  o Europe resources on the webpage
  o Register for Career Connect – search by European opportunities/internships
Vacancies being advertised NOW!

- Wiper Blades Product Development Intern at Bosch in Belgium
- Vehicle Pricing Analyst Intern at Toyota in Belgium
- Java Developer Intern in Bulgaria
- Social Media Marketing Intern at the Italian Academy, Italy
- Event and Communications Intern at The Donkey Sanctuary, Spain
Top tips for your search

• Visit the Careers Service for advice about your CV, covering letter and interview skills
• Check out globalgraduates.com for country-specific tips from previous placement students
• Use your contacts, send speculative CVs, set up a LinkedIn profile
• Set up a Skype profile for telephone interviews
Step 2
Apply for Erasmus+ funding

• Application Information Session – Wednesday 20 March, 2-3pm, Regent Lecture Theatre

• Online application opens – Monday 18 March
• Online application closes – Friday 29 March

During this window you can apply for any traineeship activity taking place between 1 June 2019 – 30 September 2020

You don’t need to have a confirmed traineeship offer to apply – speculative applications welcome!
What happens next?

• Approved applicants will receive a Funding Offer Letter. NB grant rates are confirmed annually by the British Council and are not yet known for 2019/20. For 2018/19 the rates were between €400-€450 per month

• Confirm traineeship details with the Erasmus Team

• Complete and return personalised paperwork to Erasmus Team
Want to know more?

• Visit our Erasmus+ traineeships webpages:  
  https://www.abdn.ac.uk/study/undergraduate/erasmus-traineeship-3294.php

• Sign up to our mailing list  https://gecko.fm/pqkbe

• Like our Facebook page ‘Aberdeen Go Abroad’  
  https://www.facebook.com/groups/aberdeengoabroad/

• Email  erasmus@abdn.ac.uk
Questions?