



International Credit Mobility

What is it?

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 individuals and organisations from other parts of the world. Through the new Erasmus+ International Credit Mobility action (ICM), European HEIs can now apply to their National Agency to set up mobility agreements with their counterparts in Partner Countries around the world, to send and receive students, doctoral candidates and staff. Students can obtain credits abroad that will count towards their degree back home. In 2015, the European Commission made over 120 million euro available for International Credit Mobility projects, which will fund mobility for some 30,000 students and staff. Similar levels of funding will be available each year.

Why take part?

International Credit Mobility projects aim to help individual participants acquire skills, to support their professional development and deepen their understanding of cultures. They also aim to increase the capacities, attractiveness and international dimension of the organisations taking part. Taking part in ICM is a good way to start participating in the Erasmus+ programme for HEIs with less experience with international projects. For example, your HEI can start with staff mobility within ICM, add student mobility if the project is successful and decide to apply for larger Erasmus+ projects such as an Erasmus Mundus Joint Master Degree or a Capacity Building project in the future.

Benefits for institutions

Participation in ICM will increase the international ties between HEIs and will give institutions the opportunity to increase their visibility at both local and global level. Both incoming and outgoing students will be ready to share their positive experiences of studying at your institution. This word-of-mouth advertising can boost the reputation of your institution in the world and attract new students. Working with other institutions will give you an opportunity to compare and upgrade your curricula with peer institutions in order to improve teaching quality and to strengthen institutional management.

Benefits for students and staff

Participation in ICM will also have benefits for both your staff and students. Staff can acquire new competences for their professional development, improve their language skills and learn about new teaching methods. Furthermore, a key finding of the Erasmus Impact Study is that taking part in Erasmus+ can boost a graduate's employability and transversal skills. 5 years after graduation unemployment rates among Erasmus participants are 23% lower than among graduates who did not participate in Erasmus.