



CORMACK
CONSULTANCY
GROUP

Internationalising Higher Education

CCG SUGGESTED

“EUROPEAN MOBILITY SCHEME”

BACKGROUND

As you may be aware, the new agreement between the EU and the UK has now been finalised and unfortunately, the UK Government has decided to leave the Erasmus scheme. This is obviously a significant blow to potential student mobility between the UK and the EU.

Moving forward the UK Government will make money available to UK students via the new “Turing Scheme”. This will not fund the mobility of European students to the UK and therefore, it will be up to UK Universities to develop bilateral agreements with partners in Europe based on reciprocity.

IDEA

Our suggested model is based on creating a bilateral partnership around a specific faculty or discipline which would allow for both universities to create a joint academic project which could/should be credit bearing in both institutions.

This project could start with a group of students from University 1 visiting University 2 for a week, where students would meet, and where the project would be explained, joint teams formed, and initial preparation work done. The students would then work within these joint teams on the project, utilising coworking technology. There would then be a further meeting of students (University 2 coming to University 1) where the projects could be finalised and presented, etc. The model has 3 core attributes: short mobility in both directions, project work completed jointly, academic engagement from both sides.

We believe this model would have a number of advantages including:

- **Widen Participation:** We have spoken to a number of clients who recruit from lower socio-economic groups and have low numbers of students having an international experience. Key issues include cost, job and family commitments. This model would only require one week away.
- **Cost-effective:** This would be a reciprocal arrangement, so it would simply be travel costs that would need to be covered.
- **Educational:** This is part of a module, it will be co-designed by academics from two universities, so will have significant educational value. It will also allow for further academic partnerships to develop.
- **International Experience:** there is still an international visit as a key part of the programme.
- **Employability Skills:** The pandemic has demonstrated that effective communication via and use of technology is a key employment skill. This model will give valuable experience of this to students and will develop the skills of working in a team across different time zones and managing projects remotely.

We are keen to build up a list of Universities in Europe who would be keen to be involved in bilateral agreements to develop mobility along either models (traditional semester long and the new arrangement described above).