

## Erasmus The Fight For Funding!

<b>Title:</b>	<b>Erasmus The Fight For Funding!</b>	<b>Date of Student Council:</b>	20 <sup>th</sup> April
<b>Proposer name:</b>	Mary Copsey	<b>Role:</b>	Vice President (Business and Law faculty)
<b>Seconder name:</b>	Fraser Luther-Yarwood	<b>Role:</b>	Vice President(Health, Education, Medicine & Social Care)

### Union Notes:

The Erasmus and Funding Horizon 2020 is an EU Research and Innovation programme which provides about £80 billion of funding available over 7 years (2014 to 2020) for UK research (GOV.UK 2019). The next Erasmus programme will be from 2021 to 2027 and the European Commission has proposed doubling the funding of Erasmus for the next cycle to €30bn (£26bn). However, the details of the programme have yet to be agreed and there is still an element of uncertainty whether or not the UK will be included. If the government do not discuss the terms of the funding before the end of the transition period this programme may no longer be available for UK participants (BBC, 2020).

The House of Lords EU Committee expressed concerns on the new Erasmus programme going global as it may be difficult to replicate with a national programme, that vocational education and training would stop and that leaving Erasmus would "disproportionately affect people from disadvantaged backgrounds and those with medical needs or disabilities" (BBC 2020).

In supporting this statement, Jane Racz, the director of the Erasmus programme in the UK stated that (BBC, 2020)

"The Erasmus... programme has delivered and continues to deliver significant benefits to the UK and we need to ensure the positives of the programme are not lost as we move into the next stage2 (BBC,2020)

For ARU students and staff outward mobility, involving working and studying abroad (Universities UK 2018) currently, in the education sector 53% of UK university students who study abroad do so through the scheme (BBC, 2020). Therefore, losing this programme could have a significant impact on the ARU and its GO GLOBAL scheme as well as impact our students studying on exchange. There is still time to secure our membership of Erasmus but we need to work together with NUS to persuade the Government that the programme offers wide-reaching benefits that tomorrow's students, and the country, would be worse off without.

### Why should ARU students fight for this fund?

The program provides students who would not normally be able to the ability to undertake placements abroad for either work or study (NUS, 2020)

- Those with caring responsibilities that can struggle to fund placements abroad.
- Students from disadvantaged backgrounds who require greater maintenance support that Erasmus can provide.

- Erasmus provides many opportunities for personal development enhancing your employability skills!
- According to NUS (2020) LGBT+ students stated, the experience of going abroad on the Erasmus program was crucial to explore their identity.
- The Erasmus program has long-term economic benefits with, Many EU students have come to the UK on Erasmus placements and stayed on for further study or employment. Erasmus also provides UK students with the cultural awareness and experience of working in other nations.

#### Union Believes:

1. International and EU students are valued members of ARU and will be continued to be welcomed to this institution.
2. No student should be negatively impacted by changes to the current Erasmus programme structure.
3. All students should feel supported, welcomed and thrive in our inclusive environment (Anglia Ruskin Students' Union strategic goal :<https://www.angliastudent.com/plan/>)
4. Students should be supported to take part in global exchanges and partnerships

#### Union Resolves:

1. We will lobby the university to ensure any decisions made in response to Brexit and the Erasmus funding programmes that directly or indirectly impact students will be communicated to them clearly and in a timely manner.
2. The Students' Union will support national motions and campaigns for saving the Erasmus program.
3. In the instance of the UK's exclusion on the Erasmus programme, the Students' Union will continue to lobby the university to seek or fund alternative arrangements so students are able to access the same global opportunities.

#### Policy References

**BBC 2020** - <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/education-47293927>

**GOV.UK 2019**- <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/horizon-2020-funding-if-theres-no-brexideal/horizon-2020-funding-if-theres-no-brexit-deal--2>

**NUS (2020)**- <https://www.nusconnect.org.uk/campaigns-liberation/current-campaigns/save-erasmus>

**Universities UK 2018**- <https://www.universitiesuk.ac.uk/policy-and-analysis/reports/Documents/2018/uuk-parliamentary-briefing-erasmusbackbench-debate-june-2018.pdf>