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5 Attend Erasmus+ Info Days & Networking Events

— These events (online or in person) help participants meet and build consortia.

— You can pitch your idea and exchange contact info.

— Look for National Agency or European Commission-hosted events.

—

What to Prepare Before Contacting Partners

- A short concept note (summary of your project idea)
- The role you want them to play (e.g., trainer, host institution, evaluator)
- Your experience and capacity
- Why you want them specifically

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Ways to Find Erasmus+ Project Partners

1 Use the Erasmus+ Project Results Platform

— https://erasmus-plus.ec.europa.eu/projects

Steps:

- Search for projects similar to your idea (by keyword, country, and topic).
- Look at who coordinated or participated in those projects.
- Use their contact details to reach out and suggest collaboration.

2 Use Partner Search Platforms

— **Erasmus+ Partner Search Tool** (by SALTO or other networks)

- Some Erasmus+ National Agencies and platforms offer specific search tools.

Example: SALTO Youth Partner Finding

— **Euraxess**

- For universities or research-oriented partnerships: https://euraxess.ec.europa.eu/

3 Use Social and Professional Networks

— **LinkedIn:** Search for Erasmus+ project coordinators or universities with international relations departments.

— **Facebook Groups:** Join Erasmus+ focused groups where partners post opportunities.

— **Research Gate:** If your project is academic, researchers often seek EU partnerships.

4 Contact National Erasmus+ Focal Points

— Iraq's Erasmus+ **National** Focal Point can help you connect with EU institutions interested in working with Iraqi universities.

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- Download reports, guides, and tools for your own use
- Contact successful organizations to ask questions or form future partnerships
- Get inspired by project goals, methods, and impact

The EU Funding and Tenders Portal

The EU Funding and Tenders Portal is the official online platform of the European Union where individuals, organizations, and institutions can:

Apply for EU funding

It is where you:

- Find calls for proposals (open opportunities for funding)
- Submit applications for EU-funded programs like Erasmus+, Horizon Europe, etc.

Manage your projects

If you receive EU funding, you will:

- Sign grant agreements
- Submit reports
- Manage partners
- Upload documents and communicate with the EU through this portal

Search for opportunities

You can find:

- Open and upcoming calls
- By program, topic, country, or deadline
- Detailed call documents, templates, and guides

EU Login required

To use the portal (e.g., to apply or register your organization), you must have an:

- EU Login account (free account for individuals)

And your organization needs to be registered to get:

- PIC number (Participant Identification Code)
- OID number (for Erasmus+ and ESC)

Access the portal here:

- https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal

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Step 2 : Use the search bar

- At the top, you will find a search bar. You can search by:
  - Keyword (e.g., "Iraq", "higher education", "inclusive learning")
  - Project title or acronym
  - Topics (e.g., climate, migration, digital education)
  - Organization name (e.g., your university or another)
- Click Search or press Enter.

Step 3 : Apply filters (left side of the screen)

- To narrow your results, use filters like:
  - Country – to find projects involving your country (e.g., Iraq)
  - Project status – ongoing or completed
  - Programme – Erasmus+, LLP, etc.
  - Action type – KA1, KA2, Jean Monnet, etc.
  - Year – when the project was funded
- Example:
  If you want Erasmus+ projects involving Iraq, select:
  - Country: Iraq
  - Programme: Erasmus+
  - Action type: for example Capacity Building in Higher Education.

Step 4 : Click on a project title

- You will see a list of matching projects. Click a title to view:
  - Project summary
  - Objectives
  - Coordinator & partners
  - Results (documents, websites, videos, toolkits, etc.)
  - Contact information

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The Erasmus+ Project Results Platform

What you can find on the platform:
- Descriptions of completed and ongoing projects
- Objectives, activities, and target groups
- Project outcomes like reports, toolkits, videos, curricula, best practices, and methodologies
- Partners involved (including their countries and roles)
- Contact details of coordinating organizations

How it's useful:
- For researchers & institutions: To find partners or ideas for new proposals
- For students & educators: To explore learning materials and innovative teaching tools
- For policymakers: To track impact and success stories
- For everyone: To see how EU funds are used in education and training

Access the platform here:
- https://erasmus-plus.ec.europa.eu/projects

Example Uses:
- Iraqi universities can use it to see successful Erasmus+ projects in the region.
- If you are applying for funding, you can get inspiration from what others have done.
- You can download project results (e.g., guides, handbooks) and contact successful applicants to learn from their experience or collaborate.

How to use this platform

Step 1 : **Go to the website**
■ Visit the official platform: https://erasmus-plus.ec.europa.eu/projects

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- Preferred language.

Make sure the email address is professional and accessible, as this is how the system will contact you.

- Create a strong password following the rules:
  - At least 10 characters
  - Includes uppercase, lowercase, number, and symbol

Example: Erasmus@2025!

- After submitting the form, you'll receive an email from the system with the subject line: "EU Login – Confirmation email"
- Open the email and click the confirmation link.

If you don't see it, check your spam or junk folder

- Once confirmed, your account is activated. You can now log in at: https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/cas
- Use your email address and password to access:
  - The Funding & Tenders Portal
  - Organisation registration
  - Erasmus+ proposal submission system

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Step 4 : Prepare the Proposal

- Download or complete the Application Form (Part A and B)
- Attach:
  - Detailed Budget
  - Work Plan / Project Description
  - Declarations of Honor
  - Letters of Mandate from partners

Step 4 : Submit

- Upload everything through the Portal Submission System
- Verify that the information is correct
- Click "Submit" and save confirmation email

How to Create an EU Login Account

Step 1 : Go to the EU Login page

- Open this link in your browser: https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/cas
- You'll see a screen like this:
  "EU Login – European Commission Authentication Service"

Step 2 : Click "Create an account"

- At the bottom of the login box, click the link that says:
  "Create an account"

Step 3 : Fill in your personal information

- You'll be asked to enter:
  - First name
  - Last name
  - Email address (a valid and working one)

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3 When to Apply?

For example, under a Capacity Building for Higher Education (CBHE) call:

Milestone	Date
Call Published	19 November 2024
Online Submission Opens	26 November 2024
Deadline to Submit Proposal	6 February 2025 (17:00 Brussels time)

Always aim to submit at least **48** hours before the deadline, in case of technical errors or missing documents.

Application Process

Step 1 : Find the Call

- ■ Go to the Funding & Tenders Portal
- ■ Search for calls under Erasmus+ Programme (e.g., CBHE)
- ■ Read the call description and Guidelines for Applicants

Step 2 : Register Your Organization

- ■ Register on the Organization Registration System
- ■ Get your:
  - • PIC Number (Participant Identification Code)
  - • OID Code (Organization ID) — required for Erasmus+ actions

Step 3 : Form Your Partnership

- ■ Build a consortium with eligible partners (e.g., universities in Europe + Iraq)
- ■ Define roles, work packages, and a clear budget.

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■ Financial identification form (if applying for grants)

Note: If these are not available in English, translations might be needed.

Once submitted:

■ You will receive an OID (Organization ID) and possibly a PIC.

■ You can now use this OID to apply for Erasmus+ funding.

How to Submit a Proposal to the Erasmus+ Programme

1 Where to Apply?

All Erasmus+ proposals are submitted online through the:

Funding & Tenders Portal (F&TP) of the European Commission

This is the official platform where:

- Erasmus+ calls for proposals are published
- Application forms are accessed
- Proposals are submitted
- Results are tracked

You must create an EU Login account to access the portal and submit. (How to create EU account)

2 Who Can Submit a Proposal?

Only the Coordinating Organization can create and submit the proposal.

Within that organization, a designated Contact Person (e.g., a project officer or academic coordinator) must:

- Register the organization (OID and PIC codes required)
- Complete and submit the application form
- Upload all required documents

For Iraq, eligible institutions include universities, NGOs, ministries, youth organizations, etc., depending on the action. Each partner must be registered, but only the lead partner submits the proposal.

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How can Iraqi universities obtain an OID and PIC?

Step 1 : Check if your university already has an OID

- Use the EU's Organization Registration Search Tool
- Search your university by name or city.

If it already exists, there is no need to register again. If not, proceed with the steps below.

Step 2 : Create an EU Login

- Go to: https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/cas
- Click "Create an account"
- Enter your email, set a password, and activate your account.

Step 3 : Register Your University

- Log in to the Organization Registration System: https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/erasmus-esc/organisation-registration/screen/home
- Click "Register My Organization"
- Fill in all required information about your university, including:
  - Legal name (in English)
  - Address
  - Legal representative
  - Contact person
  - Type of organization (e.g., higher education institution)

Step 4 : Upload Legal Documents

You will be asked to upload:
- Legal Entity Form
- Proof of legal existence (university founding law or similar)
- VAT or registration number (if applicable)

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4. Policy and Programme Support

- Work closely with national authorities to ensure Erasmus+ is aligned with the country's education and development priorities.
- Provide feedback to the European Commission on the impact and effectiveness of the programme locally.

National Focal Point for Iraq

- ENFP Contact: Moafaq Sachit (Head of International and Arabic Organizations Department)

- Affiliation: Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research, Iraq

Role of the NFP in Iraq

- Acts as the official bridge between the Erasmus+ Programme and Iraqi stakeholders, students, academics, institutions, and youth organizations.

- Provides practical guidance and support for all Erasmus+ activities, including:

- Higher education mobility (student and staff exchanges)
- Youth projects
- Vocational education and training

- Organizes information sessions, workshops, and awareness campaigns to promote Erasmus+ within the country.

- Assists in finding project partners, drafting proposals, and understanding Erasmus+ calls and procedures.

- Works with the European Commission, EACEA, and the EU Delegation in Iraq to ensure smooth implementation of Erasmus+ and alignment with local priorities

What are Pic Number and OID?

1. PIC Number (Participant Identification Code)

- Used **mainly** for Erasmus+ projects before 2023 or in older application platforms (like the old Participant Portal).

- Some projects still **ask** for it, but it is gradually being replaced by OID.

2. OID Number (Organization ID)

Required for Erasmus+ projects from 2021 onward, especially for:

- Erasmus+ KA1 (mobility)
- KA2 (cooperation partnerships)
- Capacity Building in Higher Education (CBHE)

Erasmus+

What Is the Erasmus+ Programme Budget?

Total Budget (2021–2027)

- The Erasmus+ Programme has a total indicative budget of over €26 billion for the entire seven-year period (2021–2027).
- This budget is provided by the European Union (EU) and reflects the EU's strong commitment to education, youth, training, and sport.

Why Is This Budget Important for Iraq?

- As a partner country, Iraq has increasing access to Erasmus+ funds, especially under: (ICM), (EMJMD), (CBHE)
- These funds help Iraqi students and academics gain international experience, improve education quality, and foster innovation in universities.

Erasmus+ National Focal Points (ENFPs)

Erasmus National Focal Points (ENFPs) are official representatives appointed in partner countries not associated with the Erasmus+ Programme.

What Do They Do?

NFPs are support structures that help the European Commission and the Executive Agency to ensure the smooth participation of their countries in Erasmus+ activities.

They offer:

1. Guidance and Practical Information

- Help students, teachers, institutions, and government bodies understand Erasmus+ opportunities.
- Provide step-by-step assistance with applications, eligibility, and procedures.

2. Stakeholder Engagement

Act as the main contact point for:

- Universities and vocational institutions
- Ministries and public bodies
- Civil society and youth organizations
- Facilitate partnerships between local institutions and European counterparts.

3. Programme Promotion

- Raise awareness about Erasmus+ actions in higher education, youth, training, and sport.
- Organize events, info days, and workshops to improve visibility and outreach.

Erasmus+

Erasmus+ Programme Budget & ENFPs

4 Relevance of the Study or Teaching Plan to the Home Institution

Applicants must show that their **proposed** studies, teaching, or training abroad directly benefit their home university or department in Iraq.

Examples:

- A student in environmental engineering applies to study climate change policies in Europe—relevant to Iraq's sustainability goals.
- A literature professor proposes to teach comparative Middle Eastern-European literature—promoting intercultural understanding.
- A training mobility plan introduces digital teaching tools that can be adopted in Iraqi classrooms.

Selection committees **assess** how the project supports:

- Curriculum development
- Institutional capacity building
- Research collaboration
- Alignment with national higher education priorities

Erasmus+

Eligibility and Selection Criteria

For Students & Academic Staff

1 Enrollment or Employment at a Recognized Iraqi Higher Education Institution

— Applicants must be **officially enrolled** as **students** or **employed** as academic/research staff at a university or institution that is part of the Iraqi Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research network.

— **Proof** of **enrollment** or **employment** status (e.g., university ID, employment letter) is usually required.

2 Academic Excellence and Clear Motivation

— Students should have a **strong** academic record, especially in subjects relevant to the host university or program.

— A well-written **motivation letter** is essential—it should:

- Explain why you want to participate in Erasmus+
- Highlight your academic/professional goals
- Describe how this opportunity will impact your future career or research

— For academic staff, motivation should **focus** on international collaboration, research goals, and knowledge transfer.

3 Language Proficiency (Typically English B2 Level or Equivalent)

— Most Erasmus+ programs **require** English language skills equivalent to at least CEFR level B2. This can be **proven** through:

- TOEFL or IELTS scores
- Institutional English proficiency tests
- Proof of previous education in English

— Some host institutions may **require** a higher level or other languages depending on the program.

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Erasmus+ Application Procedures For Academic Staff

1 **Contact Your Institution's Erasmus+ Coordinator**

- **Reach** out to the Office of International Relations or department head to express interest.
- **Confirm** which European institutions your university has partnerships with.

2 **Prepare a Teaching or Training Mobility Plan**

- **For Teaching Mobility:** Outline the courses or lectures you plan to deliver at the host institution.
- **For Training Mobility:** Specify workshops, job-shadowing, or staff development activities you will participate in.
- **Ensure** the plan aligns with the priorities of both your university and the partner institution.

3 **Get Institutional Support**

- Your **application** must be endorsed by your university.
- **Coordination** between your university and the partner EU institution is essential.

Deadlines and Timing

Deadlines vary depending on:

- Your home institution's internal timeline
- The partner university's nomination and application periods
- The type of mobility (student or staff)

Early Preparation is Essential

- Start gathering documents and exploring options at least 6–8 months in advance.
- Some Erasmus+ calls are announced annually, while others are tied to specific partnership agreements.

Erasmus+

Erasmus+ Application Procedures For Students

1 **Start at Your University's public relations office**

— **Visit** or contact your International Relations or Scholarships Office to find out if your university has an Erasmus+ agreement.

— **Ask** about available partner universities, open calls, and eligibility requirements.

2 **Prepare the Required Documents**

Typical application packages include:

— A **valid** passport

— University **transcript** showing academic performance

— **Motivation letter** explaining why you want to study abroad and how it fits your academic/ professional goals

— **Language** proficiency certificate (usually English, such as TOEFL, IELTS).

3 **Apply Through Your University**

— **Submit** your application and required documents before the internal deadline set by your university.

— If selected, your university will **nominate** you to the European partner institution.

Erasmus+

Erasmus+ Application Procedures

European
Commission

Benefits:

▸ Positions Iraqi academics as regional experts on EU-related subjects.
▸ Encourages student interest in European studies and international cooperation.
▸ Promotes scholarly and cultural exchange between Iraq and Europe.

Benefits for Academic Staff

Professional Development

Improve teaching methods, gain new research insights, and acquire international academic experience.

Innovation in Curriculum and Research

- **Exposure** to European teaching methods, digital tools, and curriculum structures.
- Opportunity to **adapt** modern and interdisciplinary approaches to Iraqi higher education.
- **Access** to cutting-edge research trends, funding opportunities, and research infrastructure in EU institutions.
- Enables Iraqi academics to **introduce** new courses, improve academic quality, and align with global standards.

Networking with European Counterparts

- **Build** long-term academic and professional relationships with scholars and institutions across Europe.
- **Open** doors for joint research, co-publications, and future collaborative projects.

Erasmus+

Capacity Building Projects

Long-term partnerships between Iraqi and EU universities to modernize and reform higher education systems. **Key Features:**

▶ **Curriculum Modernization:** Updating study programs to meet international standards.
▶ **Governance Improvements:** Strengthening university administration, quality assurance, and strategic planning.
▶ **Policy Development:** Supporting national higher education reforms in Iraq.
▶ **Infrastructure & Resources:** May include digital transformation projects, new laboratories, or online learning platforms.

Examples of Outcomes:

▶ Creation of new degree programs in emerging fields.
▶ Development of national research strategies.
▶ Training a new generation of Iraqi academics in modern pedagogical methods.

Jean Monnet Activities

Special Erasmus+ funding focused on teaching, research, and outreach in the field of European Union studies.

Who Can Apply?

✔ Professors   ✔ Researchers   ✔ Departments   ✔ Faculties

interested in:

✔ EU Law   ✔ Policy   ✔ History   ✔ Economics

✔ Integration Studies   ✔ International Relations

Types of Activities:

▶ **Jean Monnet Modules:** Short teaching programs on EU topics integrated into existing curricula.
▶ **Jean Monnet Chairs:** Longer-term teaching posts held by professors specializing in EU studies.
▶ **Jean Monnet Centres of Excellence:** University hubs that combine teaching, research, and public outreach on EU matters.

Erasmus+

Erasmus+ is not only for students—it offers valuable opportunities for academic staff, administrators, and researchers to enhance their skills, exchange knowledge, and build sustainable international collaborations. These opportunities are designed to strengthen ties between Iraqi and European universities while improving the quality of higher education in Iraq.

Teaching Mobility

Short-term academic exchange programs that allow Iraqi professors and lecturers to teach at a partner university in Europe for 5–14 days. **Key Features:**

▸ **Knowledge Exchange:** Visiting lecturers share expertise, teaching methods, and research insights with European colleagues.
▸ **Curriculum Enrichment:** Exposure to different academic environments helps participants bring new perspectives and teaching techniques back to their home institutions.
▸ **Networking:** Builds personal and institutional relationships, opening doors to future joint projects.
▸ **Support:** Funding generally covers travel, daily subsistence, and accommodation.

Example Activities:
▸ Delivering guest lectures or intensive courses.
▸ Participating in curriculum development sessions.
▸ Co-teaching with European faculty members.

Training Mobility

Short-term professional development opportunities in Europe for both academic and administrative staff. **Key Features:**

▸ **Professional Development Workshops:** Focused on teaching methodologies, student support, curriculum design, or research management.
▸ **Staff Training Courses:** Tailored programs to enhance leadership, digital tools, and institutional operations.
▸ **Job Shadowing:** Observing the daily work of peers at European institutions to learn best practices in administration and academic management.

Benefits:
▸ Improves individual skills in teaching, administration, and institutional leadership.
▸ Encourages adoption of innovative approaches in Iraqi universities.
▸ Strengthens the capacity to deliver modern, student-centered education.

Erasmus+

Erasmus+ Opportunities for Academic Staff

European
Commission

Benefits for Students

Fully Funded Travel and Living Expenses

All transportation, accommodation, and daily expenses are **covered** by Erasmus+ grants.

Access to High-Quality Education

Study in top-ranked European universities with access to advanced resources, libraries, and research.

Multicultural Experience

- **Live** and study in a diverse environment with students from Europe, Asia, Africa, and beyond.
- **Develop** global friendships and professional networks.
  Learn how to adapt to new cultures, languages, and academic systems.
- **Gain** intercultural communication skills, essential for working in international settings.
- **Experience** different ways of life, food, traditions, and viewpoints that broaden your personal and academic growth.

Erasmus+

Virtual Exchanges

Online, intercultural activities connecting students from different countries through dialogue, collaborative projects, and skill-building programs.

Key Features:

- ▶ **Accessible Anywhere:** Ideal for students unable to travel due to financial, personal, or political constraints.
- ▶ **Intercultural Dialogue:** Participants engage in moderated discussions on global issues, cultural understanding, and teamwork.
- ▶ **Skills Development:** Enhances soft skills such as communication, critical thinking, digital literacy, and problem solving.
- ▶ **Flexible Participation:** Can be completed alongside ongoing studies in Iraq without interrupting academic schedules.

Choosing the Right Opportunity

Check which agreements their university has with European institutions.

Explore program requirements, language prerequisites, and application deadlines.

Seek guidance from their university's International Relations Office or Scholarships Department.

Align Erasmus+ opportunities with their academic goals and career plans.

Erasmus+

Erasmus+ offers a wide range of opportunities for Iraqi students to engage in international education, cultural exchange, and professional development. The scope of these opportunities depends on the agreements between Iraqi and European institutions, but generally includes the following main types of participation:

Credit Mobility

Credit Mobility allows Iraqi students to study abroad at a European university for a set period—typically one semester (4–6 months) or a full academic year.

Key Features:

▸ **Academic Recognition:** The courses and credits earned during the mobility period are formally recognized by the student's home university in Iraq, ensuring no loss of academic progress.
▸ **Field of Study:** Available fields depend on the partnership agreements between the Iraqi university and the host European institution. These may range from engineering and natural sciences to humanities, business, and social sciences.
▸ **Cultural & Professional Exposure:** Students benefit from exposure to new teaching styles, academic environments, and cultural settings.
▸ **Funding Coverage:** Scholarships usually cover travel costs, monthly living allowance, and sometimes insurance, depending on the specific Erasmus+ project.

Erasmus Mundus Joint Master Degrees (EMJMD)

A highly competitive and prestigious program offering full scholarships for students to pursue a Master's degree through a consortium of European universities. **Key Features:**

▸ **Multi-Country Study:** Students complete their degree by studying in at least two different European countries, often with additional opportunities for study or internships outside Europe.
▸ **Comprehensive Funding:** Covers tuition fees, travel expenses, health insurance, and a monthly living allowance.
▸ **Wide Range of Specializations:** EMJMD programs exist in numerous academic fields, from renewable energy and engineering to cultural heritage and public health.
▸ **Global Networking:** Students join an international cohort, building lifelong academic and professional networks.

Erasmus+

Erasmus+ Opportunities for Iraqi Students

European Commission

Specific Objectives of Erasmus+ (Higher Education focus)

1 Enhance international mobility

— Support student and staff exchanges between universities.

— Offer opportunities for studying, teaching, and training abroad.

2 Promote academic cooperation

— Fund joint programs such as Erasmus Mundus Joint Master Degrees.

— Encourage partnerships between universities, businesses, and NGOs.

3 Improve recognition of qualifications

— Work towards transparent and comparable education systems.

— Support frameworks like ECTS (European Credit Transfer System).

4 Develop capacity in higher education

— Build institutional capacity in partner countries (like Iraq).

— Support reforms in governance, management, and curriculum development.

5 Foster innovation and entrepreneur-ship

— Encourage entrepreneurship among students and staff.

— Connect education with the labor market and societal needs.

6 Support digital and green skills

— Advance digital literacy, online learning, and environmental awareness.

— Align with EU priorities like the Green Deal and Digital Education Action Plan.

Erasmus+

The General objectives of the Erasmus+ Programme

1 Promote lifelong learning and skills development

— Encourage learning at all ages and levels.
— Support personal and professional growth.

2 Strengthen international cooperation in education

— Enhance collaboration between European and non-European countries.
— Foster global academic and institutional partnerships.

3 Improve quality and innovation in education and training

— Support modernization and innovation in higher education.
— Encourage digital transformation and new teaching methods.

4 Promote social inclusion and equal opportunities

— Support underrepresented and disadvantaged groups.
— Encourage diversity, inclusion, and civic engagement.
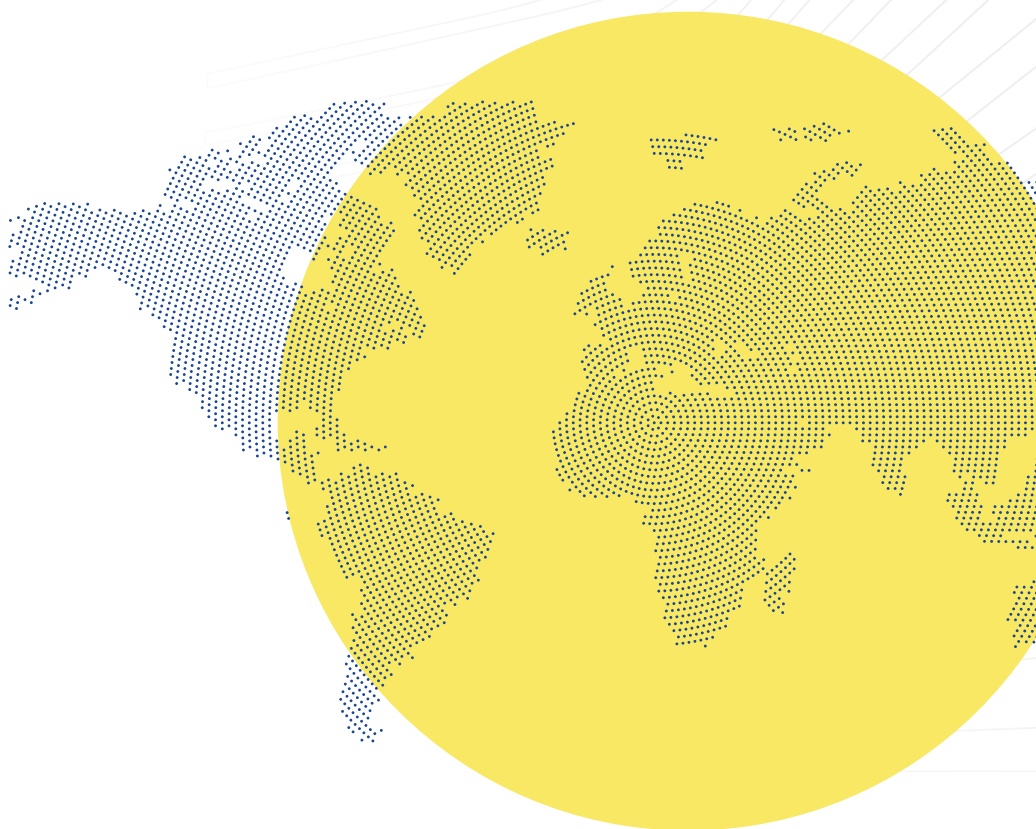
5 Contribute to the European Education Area and beyond

— Help align education systems across Europe and partner countries.
— Share values like democracy, human rights, and environmental sustainability

Erasmus+

Why Erasmus+ Matters for Iraq

Erasmus+ is a key tool for developing Iraq's academic capacity, fostering cultural exchange, and preparing students and faculty for a globalized workforce. It provides Iraqi universities and students access to modern education practices, international networks, and valuable resources.

By enabling the exchange of students, staff, and ideas across borders, Erasmus+ builds global connections between Iraqi institutions and leading universities worldwide. Through joint projects and collaborative research, it enhances academic quality and drives innovation. Equipping participants with cross-cultural skills and global perspectives, Erasmus+ directly contributes to Iraq's national development, modernization, and integration into the global academic community.

Erasmus+

This table is a summary of Erasmus+ opportunities available to different world regions, including the Middle East (Iraq, Iran, Yemen).

Recap per Region	Sub-Saharan Africa	Latin America	Caribbian	Asia	Middle East (IIY + GCC)	Pacific
ICM	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES
Erasmus Mundus	YES*	YES*	YES*	YES*	YES*	YES*
CB HE	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES
Jean Monnet	YES*	YES*	YES*	YES*	YES*	YES*
CB VET	YES	YES	YES	NO	NO	NO
EVE	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO
E-Twinning	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO
CB Youth	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO
Sport	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO

Iraq have access to:

- **ICM – International Credit Mobility:** Exchange of students and staff with European universities (funded stays abroad).
- **Erasmus Mundus:** Joint master's degrees with full scholarships for Middle Eastern students.
- **CB HE – Capacity Building in Higher Education:** Funding for projects that modernize and strengthen higher education systems.
- **Jean Monnet:** Activities focusing on EU studies, policy, and research cooperation.

Not available for Middle East:

- CB VET (Capacity Building in Vocational Education and Training)
- EVE (Volunteering and European Solidarity Corps)
- E-twinning (school-level digital collaboration)
- CB Youth (Capacity Building in Youth work)
- Sport (collaboration in sports sector)

Erasmus+

Being in Region 7 means **Iraq**, along with Iran and Yemen, is classified under the Middle East funding and partnership category in Erasmus+. This classification has direct implications for opportunities and as follows:

🪙 Dedicated Regional Budget

Erasmus+ sets aside a specific pot of funds for Region 7. Iraqi institutions compete for mobility and cooperation grants within this regional budget, not against the entire world.

👉 Partner Country Status

As a Partner Country (not a Programme Country), Iraq is eligible for:
- International Credit Mobility (ICM): Exchange of students and staff with European universities.
- Capacity-Building Projects: Institutional development and modernization projects in higher education.
- Jean Monnet Activities (limited to certain calls): Focus on EU studies.

🏦 Development Focus

Erasmus+ often prioritizes Partner Countries in lower/middle-income brackets for funding, meaning Region 7 partners may receive favorable consideration for projects that address skills gaps, curriculum modernization, governance, and innovation.

♟ Differences from Other Regions

- Some regions (e.g., Western Balkans – Region 1) have larger budgets and closer political ties to the EU, which can mean more funding opportunities per capita.
- High-income regions (e.g., Gulf countries in Region 9) often can participate but receive less direct EU funding and may need to self-finance mobility.
- Region 7 countries must often demonstrate strong development impact in their proposals to secure funding, which can be an advantage if aligned with national priorities.

🚩 Practical Takeaway for Iraq

- There is a clear pathway to secure Erasmus+ funds if proposals highlight Iraq's needs in higher education reform, digitalization, quality assurance, and international networking.
- Partnerships with EU universities can be built around research, training, and joint degrees, with mobility flows fully funded for Iraqi participants in many cases.

Erasmus+

Region 7 Middle East	Iran, Iraq, Yemen **High income countries:** Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates
Region 8 Pacific	Cook Islands, Fiji, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Micronesia, Nauru, Niue, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands11, Timor-Leste, Tonga, Tuvalu, Vanuatu **High income countries:** Australia, New Zealand
Region 9 Sub-Saharan Africa	Angola, Benin, Botswana, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Cape Verde, Central African Republic, Chad, Comoros, Congo, Congo - Democratic Republic of the, Côte d'Ivoire, Djibouti, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Eswatini, Ethiopia, Gabon, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Kenya, Lesotho, Liberia, Madagascar, Malawi, Mali, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mozambique, Namibia, Niger, Nigeria, Rwanda, Sao Tome and Principe, Senegal, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Somalia, South Africa, South Sudan, Sudan, Tanzania, Togo, Uganda, Zambia, Zimbabwe
Region 10 Latin America	Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Uruguay and Venezuela
Region 11 Caribbean	Antigua & Barbuda, Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Cuba, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Grenada, Guyana, Haiti, Jamaica, St Kitts and Nevis, St Lucia, St Vincent & Grenadines, Suriname and Trinidad & Tobago
Region 12 US & Canada	United States of America, Canada

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Regional Distribution of Erasmus+

Region **1** Western Balkans	Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo, Montenegro
Region **2** Neighbor-hood East	Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Moldova, Ukraine
Region **3** South Mediterran-ean	Algeria, Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, Palestine, Syria, Tunisia
Region **4** Russia	Russia
Region **5** Asia	Bangladesh, Bhutan, Cambodia, China, DPR Korea, India, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Maldives, Mongolia, Myanmar, Nepal, Pakistan, Philippines, Sri Lanka, Thailand and Vietnam **High income countries:** Brunei, Hong Kong, Japan, Korea,
Region **6** Central Asia	Afghanistan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan

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Who Implements the Erasmus+ Programme?

1

European Commission

- The main executive body responsible for the overall management and strategic direction of the Erasmus+ Programme.
- It defines priorities, rules, and budgets, and monitors implementation across Europe and partner countries.

2

European Education and Culture Executive Agency (EACEA)

Manages centralized actions, such as:
- Erasmus Mundus Joint Master Degrees.
- Jean Monnet Activities.
- Capacity Building in Higher Education.
- Alliances for Innovation.

Handles project selection, funding, monitoring, and evaluation for international partnerships.

3

Ministry of Higher education & scientific research in Iraq

Acts as the local contact point for Erasmus+ in Iraq. Provides:
- Guidance and support to Iraqi students, academics, and institutions .
- Promotion and visibility of the programme .
- Assistance in building partnerships with European institutions.
- Monitors the impact of Erasmus+ projects and ensures alignment with

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3. Digital Transformation

Erasmus+ plays a key role in supporting the digital transformation of education, training, youth, and sport sectors across Europe and beyond. In line with the Digital Education Action Plan (2021–2027), the program encourages the development of digital competencies and the integration of digital tools to ensure inclusive, high-quality, and future-ready learning environments.

⊙ Enhance digital skills and ICT-based teaching and learning

Erasmus+ fosters the development of digital literacy and advanced ICT competencies for both learners and educators. This includes promoting innovative teaching practices, digital pedagogy, and the effective use of online platforms, educational software, and virtual learning environments. Through projects, training, and professional development opportunities, the program supports teachers, students, and educational staff in navigating and thriving in an increasingly digital world.

⊙ Promote virtual exchange and hybrid mobility

To broaden participation and increase accessibility, Erasmus+ supports virtual exchanges and blended mobility opportunities, combining physical and online learning experiences. These formats make international collaboration more flexible and inclusive, particularly for those who may face barriers to physical travel. Participants can engage in intercultural learning, joint projects, and academic collaboration without leaving their home countries—thus reducing environmental impact and enhancing digital collaboration skills.

⊙ Support digital inclusion & accessibility to technology for all learners

Erasmus+ emphasizes equal access to digital opportunities, ensuring that no learner is left behind due to lack of access to technology or digital resources. The program supports initiatives aimed at bridging the digital divide, particularly for learners from disadvantaged backgrounds, rural areas, or marginalized communities. This includes providing digital equipment, improving connectivity, and designing accessible content that accommodates different needs, including those of people with disabilities.

By advancing digital transformation, Erasmus+ aims to build resilient, innovative, and inclusive educational systems capable of meeting the challenges of the digital era.

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◉ Promote eco-friendly campus initiatives

Participating institutions are urged to adopt eco-conscious practices on campus, including reducing energy consumption, managing waste responsibly, and promoting the use of reusable or recyclable materials. By fostering a culture of sustainability, campuses become living examples of environmental responsibility, inspiring students and staff alike.

◉ Promote climate education and awareness

Erasmus+ supports projects and partnerships that raise awareness of climate change, encourage environmental education, and promote sustainable development. Through innovative curricula, workshops, youth initiatives, and collaborative research, participants are empowered to become environmentally aware citizens and change-makers in their communities.

◉ Support the European Green Deal objectives

By aligning with the goals of the European Green Deal, Erasmus+ contributes to making Europe the first climate-neutral continent by 2050. The program encourages cross-border collaboration in tackling climate challenges, developing green skills, and integrating sustainability into education, training, youth, and sport sectors.

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Priorities of Erasmus+ (2021–2027)

The programme is built around Three key horizontal priorities:

1. Inclusion and Diversity

The program aims to promote equal access to Erasmus+ opportunities for people of all backgrounds by actively working to eliminate barriers related to socioeconomic status, geographic location, disability, and cultural or ethnic identity. It emphasizes inclusivity by supporting underrepresented groups through tailored resources, outreach efforts, and financial support mechanisms. By fostering a more diverse and equitable environment, the Erasmus+ program seeks to ensure that every individual—regardless of their background—has the opportunity to participate in international education, training, youth, and sport activities, thereby enriching both their personal development and the collective experience of the broader European and global community.

2. Environmental Sustainability (Green Erasmus)

The Erasmus+ programme is committed to integrating environmental sustainability into all aspects of its actions, aligning closely with the European Green Deal. This commitment is reflected in the initiative known as Green Erasmus, which promotes environmentally responsible practices throughout mobility and cooperation activities.

⊙ Encourage green practices in mobility

Erasmus+ encourages participants to choose sustainable modes of transport, such as trains, buses, carpooling, or other low-emission alternatives when traveling for study, training, or teaching purposes. Participants who opt for green travel may receive additional financial support or incentives. Institutions are also encouraged to embed sustainability into their mobility strategies, aiming to reduce their carbon footprint across all operations.

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What is Erasmus+?

Erasmus+ is the European Union's flagship programme supporting education, training, youth, and sport. It provides funding for international collaboration and mobility, enhancing skills, employability, and intercultural understanding.The 2021-2027 programme places a strong focus on social inclusion, the green and digital transitions and promoting young people's participation in democratic life.

History of the Erasmus Programme

The Erasmus Programme is named after Desiderius Erasmus of Rotterdam (1466–1536), a Dutch philosopher and humanist who traveled across Europe to study and teach. His life symbolized mobility, learning, and European cooperation, which became the foundation of the program's spirit.

In1987, the original Erasmus Programme was launched by the European Economic Community (EEC). It started as a student exchange program for university students within Europe. Only 11 countries participated in the first year. In 2014, The program evolved into Erasmus+, merging several EU education, youth, and sports initiatives into one integrated program. It opened participation to non-European (partner) countries, including Iraq.

The current phase of Erasmus+ was launched with a budget exceeding €26 billion, focusing on inclusion, digital transformation, and green initiatives. It provides more opportunities for countries outside the EU and simplifies procedures.

Erasmus was created to promote peace, understanding, and unity through education after the divisions of WWII. Also to give young people a chance to study, train, and gain experience abroad, enhancing their personal and professional skills. To strengthen the European identity and increase cooperation among universities.

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What is Erasmus+?

European
Commission

Acronyms

HEIs – Higher Education Institutions

MoHESR – Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research (Iraq)

EU – European Union

EACEA – Education, Audiovisual and Culture Executive Agency (European Commission agency managing Erasmus+ and other EU programs)

DG EAC – Directorate-General for Education, Youth, Sport and Culture (European Commission department responsible for education policies)

KA1 – Key Action 1: Learning Mobility of Individuals (mobility exchanges for students, staff, and youth)

KA2 – Key Action 2: Cooperation among Organisations and Institutions (capacity building, partnerships, and innovation projects)

KA3 – Key Action 3: Support for Policy Development and Cooperation (policy dialogue, reform, and cooperation)

ICM – International Credit Mobility (short-term student and staff exchanges between EU and non-EU countries)

CBHE – Capacity Building in Higher Education (projects to modernize and strengthen higher education systems)

ECTS – European Credit Transfer and Accumulation System (system for comparing study achievements across countries)

MOU – Memorandum of Understanding (formal agreement between institutions)

PIC – Participant Identification Code (unique code needed for organizations to apply for Erasmus+ funding)

OLS – Online Language Support (Erasmus+ platform for improving language skills before and during mobility)

NAs – National Agencies (organizations managing Erasmus+ in EU countries)

NCP – National Contact Point (local representative providing Erasmus+ guidance in partner countries)

EUROPA – Official European Union website hosting Erasmus+ information and application forms

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Introduction

In recent years, the Government of Iraq, through the Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research, has been actively advancing its internationalization strategy—a comprehensive effort to strengthen Iraq's academic presence on the global stage. This strategy aims to foster partnerships, exchange knowledge, and create opportunities for Iraqi students, researchers, and universities to collaborate with institutions worldwide.

One of the most impactful tools supporting this vision is the Erasmus+ Programme of the European Union. Erasmus+ offers Iraqi students, academic staff, and universities the opportunity to participate in mobility exchanges, joint research projects, and capacity-building initiatives with partner institutions across Europe. These experiences not only enhance academic and professional skills but also promote intercultural understanding, innovation, and mutual growth.

This manual has been designed specifically for Iraqi students and universities to simplify and clarify the Erasmus+ application process. It provides step-by-step guidance, essential tips, and practical examples to help applicants navigate the program's requirements with confidence. By making the process more accessible, this manual supports Iraq's broader goal of building a dynamic, internationally connected higher education system that contributes to the country's sustainable development and global engagement.

Through Erasmus+ and other international collaborations, Iraq is opening new doors for its academic community—doors that lead to knowledge exchange, personal growth, and stronger ties with the world. This manual is your key to making the most of these opportunities.

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