

APPRENTICESHIPS AND THE EU

ERASMUS+

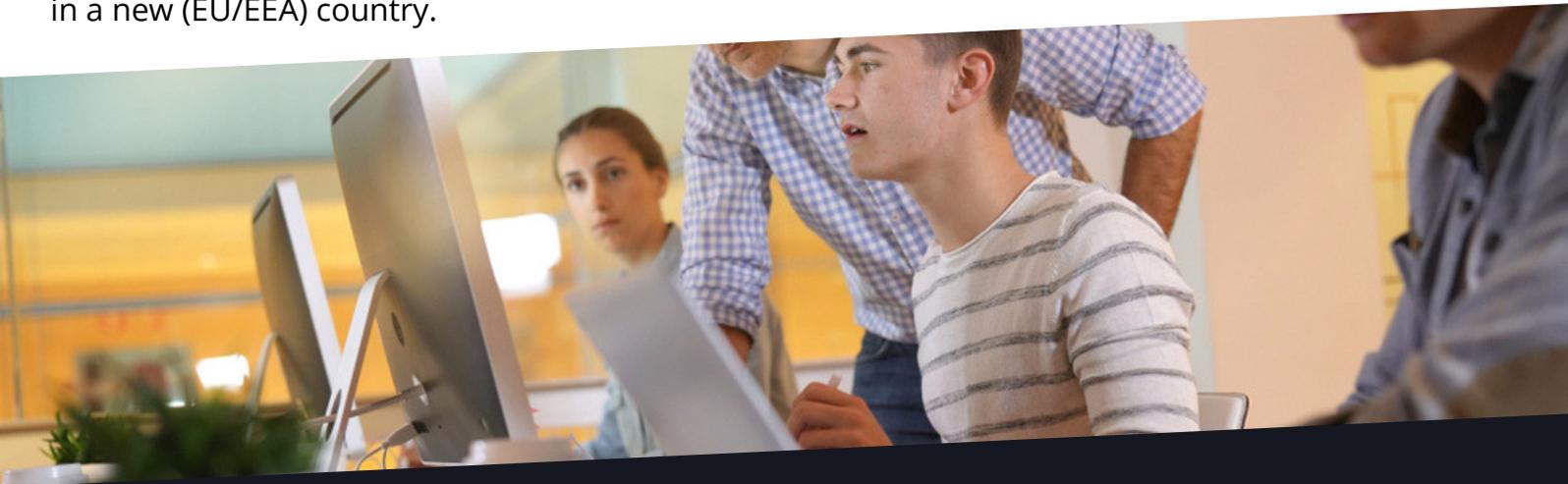
Erasmus+ allows students and apprentices to train in other EU/EEA countries

- Since 2014, the programme has supported 650,000 apprentices train in other EU countries.
- The programme spends on average £125m annually on UK programmes, with an average of £30m a year of this funding being spent on vocational education and traineeships.
- There is no cap to Erasmus funding for each organisation, which can cover organisational costs, travel, subsistence, special needs costs, and linguistic support.
- A new extension scheme called ErasmusPro now allows apprenticeship to train in foreign EU countries by up to a year.

Looking at Erasmus+ after Brexit, a report from the House of Lords EU Committee warned that:

- benefits of the programme would be very difficult to replicate with any alternative national programme.
- vocational education and training aspects of the programme would likely stop.
- leaving Erasmus would "disproportionately affect people from disadvantaged backgrounds and those with medical needs or disabilities".

Other programmes such as Your first EURES Job can help you get installed for a full apprenticeship in a new (EU/EEA) country.



UK SKILLS SHORTAGES

Losing EU funding and opportunities will worsen the UK's skill shortages worse:

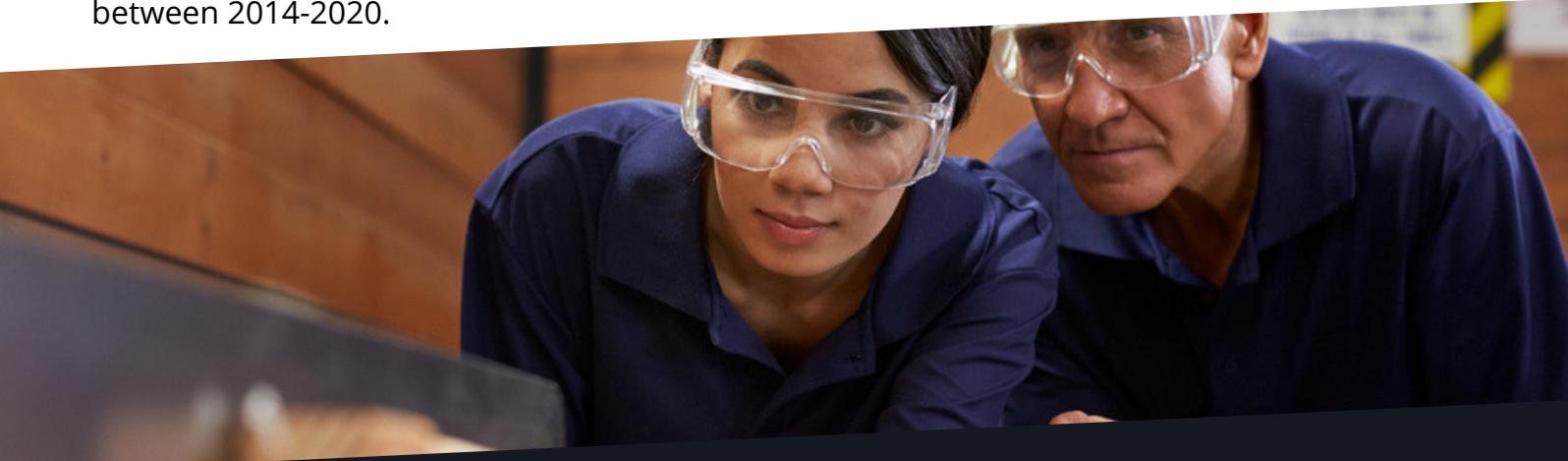
- According to study by the Open University, the UK's skills shortage is costing the UK economy over £6 billion per year
- The vast majority of organisations (91%) reported having struggled to find the people with the correct skills when hiring over the last 12 months.
- 61% of business leaders said that they believe that the UK apprenticeship levy will be useful in helping to plug the skills shortfall. This suggests that there is a serious appetite for schemes
- that promote apprenticeships and promote skills 17% of business leader say they struggle to recruit apprentices more than any other level of employment. This suggests that apprenticeships in the UK are not being publicised enough.



THE EUROPEAN SOCIAL FUND (ESF)

The ESF spends roughly £800 million annually in the UK on vocational training, retraining and job creation schemes, to help assist disadvantaged citizens into employment.

- ESF co-funds local, regional and national projects that aim to improve skills and employability, including apprenticeship schemes, often matching their funding.
- For small businesses paying apprenticeships, many UK apprenticeship programmes are now part-financed by the European Social Fund (ESF).
- The European Social Fund was described as a “vital” resource by the UK’s Work and Pensions Committee, who called for it to be “urgently” replaced after funding runs out in 2020.
- Example: the ESF gives tens of £millions to disadvantaged UK Further Education colleges each year. For instance, in 2016-2017 the EU gave £40 million to help Further Education UK colleges. Roughly one in four Further Education colleges have a dependence on EU funding.
- Example: the ESF funds the Government’s Skills Support for the Workforce programme, which helps retrain and upskill adults.
- Companies can apply for funding assistance.
- The Youth Employment Initiative (YEI) is part of the EU’s Youth Guarantee. The Youth Guarantee that ensures young people who are not in education have the right to high quality employment, education, apprenticeships or traineeships before the age of 25. The YEI, with the help of ESF financing, will have funded a total of £170m into UK programmes between 2014-2020.



MANIFESTO FOR EUROPE WITH APPRENTICESHIPS

In the EU we are working to internationalise apprenticeship training, offering greater learning and career opportunities to EU citizens as a result. To do this, it wants to change EU apprenticeship programmes by:

- Ensure training providers have sufficient resources to support foreign apprentices, by offering language training, Increase mobility of apprenticeships by twinning different organisations together and encouraging more training providers to provide European mobility opportunities
- Give more secure legal status to apprentices training in a foreign country
- Create a cooperation platform that allows for: mutual recognition and learning from good practice; encouragement and support of greater innovation.