

Statement of Support for the UK's Continued Participation in the Erasmus+ Programme

The University Council of Modern Languages, the University Council of General and Applied Linguistics, the British Association of Applied Linguistics, the Committee for Linguistics in Education and the Association of University Language Committees urge UK government to maintain continued participation in the Erasmus+ programme as part of future negotiations with the EU.

As organisations representing UK academics in the field of modern languages & linguistics, we are fully committed to the Erasmus+ programme and unreservedly endorse its value as a programme that enriches young people's lives and provides benefits for UK society and the economy. Whilst university departments of modern languages participate in Erasmus+ programmes to support study and work abroad of their degree programmes, the programme supports bilateral relationships between UK universities and their counterparts and is a core programme for outward mobility for UK university staff and students. Indeed, our staff and students are part of a broader community of over 17,500 UK nationals who, on an annual basis, gain international experience and employability skills from Erasmus+ placements which support UK businesses and education: from vocational trainees in the FE sector to primary school teacher exchanges.

Erasmus+ funding also ensures equity of access to international experience for those young people who would not otherwise have the financial support to live, study, work and travel abroad. This is not a one-way relationship, as the UK benefits equally from the participation of non-UK EU students who come to the UK and contribute financially and culturally to our society and communities.

We were pleased to note the support from the Prime Minister, Mr Boris Johnson, for the programme on 15 January 2020 where he stated in response to questions in the House of Parliament: "There is no threat to the Erasmus scheme. We will continue to participate. UK students will continue to be able to enjoy the benefits of exchanges with our European friends and partners, just as they will continue to be able to come to this country." We would appreciate confirmation that this support extends beyond the life span of the current Erasmus+ funding to incorporate the next EU funding programme.

We, the academic leaders of undersigned academic communities, would be very happy to offer support to maintain and develop Erasmus+ programmes for the future.

Professor Claire Gorrara, Chair of the University Council of Modern Languages (UCML)

Professor Lesley Jeffries, University Council of General and Applied Linguistics (UCGAL)

Dr Dawn Knight, Chair of the British Association for Applied Linguistics (BAAL)

Dr Gee Macrory, Chair of Committee for Linguistics in Education (CLiE)

Mr Mark Critchley, Chair of the Association of University Language Committees in the UK & Ireland (AULC)