

Funding for
Placement years
and
Erasmus

Student Funding Team

Student Hub, RM050

Tel: 023 82015200

Email: student.funding@solent.ac.uk

Last updated: July 2021
Review date: July 2022

Contents	Page
Work Placements	3
<i>Full years' work placement - tuition fees</i>	3
<i>Full years' work placement - maintenance loan</i>	3
<i>Reduced Rate Maintenance Loan</i>	3
<i>Specific types of unpaid service placements</i>	3-4
<i>Part year work placement funding</i>	4
Overseas study placements	4
<i>Tuition fees</i>	4
<i>Maintenance loan</i>	4
<i>Travel grants (also relevant for ERASMUS students)</i>	5
<i>Working abroad including placement years</i>	5
ERASMUS+ scheme	6
<i>Tuition fees</i>	6
<i>ERASMUS+ grant</i>	6
ERASMUS+ and previous study	6
Is there anything else I can apply for whilst on ERASMUS+?	6
BREXIT and ERASMUS	7
Where can I get more information on ERASMUS+?	7
Notes	8

Work Placements

A Sandwich Placement (also referred to as an "Internship" or "Industrial Placement") is a validated work experience opportunity which forms part of a university degree programme. This leaflet aims to give you some basic information on the funding available to you whilst on a placement. We always advise you contact your relevant funding body (SFE, SAAS, SFW etc.) **before** you take on your placement to establish what you can get. More information is also available via the web addresses provided in this leaflet.

Full years' work placement - *tuition fees*

Students going on a full year industrial placement (standard sandwich year-out NOT the Erasmus+ scheme*) are required to pay the annual tuition fee.

For 2021 / 2022 any paid or unpaid work placement will be charged the following in fees:

- UK 'Home' or EU tuition fees up to £1,425
- Eligible students can apply for a tuition fee loan for work placement years.

All students are advised to check their Tuition Fee liability with Student Registry. For the Tuition Fees guide please go to: www.solent.ac.uk/finance/tuition-fees

Full years' work placement - *maintenance loan*

UK Home students doing a full year's work placement will be entitled to a reduced rate of maintenance loan for living costs, during a paid/unpaid work placement year. Student Finance may count as income any fixed, regular payments you receive (usually meant to pay for something specific) which may affect your funding entitlement.

Reduced Rate Maintenance Loan:

This depends on where you are living and what course year you are in while you are doing your placement:

2021/22 figs.

- UK Parental Home; Full Year up to **£2,155**
- UK Parental London; Full Year up to **£4,035**
- UK Elsewhere or Overseas; Full year up to **£2,874**

You will **not** be entitled to the full maintenance loan or any supplementary grants i.e. Parent's Learning Allowance, Adults Dependants Grant, Childcare Grant, unless you are undertaking a specific unpaid service placement (see section below).

Specific types of unpaid service placements

The placements below usually attract the full 100% Maintenance Loan subject to income-assessment, plus any supplementary grants (e.g. Parent's Learning Allowance, Adults Dependants Grant, Childcare Grant) you would normally receive.

However, only certain types of work / research count for the purposes of receiving this full support:

- Unpaid service in a hospital or in a public health service laboratory or with a clinical commissioning group in the UK.
- Unpaid service with a local authority in the UK in work that relates to the care of children and young persons, health or welfare, or with a voluntary organisation providing facilities or carrying out similar activity in the UK.
- Unpaid service with a local authority in work that relates to public health functions in the UK.
- Unpaid service in the prison or probation and aftercare service in the UK.
- Unpaid research in a UK institution or, in the case of a student attending an overseas institution, as a part of their UK course.
- Unpaid service with a Special Health Authority, the NHS Commissioning Board, the National Institute for Care and Excellence, the Health and Social Care Information Centre, a Local Health Board; a Health Board or a Special Health Board in Scotland, or a Health and Social Services Board in Northern Ireland
- Unpaid service in the UK Parliament

It is essential that you check with your funding body that your placement qualifies before you commit yourself to it. They may require written confirmation from your academic department that your placement qualifies as one of these areas of unpaid work.

Part year work placement funding

If you will be attending the university for more than 10 weeks, in total, in an academic year (for example if you undertake a placement for one semester) you will be entitled to the same funding package as you have been entitled to in previous academic years (provided your household income remains the same). Therefore apply as normal for your funding via: www.gov.uk/student-finance-register-login

Overseas study placements

Tuition fees

If you will be studying abroad for your placement year then you can apply to your Student Finance body for a tuition fee loan. Students who study abroad for one academic year will pay 15% of their normal annual tuition fees, to Solent University:

- UK 'Home' or EU tuition fees *up to* **£1,385** in 2021/22

UK Home and EU students who study as international exchange students on for a full academic year at a North American University (including Canada) which Solent has a bi-lateral agreement will have their tuition fees reduced to 15%. For further details contact international.exchanges@solent.ac.uk

Maintenance loan

Students studying abroad may be able to apply for a maintenance loan. This will be dependent on when you started your course and it is also means tested:

2016 - 2021 entrants:

- Overseas study, Full year *up to* **£10,866** (or £12,096 if qualify for benefits)

Travel Grants (also relevant for ERASMUS students)

If you are studying or working abroad, you can apply for an income assessed grant from Student Finance England for reasonable travel costs (this means buying the most cost-effective tickets for the most economical form of transport).

The amount of grant available depends on the household income. Any travel grant received will be reduced by £1 for each £8.73 of household income over **£39,796**. Students must pay the first £303 of their travel costs themselves.

Students pay for the costs up front and then submit a claim form to recover these costs. Evidence must be provided to support their claim e.g. proof of payments.

- You can apply for a Travel Grant at any time during the academic year,
- You don't have to wait until your next instalment of Student Finance to get a payment.
- You could be reimbursed for up to **three** return journeys from the UK to the overseas institution or workplace during a **full** academic year abroad.
- Students pay the upfront costs of their travel and then submit a claim form to request reimbursement for these costs (minus the first £303).
- Students who are single parents may be able to apply for their children's travel costs.

For full information and how to apply go to: www.gov.uk/travel-grants-students-england

Working Abroad (incl. placement years):

- If students opt to take their placement year somewhere in Europe, funding is available from the Erasmus+ grant. It does not matter whether the placement is paid/unpaid - the grant amount is the same.
- To secure funding, students need to provide Marie Jiskoot with an internship/placement offer letter including start date, end date, company details and destination country. The email address is international.exchanges@solent.ac.uk
- Erasmus+ funding does not interfere with any SFE/SLC funding and is completely separate.
- Students can also receive Erasmus+ funding for graduate internships that are arranged prior to course completion.
- Information on internship opportunities are available on this link - <https://erasmusintern.org/>.

ERASMUS+ scheme - study or work abroad

The ERASMUS scheme allows students to participate in study placements, work placements, or combined work and study placements abroad. ERASMUS placements last from a minimum of two months (work placements) or three months (study placements) to a full academic year.

ERASMUS work placements are **not** sandwich placements. It is participation in ERASMUS that is the overriding factor for determining the amount of statutory financial support received by the student, not the type of ERASMUS placement that the student undertakes.

Students on a period of study or work placement as part of an 'ERASMUS+ year' are entitled to the normal statutory package of support and **not** the reduced rate of loan as given to sandwich course students.

Students with a severe disability or exceptional special needs may be entitled to extra funding to cover associated costs but must apply for this **before** departure.

For grants and overseas rates of loan for living costs you should apply online: www.gov.uk/apply-online-for-student-finance

Tuition fees

Students undertaking ERASMUS for a full academic year who are charged tuition fees are eligible to apply for a tuition fee loan of **up** to £1,385. EU nationals studying at an English university and taking part in the ERASMUS scheme will be subject to the same fees and fee support arrangements as English domiciled students.

- Students studying abroad for a full academic year only pay 15% of the usual tuition fee.
- Students studying abroad for part of the year at Solent, either some weeks or 1 semester, pay the normal full tuition fee to Solent.
- No tuition fees are payable to host/partner universities.
- Erasmus+ funding does not interfere with any SFE/SLC funding, it is completely separate.
- Erasmus+ funding is only available for study placements at our partner universities in Europe only.

ERASMUS+ grant

Students may be allowed more than one ERASMUS grant during a course, provided their time abroad does not exceed 12 months in total. The grant is intended as a contribution towards costs while studying or working abroad.

For current study abroad rates go to: www.erasmusplus.org.uk/study-abroad

For current work abroad rates go to: www.erasmusplus.org.uk/work-abroad

ERASMUS+ and previous study

Since 2014 an ERASMUS+ year is now included in a student's funding entitlement calculation. This means that a full year on ERASMUS+ undertaken by students, who started courses since 2012 onward at institutions in England and Wales, will be counted as a full year of 'previous study' when calculating entitlement to Tuition Fee Loans.

Is there anything else I can apply for whilst on ERASMUS+?

UK 'home' and some eligible EU nationals, who have applied for full student finance, may apply to the university's 'Support Grant' once they are enrolled and in receipt of their Maintenance Loan. For more information, go to: <https://bit.ly/2JJSJPO>

BREXIT and ERASMUS

The Erasmus+ grant is still active until **31st May 2023**, however due to Brexit, we will not be participating in any future Erasmus+ projects following the end of our project in May 2023. The University hopes to be able to fund as many study or work placements as possible with the funds available.

For the latest updates and full details go to: <https://bit.ly/2ltnGaE>

Where can I get more information on ERASMUS+?

For more information on ERASMUS+ and funding please go to the following sites:

- Solent University study abroad: <https://bit.ly/2NfIPlo>
- University study abroad team:
 - international.exchanges@solent.ac.uk
 - phone: +44 (0) 23 8201 3893
- ERASMUS + funding opportunities: <https://bit.ly/2Pxrf3N>

Don't forget!

- Apply for student funding **as soon as possible**: www.gov.uk/student-finance
- Always check with your Student Finance body as to your eligibility for funding **before** enrolling onto a year of study.
- Check the University Fees booklet on the university website: www.solent.ac.uk/finance/tuition-fees

