

EDUCATION

Europe is home to some of the best universities in the world and offers excellent study options in terms of value for money. When it comes to studying abroad, out of a total number of 70,000 Vietnamese students currently following courses abroad, over 15,000 are studying in Europe.

What are the benefits of studying in Europe?

- **Choice and academic mobility:** there are over 1,300 institutions offering high quality study programs in an international environment and a variety of course options and internship opportunities for you to choose.
- **Research and Innovation:** Europe has a worldwide reputation as centre of excellence for education and beyond that, it is also a hotbed of research and innovation, home to first-class resources and top scientists. This can be important for the next steps in your professional life.
- **Affordability:** in the current top 10 of "Most affordable cities for students", the majority are in European countries: Austria, France, Germany, Poland and Spain. Studying in Europe is generally quite affordable, as tuition fees are very low compared to the top quality education that you will receive.
- **Travel:** Once you are in the Schengen area you will be able to travel all over the continent and discover the beauty of Europe.
- **Language learning:** Most students study in English: outside of class, there are also opportunities to pick up a new language: a major advantage on the labour market.
- **Working:** In Europe, students have the right to work at least 15 hours a week. With the new visa rules (in effect since May 2018), students and researchers are allowed to stay at least 9 months in Europe after finishing their studies or research in order to look for a job or to set up a business. This can be valuable on a CV.

The EU Delegation to Vietnam has promoted studying in Europe via organisation of the **"Study in Europe" Education Fairs** since 2016. The annual events, taking place in September, enjoyed large press coverage and have attracted over 10,000 visitors, mostly students and their parents, and also members of the academia.

The European Commission's official study portal **"STUDY IN EUROPE"** provides useful, comprehensive information about studying in each of the European Union countries.
<http://ec.europa.eu/education/study-in-europe/>

Erasmus+

Higher Education is a priority both for Europe and Vietnam. In the EU, Higher Education is a responsibility of the 27 Member States and the role of the European Commission is to promote Europe as a centre of excellence for higher education. **Erasmus+** is the EU Programme in the fields of education, training, youth and sport for the period 2014-2020. Although primarily a Europe-focused programme, Erasmus+ also invites participation of non-EU countries.

Scholarships are available from the EU through Erasmus+ or through different schemes in each European country. Erasmus Mundus (EM) Scholarship is a highly prestigious scheme, which covers tuition fee, monthly stipend, roundtrip air tickets, insurance and other expenses to pursue Master courses in Europe. During 2014-2018, 122 excellent Vietnamese students have received Erasmus Mundus scholarships to study fulltime master courses in at least 2 different European universities.

Erasmus+ has 3 main types of opportunities for funding, the so-called "Key Actions":

- Key Action 1: Learning Mobility Of Individuals (*Scholarships for students and staff*)

Key Action 1 supports transnational mobility activities targeting learners (students, trainees, apprentices, young people and volunteers) and staff (professors, teachers, trainers, youth workers, and people working in organisations active in the education, training and youth fields). Individual mobility must take place through organisation/organisations involved in a mobility project. Additionally, a number of Joint Erasmus Master Degrees have been established, which provide 2-year scholarships for both EU and non-EU students.

<https://eacea.ec.europa.eu/erasmus-plus/actions/key-action-1-learning-mobility-individuals>

- Key Action 2: Cooperation For Innovation And The Exchange Of Good Practices

(Funding for EU-Vietnam cooperation projects, some scholarships for individual students are available)

This Key Action supports mainly partnership projects between organisations from different countries which are expected to bring positive and long-lasting effects on the participating organisations, on the policy systems in which such projects are framed as well as on the organisations and persons directly or indirectly involved in the organised activities. Different types of partnerships, which are expected to result in the development, transfer and/or implementation of innovative practices at organisational, local, regional, national or European levels, are supported.

https://eacea.ec.europa.eu/erasmus-plus/actions/key-action-2-cooperation-for-innovation-and-exchange-good-practices_en

- Key Action 3: Support for Policy Reform (*mainly for European organisations*)

Activities in support for policy reform are targeted at achieving the goals of the European policy agendas. Funding is available for projects in support of policy reform in the education, training and youth fields that are implemented directly by the European Commission or through specific calls for proposals managed by the Executive Agency. This Key Action is intended mainly for European applicants but Vietnamese organisations can participate as partners.

https://eacea.ec.europa.eu/erasmus-plus/actions/key-action-3-support-for-policy-reforms_en

Two additional types of Actions are supported through **Erasmus+**:

- Jean Monnet Actions

Jean Monnet Actions provide funding for initiatives related to promoting excellence in teaching and research in the field of European Union studies, funding is available worldwide. Eligible projects include, for example, establishing a short teaching programme (or course) in the field of European Union studies at a higher education institution, establishing a teaching post with a specialisation in European Union (Jean Monnet Chair), or establishing a focal point of competence and knowledge on European Union subjects (Jean Monnet Centre of Excellence). For further details regarding Jean Monnet Actions and supported projects, please refer to the website below or the Erasmus+ Programme Guide.

https://eacea.ec.europa.eu/erasmus-plus/actions/jean-monnet_en

- Sport

Projects and partnerships in the field of sport are supported. These include partnerships to organise meetings, events to promote sport activities, competitions, mobility of trainers and coaches, volunteering, improvement of sporting and training conditions and other sport-related activities. The Actions in the field of sport are expected to result in the development of the European dimension in sport by generating, sharing and spreading experiences and knowledge about different issues affecting sport at the European level. Ultimately, sport projects supported through Erasmus+ should lead to increased levels of participation in sport, physical activity and voluntary activity. This Key Action is intended mainly for European applicants but Vietnamese organisations can participate as partners.

<https://eacea.ec.europa.eu/erasmus-plus/actions/sport>

Applications of the above mentioned Actions are accepted through annual **Calls for Proposals**. These Calls (with varying deadlines for different types of projects) are published on the following website: <http://eacea.ec.europa.eu/erasmus-plus/funding/>

Useful Links

Further to the European Commission study portal, there are many more resources online which can be helpful in making the decision to study at a European university.

- **STUDYPORTALS:** Studyportals is a practical search tool indexing bachelor's, master's and PhD degrees, language courses, distance courses and scholarships in Europe and worldwide.

<http://www.studyportals.com>

- **POSTGRAD.COM:** Provides comprehensive information about postgraduate studies (Master's and PhD) in Europe. It contains useful sections on available courses, applications, living costs, fees, immigration procedures together with other information about studying in different European countries.

<http://www.postgrad.com>

- **QS TOP UNIVERSITIES:** The QS ranking provides detailed worldwide and regional university rankings together with information about available study programmes. It is a very useful resource for comparing conditions for students around the world. There are detailed country guides available with information on tuition fees, living costs and student life.

<http://www.topuniversities.com/where-to-study/region/europe/guide>