

EDUCATION

Europe is home to some of the best universities in the world and offers excellent study options in terms of value for money. In many European countries, Vietnamese students pay the same fees as domestic students (these can be as low as 200 Euros per year) and some universities provide education free of charge even for international students. English university programmes are available although fees be higher than for programmes taught in the national language. Living costs vary among cities but can be very affordable compared to North America, Singapore, Japan or Oceania. In fact, the 2015 annual QS "Most Affordable Cities for Students in 2015" ranking placed 6 European cities (Berlin, Vienna, Munich, Madrid, Barcelona, Prague) in top 10 for their affordability.

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 28 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.

Education, training, youth and sport can make a major contribution to help tackle socio-economic changes. The Erasmus+ Programme provides a multitude of opportunities for EU-Viet Nam cooperation in the aforementioned fields. This can take among others the form of an academic exchange, an inter-university partnership or a joint curriculum development. The main target groups of Erasmus+ Programme are higher education institutions, students, university staff, alumni and the Ministry of Education officials. Erasmus+ comes in addition to EU Member States' own co-operation and scholarship programmes, therefore further increasing opportunities for collaboration.

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. Currently, Joint Doctoral Degrees (including scholarships) are also available. Interested applicants can apply directly.

<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, in particular the Europe 2020 Strategy, of the Strategic framework for European cooperation in education and training (ET 2020) and of the European Youth Strategy. 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 regular **Calls for Proposal**. The 2016 Call for Proposal (with varying deadlines for different types of projects) has been 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>