



LEARNING ACROSS BORDERS

The 2026/27 Erasmus+ Funding Map

for UK Education & Sport

A Global Horizons guide • ghorizons.co.uk

Executive summary

Erasmus+ and the UK's parallel mobility funding routes pay for structured international learning, training and group exchanges. In 2026/27 the door is wide open to UK further education colleges, schools and constituted sports clubs — not just universities. This map gives you the headline numbers, the timetable, and the common myths in plain English, so you can decide whether to apply and what to apply for.

It is intentionally short. Use it to brief a senior leader in 15 minutes, then book a discovery call to talk through your specific case.

What's covered in 2026/27

Funding is built around **per-participant unit costs** rather than line-item receipts. The five building blocks are:

- **Travel** — reimbursed against distance bands (one rate per band, per person).
- **Individual support** — daily subsistence per participant, scaled to the destination country group.
- **Organisational support** — a flat amount per participant to cover administration, briefing, evaluation.
- **Inclusion top-ups** — additional support for participants with fewer opportunities.
- **Course / preparation costs** — language preparation and course fees where relevant.

Activities funded include staff training and job-shadowing, learner mobility for study or work placements, group mobility of pupils with accompanying staff, and short or long-term partnerships between organisations.

Who can apply

Further education colleges — staff and learner mobility, including vocational placements abroad.

Schools (primary and secondary) — staff training and pupil group exchanges with partner schools overseas.

Constituted sports clubs and youth organisations — coach development, group mobility, and small-scale partnerships under the sport strand.

Indicative budgets (per participant)

These are illustrative ranges to help you size a project. Final unit costs are confirmed in the published call.

Activity type	Typical duration	Travel band (€)	Subsistence / day (€)	Org. support / pp (€)
Staff mobility — training / job-shadow	2–7 days	180 – 820, by distance band	80 – 180, by country group	≈ 350 per participant
Learner mobility — short-term	5–30 days	180 – 820	40 – 110	≈ 350 per participant
Learner mobility — long-term placements (FE)	2–12 months	180 – 820	Monthly subsistence rate	≈ 500 per participant
Group mobility of pupils (schools)	2–30 days	180 – 820 per pupil + accompanying staff	40 – 110 per pupil/day	≈ 100 per pupil
Sport mobility (coach/staff)	2–60 days	180 – 820	80 – 180	≈ 350 per participant
Inclusion top-up	Per participant with fewer opportunities	Real cost up to capped rate	Plus +100% individual support uplift	Real cost preparation funding

Distance bands are calculated point-to-point using the European Commission's distance calculator. Country groups for subsistence are published with each annual call.

Key dates for 2026/27

Plan back from these dates. Strong applicants begin partnership conversations 4–6 months before the deadline.

Stage	Indicative window	What you should be doing
Annual call published	Late Nov 2025 / early Dec 2025	Read the new priorities; identify which Key Action you fit; brief your senior leader.
Partner-finding & concept design	Dec 2025 – Feb 2026	Confirm overseas partner(s); agree theme, dates and indicative numbers; draft a one-page concept note.
Draft application	Feb – Mar 2026	Build the narrative against assessor criteria; draft budget and risk register; collect partner mandates.
Internal review window	Mar 2026	Independent read by someone outside the project; finance sign-off; safeguarding check.
Submission deadline (Key Action 1)	Typically late Feb / early Mar 2026	Submit at least 48 hours early; download the receipt; archive a PDF of the submitted form.
Results & grant agreement	May – Jun 2026	Counter-sign the grant agreement; set up project codes; plan kick-off with partners.
Activity delivery	Sep 2026 – Aug 2027	Deliver mobility; collect evidence as you go; run mid-point review with partners.
Final report	Within 60 days of project end	Submit final report and Mobility Tool data; close out finances; archive learner outputs.

Six common myths, debunked

"Erasmus+ is only for universities."

Wrong. Schools, FE colleges and sports clubs all have funded routes.

"You need a track record of EU funding to apply."

No. First-time applicants are funded every year, provided the bid is well-built and the partnership is credible.

"It only covers the plane ticket."

No. Travel, subsistence, organisational support and inclusion top-ups together cover most real costs.

"You need a partner in every country you visit."

No. One credible partner per destination is enough — and quality matters far more than quantity.

"The paperwork is impossible."

It's structured, not impossible. Most applicants are tripped up by partnership and impact, not by forms.

"There's no point applying — the money's already gone."

Annual calls reopen every year. The question is whether you're ready for the next round, not whether the door is open.

How Global Horizons helps with bid writing

Most organisations have the ideas and the people to run a great Erasmus+ project. What they don't have is the time — or the assessor's eye — to turn that into a winning bid. That's where we come in.

What we do

- **Eligibility & fit check** — a structured review against the current call so you only invest time in bids that have a real chance.
- **Partner-finding support** — help identifying credible overseas partners and agreeing roles before you start drafting.
- **Narrative drafting** — we write (or co-write) the application sections against the assessor scoring criteria, in plain language.
- **Budget build** — full unit-cost budget with clear assumptions, mapped to your activity plan.
- **Internal review** — independent red-team read before submission, with written feedback against the criteria.
- **Submission hygiene check** — partner mandates, declarations, attachments and the receipt-of-submission archive.

Three ways to work with us

Service	Best for	What's included
Bid Clinic (half-day, 1:1)	Teams who want to write the bid themselves but want expert eyes on the draft.	Pre-read of your draft, 3-hour working session, written feedback against assessor criteria, follow-up email Q&A.
Co-write	Teams with a strong concept but limited bid-writing capacity.	Kick-off workshop, drafting of two or three application sections, full budget build, internal review, submission-week check.
Full Bid Service	Senior leaders who want a funded project and don't have time to lead the write.	End-to-end ownership of the bid: partner liaison, full narrative, budget, risk register, internal review, submission, post-submission debrief.

What's always included

- A free 30-minute discovery call before you commit.
- A written eligibility & fit summary.
- Plain-English drafts your senior leadership team can actually read.
- Submission-week checklist and a PDF archive of everything submitted.
- Post-decision debrief — whether the bid is funded or not.

What it costs

Fees are scaled to project size and engagement level. Bid Clinics are fixed-fee. Co-write and Full Bid Service are quoted per project after the discovery call. We don't take a percentage of awarded funding

— you keep 100% of your grant.

Talk to us about your next bid

Book a free 30-minute discovery call at ghorizons.co.uk and we'll tell you, honestly, whether your idea is fundable and what it would take to get it across the line.

Next steps

- Decide which strand fits your organisation (FE, schools, or sport).
- Identify one or two credible overseas partners — start the conversation now.
- Sketch a one-page concept: who travels, where, for how long, why.
- Book a discovery call with us to pressure-test the concept.
- Build the bid — alone, with us alongside, or with us leading.

Ready to start?

Visit ghorizons.co.uk to download our other guides — the Eligibility Guide and the 27-point Bid Checklist — or to book a call.