

HEA

An tÚdarás um Ard-Oideachas
The Higher Education Authority

Erasmus+ Top-Up for Students with Fewer Opportunities – FAQ

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BACKGROUND INFORMATION

1. What is a mobility?

A mobility is a period of time when you go abroad as part of your degree to study, train, or complete a placement in another country. A long-term mobility lasts between 2 and 12 months. A short-term mobility lasts between 5 and 30 days.

2. What is an Erasmus+ grant?

An Erasmus+ grant is financial support that helps you cover the costs of going abroad for study, traineeship, or short-term mobility as part of your degree.

3. What is the Erasmus+ top-up for students with fewer opportunities?

It is additional financial support provided on top of your main Erasmus+ grant to help students who face social, economic, physical, or other barriers to participate in a mobility abroad.

4. How much is the top-up and how is it paid?

The top-up for a long-term mobility is a fixed monthly grant of €250 that is paid to you through your home institution, usually together with your main Erasmus+ grant. The top-up for a short-term mobility is €100 if the mobility lasts between 5 and 14 days; and €150 if it lasts between 15 and 30 days.

5. Is the top-up in addition to the main Erasmus+ grant?

Yes. It is added to your main Erasmus+ grant and does not reduce any other financial support you receive.

ELIGIBILITY AND REQUIRED DOCUMENTATION

6. Who qualifies as a student with fewer opportunities?

From the 2026/27¹ academic year onwards, you will be eligible to receive the top-up if you fall under one of the following categories:

- Students with disabilities who are registered with the disability service (or equivalent) in their home institution for any category of disability listed under the [Fund for Students with Disabilities \(FSD\)](#);
- Students who are experiencing significant ongoing illness²;
- Students who are in receipt of [SUSI](#) or the [Back to Education Allowance \(BTEA\)](#);
- Students who were in receipt of the [Student Assistance Fund](#) in the academic year prior to their mobility taking place;
- Students who are lone or teen parents;
- Students who are carers;

¹ Prior to the 2026/27 academic year, only students in receipt of SUSI were eligible for the top-up.

² As per the FSD guidelines, this includes – but not exclusively – diabetes type 1, cystic fibrosis, severe Crohn's disease, severe ulcerative colitis, irritable bowel disease, chronic fatigue and cancer (including those in remission from cancer).

- Students who have experience of the care system.
- Students who are refugees or who have experience of the international protection process; or
- Students who are members of the Irish Traveller or Roma communities.

7. If I fall under more than one eligibility category, can I receive multiple top-ups?

No, you can only receive one top-up. For long-term mobility, the top-up is a fixed monthly grant of €250. For short-term mobility, it is €100 for mobilities lasting 5–14 days and €150 for 15–30 days.

8. How do I apply for the top-up?

You usually apply through your home institution’s Erasmus+ application process. This generally involves a short form and the provision of supporting documents.

9. When is the deadline to apply?

Deadlines vary by institution, so check with your International Office.

10. What proof do I need to confirm my eligibility?

<i>Category</i>	<i>Proof required</i>
Students with disabilities who are registered with the disability service (or equivalent) in their home institution for any category of disability listed under the Fund for Students with Disabilities (FSD)	Confirmation from your institution’s disability service (or equivalent)
Students who are experiencing significant ongoing illness ²	Confirmation from your institution’s disability service (or equivalent) or declaration of honour
Students who are in receipt of SUSI or the Back to Education Allowance (BTEA)	Confirmation from your institution’s fees office (or equivalent)
Students who were in receipt of the Student Assistance Fund in the academic year prior to their mobility taking place	Confirmation from your institution’s access office (or equivalent)
Students who are lone or teen parents	Proof of receipt of One-Parent Family Payment or declaration of honour
Students who are carers	Proof of receipt of Carer’s Allowance or declaration of honour
Students who have experience of the care system	Declaration of honour
Students who are refugees or who have experience of the international protection process	Declaration of honour
Students who are members of the Irish Traveller or Roma communities	Declaration of honour

11. What is a declaration of honour?

A declaration of honour is a short statement you sign to confirm that the information you provided about your eligibility for the Erasmus+ top-up is true and accurate. By signing it, you are confirming that you meet the criteria for the category you selected.

12. Will I need to provide any documents in addition to the declaration of honour?

In some cases, yes. Your institution may ask for supporting documents if they need to verify your eligibility. An example may include a birth certificate to confirm parental responsibilities. You will only be asked for documents if they are needed to verify your eligibility.

13. Do I need to confirm that I require the top-up funding?

Yes. As part of the application process, you will need to confirm that you require the additional financial support offered through the top-up. This ensures that funding is directed to students who genuinely need it and meet Erasmus+ inclusion requirements.

14. If I received a top-up before, do I need to re-apply?

Yes. You must confirm your eligibility again for each mobility period.

RECEIVING THE TOP-UP

15. When will I know if my top-up is approved?

Your home institution will notify you as soon as your eligibility is confirmed.

16. What happens if I realise I'm eligible after accepting my grant?

Contact your International Office immediately as they may still be able to approve the top-up.

17. When will I receive the top-up payment?

It is usually paid with your main Erasmus+ grant or shortly afterwards.

18. If my mobility period changes, does my top-up amount change?

Yes. The top-up is calculated based on your actual mobility duration.

19. Is the top-up available for short-term blended mobilities?

Yes, provided you meet the eligibility criteria.

20. Can I receive the top-up for virtual components?

No. The top-up applies to the physical mobility period only.

21. Do I have to repay the top-up if I withdraw from mobility?

If you do not complete the mobility, you may be required to repay part of the grant depending on the circumstances.

22. Can I receive the top-up in addition to inclusion support?

Yes. In many cases, you can combine the top-up with inclusion support which is intended to assist with the actual costs incurred by those with physical, mental or health-related conditions while undertaking a mobility.

23. Does receiving the top-up affect my SUSI grant or other supports?

No. The Erasmus+ top-up should not affect your SUSI grant.

24. Can I receive both the fewer-opportunities top-up and the green travel top-up?

Yes. These supports can be combined.

INFORMATION SHARING

25. Do I have to disclose personal information to my host institution?

No. Your eligibility information is handled confidentially by your home institution only.

26. Who will see my documentation?

Only designated staff in your home institution who process Erasmus+ funding.

27. How is my information protected?

All data is handled securely and in line with GDPR requirements.

28. What should I do if my application is rejected?

Contact your International Office for clarification or to appeal the decision.