

#SUPPORTSTUDYABROAD

UNIVERSITIESUK.AC.UK/SUPPORTSTUDYABROAD

BACKGROUND

On the 28 January 2019, the government issued a [technical note](#) on the future of the UK's membership of the Erasmus+ programme **in the case of a no-deal Brexit**. The good news is that students on current placements will be able to continue, and receive funding, to their end.

The government has also said they would like to stay in the Erasmus + programme for future calls, if the EU will agree. However, it is now clear that if in the event of a no-deal Brexit the UK government does not succeed in securing continued Erasmus+ membership, there will be no national alternative to enable students to go abroad. **If we lose Erasmus+ there will be no study abroad scheme to replace it.** We want the government to think again.

WHY THIS IS A MISTAKE

Every year some 17,000 British students study abroad on Erasmus+ placements, with 600,000 having done so in the past 30 years. Studying abroad is an incredibly valuable experience for these students. It gives them the chance to experience new places, to learn languages and make friends and life-long connections across cultural divides.

The government has committed itself to a vision of a post-Brexit global Britain. Study abroad placements foster the crucial commercial and personal ties UK industry needs to fulfil this ambition. Students who study abroad clearly outperform their peers both academically and professionally (see Universities UK International's [detailed statistics](#)).

Students from disadvantaged backgrounds will suffer disproportionately if we lose study abroad funding because they are less likely to be able to find an alternative form of funding to support their living and travel costs while in abroad.

THE ACTION

Please tweet at Secretary of State for Education Damian Hinds @DamianHinds, urging him to commit to continue funding study abroad opportunities for UK students, even if they cannot negotiate continued participation in Erasmus + programme, using hashtag **#SupportStudyAbroad**.

Please also link to our [action page](#) in your tweet – this contains the exact phrasing for our campaign asks, and makes sure that the government can't misunderstand them: universitiesuk.ac.uk/supportstudyabroad

You can find some suggested tweets below. You should also have received some images you can attach to your tweet as part of this brief. If you haven't, you can download them on our [action page](#).

We encourage you to come up with your own tweet – the more personal the better! If you have any photos from your own study abroad experience, please feel free to share those. Just remember to keep the ask and the link the same, tag [@DamianHinds](#), and use the **#SupportStudyAbroad** hashtag! 😊

REMEMBER: please keep it civil and don't use an anti-Brexit tone – this campaign is about saving study abroad opportunities in the event of a no-deal Brexit.

We also encourage you to tweet at your local MP, especially if they are Conservative. You can find out who your local MP is, as well as their social media handles, based on your postcode on the [They Work for You](#) website.

We have created social media graphics for you to [download and share](#).

WHY YOU ARE IMPORTANT

As a present or past student with something personal at stake, we need to make sure those making decisions hear your voice. As Secretary of State for Education, part of the job is to listen to you!

SUGGESTED TWEETS

1. *.@DamianHinds, If we can't stay in Erasmus+, will the UK government fund a national scheme to enable students to study abroad after Brexit?
#SupportStudyAbroad
<https://www.universitiesuk.ac.uk/supportstudyabroad>*
2. *.@DamianHinds over 600,000 Brits have made personal and professional connections across the world through Erasmus+. Please ensure that we will have a national replacement for it!
#SupportStudyAbroad
<https://www.universitiesuk.ac.uk/supportstudyabroad>*
3. *I participated on Erasmus+, and I can tell you from experience that it's made a massive difference to my career and life! @DamianHinds please commit to ensuring replacement program in case of #NoDealBrexit!
#SupportStudyAbroad
<https://www.universitiesuk.ac.uk/supportstudyabroad>*
4. *If we want a global Britain after Brexit, we must make sure we have the skills and connections to make it happen! @DamianHinds please commit to funding a replacement program for #Erasmus+ in case of #NoDealBrexit!
#SupportStudyAbroad
<https://www.universitiesuk.ac.uk/supportstudyabroad>*
5. *Students who study abroad do better academically and professionally than their peers, and bring with them real global networks. @DamianHinds please make sure the opportunities are there for students after we leave the EU.
#SupportStudyAbroad
<https://www.universitiesuk.ac.uk/supportstudyabroad>*

