

ACCESSING GLOBAL OPPORTUNITIES

UK Schools Without Borders: In Europe & Beyond

One hour. Global connections.
Real opportunities for your school.



Monday, 12th October
3:30 PM – 4:45 PM





Introductions

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Department
for Education



"We will create opportunities for more young people in the UK to study, work and volunteer abroad, **building the confidence and the skills needed to thrive in a globalised world.** By supporting international experiences, we aim to strengthen **two-way relationships** based on partnership and mutual understanding."

UK'S INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION STRATEGY, DFE, UK GOVT, JANUARY 2026



Internationalising **your** school

What is your school / Trust **already** doing internationally?





What will we cover today?

1. Access to Erasmus+ funding for UK Schools trips abroad
2. Opportunities with Global School Exchanges
3. Hosting Groups in your School 2026 – 2028
4. Teacher Training Opportunities Abroad
5. Teacher Training Programmes offered in your school to educators from abroad



1.

Access to Erasmus+ Funding for UK Schools Trips Abroad

THE OPPORTUNITY: ERASMUS+ IS BACK

The UK's re-entry into the Erasmus+ programme means **unprecedented grant funding is available** – £570 million for 2027–2028.



NATIONAL AGENCY: BRITISH COUNCIL



Application deadline:
February 2027



Funding available:
September 2027



WHAT CAN SCHOOLS DO WITH ERASMUS+?



01

Key Action 1

which funds **visits abroad**, known as 'mobilities'



02

Key Action 2

which provides funding for organisations to work together on **collaborative projects**, known as 'partnerships for cooperation'



03

Key Action 3

which provides funding for work that helps **develop or improve education** and wider **EU training policy**



Priorities of the Erasmus+: Inclusion & diversity, digital transformation, environment, democratic participation



KA1 – MOBILITIES

Choose KA1 when you want to build **outbound international mobility for staff and students**, for example:

- short-term school trips in Europe (groups of up to 30 students, individual placements)
- cultural/language exchanges
- teacher job shadowing
- staff training abroad
- hosting an expert or a trainee teacher

Total project grants ranging from **€5,000 to €100,000**, depending on the size, sector, and number of participants.

KA1 funding typically covers:

- travel & accommodation costs
- daily food expenses,
- preparation visits, inclusion costs,
- organisational support



KA2 – COOPERATION PARTNERSHIPS

Choose KA2 when you want to build a **structured EU partnership around a shared educational goal**, for example:

- a 2-year climate change project between 5 schools within the EU
- developing teaching resources together
- digital learning innovation
- joint curriculum development

Small-scale partnerships

At least two organisations from different countries. Apply for a grant of €30,000 or €60,000.

Co-operation partnerships

At least three partners such as multi-academy trusts, local authorities or initial teacher training providers, although schools can take part as a partner. Grant options are €120,000, €250,000 or €400,000.



THE CHALLENGE:

UK schools want global experiences for pupils, but lack the administrative hours, tight risk-management expertise, and pre-vetted European school networks to execute them safely.



GSE MOBILITY CONSORTIUM

GSE intends to become a **KA1 UK Mobility Consortium Coordinator** during the 2027/28 programme cycle.



GSE MOBILITY CONSORTIUM



Mobility consortium = a group of organisations that participate in outbound learning programmes and staff training, pooling their mobility needs together through the coordinator.



Consortium Coordinator = one organisation applying for and managing Erasmus+ funding and mobilities on behalf of several schools.



GSE Erasmus+ Mobility Consortium

01

Our role

GSE submits one application, receives the grant, distributes funding, organises the mobilities, and manages reporting to the National Agency (British Council) – we absorb the legal and financial compliance.

02

Your role

Your school/trust joins the consortium as a member. You share your objectives and goals of mobility, meeting periodically to inform strategy and share practice. You select the participating students and teachers for mobility.

03

The financials

The relationship operates on a strict cooperative basis. Grant funds directly offset unit costs, while our operational delivery costs are covered transparently within allowable budget lines.



KEY STRENGTHS FOR OUR APPLICATION



Proven Track Record: We have extensive experience planning and delivering complex school exchanges across Europe, India and China.



Trusted Partner Network: We work with established UK and European partner schools, coordinating both incoming student groups and trips abroad for UK students



End-to-End Support: We manage the practical details – from itinerary planning and health and safety to transport and accommodation reservations and 24/7 emergency support.



More Inclusive Access: We aim to make international learning opportunities accessible to a wider range of schools and students, including those who might otherwise miss out.



Genuinely Reciprocal: We're building on our experience of hosting international groups to create more opportunities for UK students to travel, learn and take part in two-way exchanges.





SAFEGUARDING & QUALITY ASSURANCE

BAC ACCREDITED · 'EXCELLENT' 2026 INSPECTION REPORT:

"Programme planning is excellent"

"Consistently high quality learning experience across all programmes"

"Well-established and effective governance structures"

"Robust and comprehensive safeguarding arrangements"

"Comprehensive quality assurance mechanisms"

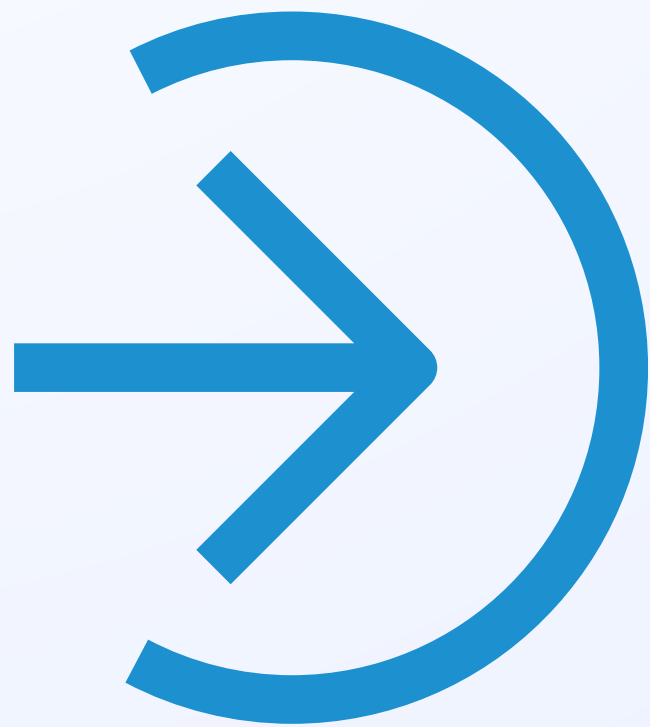
"Rigorous home-stay management systems and high standards of accommodation"

**BRITISH ACCREDITATION COUNCIL,
RE-ACCREDITATION REPORT, JULY 2026**



BECOME PART OF OUR CONSORTIUM:

Four steps to join the Erasmus+ consortium.



1. Confirm a **named School Lead** to help shape the consortium's Erasmus Plan and mobility priorities.
2. **Share** your target exchange dates, student numbers, and education objectives for 2027/28 by the end of 2026.
3. Register for your unique **Organisation ID** (OID) via Erasmus+ Organisation Registration System
4. Sign a **Memorandum of Understanding** to include your school(s) in our upcoming British Council application.



EXAMPLE MOBILITY PLANS 2027/8:

1. Student trips abroad

- 3x groups of 30 students visit a school in Spain / Germany for 5 days
- Year 8 students visit a Czech school for 1 week

2. Educator professional development delegation in France

- 2 MFL teachers join European delegation in Montpellier, Autumn 2027

3. Virtual student exchange projects

- Green Cities programme with Greece for Y11
- Global Equality project with Hungary for Y10

4. Teacher training opportunities

- AI Education training conference in Paris
- *What key areas would you like your staff to receive training in?*

Key E+ educational themes:

inclusion and diversity,
environmental sustainability,
digital education,
democratic participation





2.

Opportunities with Global School Exchanges



GROWING THE EDUCATIONAL ECOSYSTEM

GSE 'Traditional' Structure

UK schools hosting Chinese students



Chinese schools hosting UK teachers





GROWING THE EDUCATIONAL ECOSYSTEM

GSE direction and aim since 2023

UK schools hosting groups from China, India and Europe



China

India

Europe



UK students exploring China, India and Europe



China

India

Europe



GROWING THE EDUCATIONAL ECOSYSTEM

GSE direction and aim since 2024

UK school student online video calls



China



India

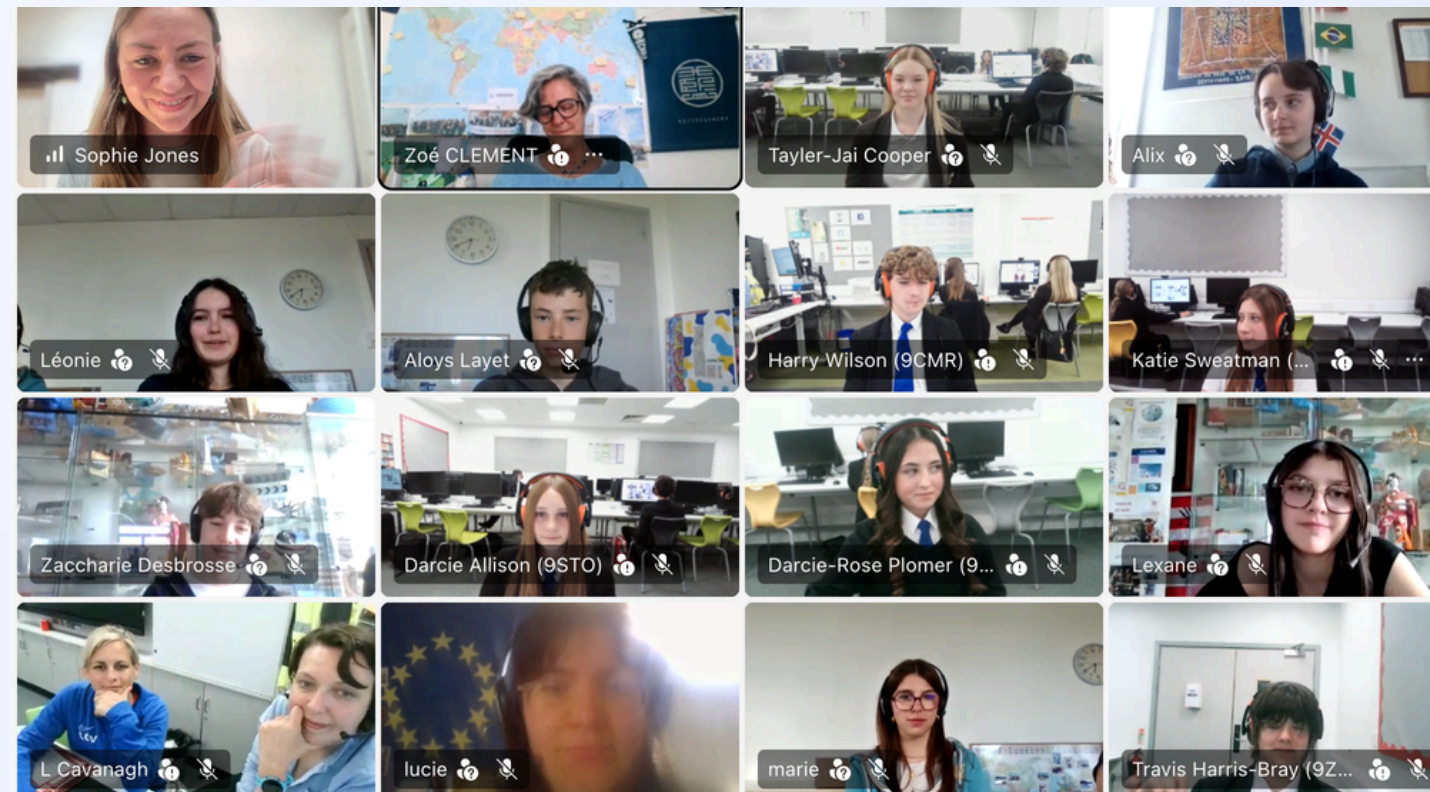


Europe



LIVE OPPORTUNITIES

Online collaboration with European schools





GROWING THE EDUCATIONAL ECOSYSTEM

Continue to deliver and expand...

UK teachers and school leaders on learning trips



China



India



Europe



GROWING THE EDUCATIONAL ECOSYSTEM

Offer in person or online educator training...

**UK schools training
international teachers**



Provide online teacher/SLT training





INTERNATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

Supporting your teacher recruitment, development & retention strategy

“Teacher retention has improved; teachers love to work in a school that provides traveling opportunities for them and the children.

Also, we became a more attractive employer, young teachers loved to start their careers with us”

Jasper Kok, Director, www.opohvt.nl, Goor, Netherlands



FOR OUTBOUND STUDENT / STAFF TRAVEL:

 GSE Provides	 Your School Provides
<div><div>✓</div>Tailored itinerary, programme planning and logistics</div>	<div><div>✓</div>Student & accompanying Staff Travel/ Medical Insurance</div>
<div><div>✓</div>All agreed itinerary bookings, meals, transport, accommodation & ticket administration</div>	<div><div>✓</div>Student registration forms & payments</div>
<div><div>✓</div>Pre-trip online school exchange for students & teachers</div>	<div><div>✓</div>Necessary visa/ entry permits, where required</div>
<div><div>✓</div>Safeguarding & risk assessment policies and procedures</div>	<div><div>✓</div>Student supervision and behaviour management</div>
<div><div>✓</div>Dedicated Programme Coordinator to run briefing sessions for UK School Leads</div>	<div><div>✓</div>Any necessary internal approvals, reporting or other procedures required by your trust, local authority or governing body</div>
<div><div>✓</div>Centralised Booking and Operations Platform for easy access to all participation information, bookings, and documentation in one place</div>	<div><div>✓</div>UK School Lead to connect with GSE coordinator, mobilise participants, and develop programme</div>



LIVE OPPORTUNITIES

Student trips abroad:

China

9 days trip · Beijing & Xi'an



UPCOMING
TRIP:
8-16
APR 2028

France

1 week trip · Normandy & Paris



UPCOMING
TRIP:
16-22
May 2027

India

9 days trip · Delhi, Punjab



UPCOMING
TRIP:
1-15
OCT 2027



FUNDING OUTBOUND TRAVEL:



Erasmus+ Grants

Mobility to Europe

Example: your school can send students and teachers to France under Erasmus+ funding



GSE Credit Model

Mobility to India and China

Example: your school can fund an educator delegation to India using GSE hosting credits



These are **two separate funding streams** – never combined or substituted for one another. Your school can take part in both at the same time, but each is planned, funded and reported separately.



HOW FUNDING WORKS:

	Erasmus+ Grants	GSE Credit Model
WHAT IS COVERS	Mobility with European partner schools (e.g. France)	Mobility with GSE's existing international network (e.g. China, India)
WHERE THE MONEY COMES FROM	British Council (UK Erasmus+ National Agency), via GSE as Consortium Coordinator	Your own hosting funds activity – no external grant involved
HOW IT WORKS	Grant funding covers travel, accommodation and participant costs for approved mobility	Hosting a visiting student earns credits, which fund your outbound trips, staff CPD, or online workshops
BEST SUITED TO	Short-term European exchange, staff job-shadowing, teacher training abroad	Ongoing inbound/outbound exchange outside Europe



3.

**Hosting groups in your school
2026 - 2028**



KEY HOSTING DATES 2026/7

TIME PERIOD	HOSTING OPPORTUNITY	DURATION
October – November 2026	China / India / Europe school groups Individual European students	1 week 1–2 weeks
January–February 2027	China school groups Individual European students	1–2 weeks 1–2 weeks
March–May 2027	European school groups Individual European students	1 week 2 weeks
June–July 2027	China / India school groups Individual European students	1–3 weeks 2–6 weeks



4.

Teacher Training Opportunities Abroad



TRAIN EDUCATORS ABROAD:

1. China & India: Teacher and SLT delegations
2. France: European Educator Delegation
3. What training do your teachers / SLT need?





5.

**Teacher Training Programmes
offered in your school to
educators from abroad**



TRAIN EDUCATORS IN YOUR SCHOOL:

Online GSE platform for training international educators and schools

1. What training could your school provide to international staff and SLT?
2. What would you like to promote and sell on our platform?



5 Teacher Training Programmes offered in your school to educators from abroad



GSE LEARNING

Hosting an International School Group

A practical guide to planning and delivering a successful international school immersion programme — from preparing your school and student buddies to welcoming the group, delivering the school week and building a lasting international partnership.

12 lessons · 49 topics · Global School Exchanges

Course Content

Expand All

01 — Welcome: Creating a Successful International Experience

3 Topics

Expand

02 — Preparing for Your International Group

4 Topics

Expand

03 — Choosing & Preparing Student Buddies

4 Topics

Expand

04 — Preparing Staff & the Wider School

4 Topics

Expand

05 — The Group Arrives

4 Topics

Expand

GSE LEARNING

HOSTING AN INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL GROUP

01 — Welcome: Creating a Successful International Experience

Lesson 01 of 12 · 3 topics

Start with the purpose of hosting

Before planning timetables and activities, think about what you want the experience to create for young people. This lesson introduces the value of immersion, the foundations of a successful programme and how to use the course.

In this lesson

- Recognise the opportunity for visitors and host-school students.
- Identify the principles that guide good preparation and delivery.
- Understand the course's guidance, examples and reflection prompts.

CONTINUE THROUGH THE COURSE

Course overview

Start lesson: Why international school immersion matters

Course overview

Lesson Content

0% COMPLETE | 0/3 Steps

Why international school immersion matters

What makes a successful programme?

What you will learn

Back to Course

Next Topic >

GSE EXPERT GUIDANCE

GSE Is There to Support You

Tom Saunders & Cami Gul · Global School Exchanges

This short contribution offers reassurance about GSE's support before and throughout programmes. Think about the questions you would want to discuss as your school considers its next step.

1:12

Takeaway: ask GSE for support and clarify the arrangements for your particular programme. This does not mean every visit includes a permanently on-site GSE staff member.

APPLY IT TO YOUR SCHOOL

Would a reciprocal opportunity serve a shared educational purpose? What would you need to understand before deciding whether to take it further?

CONTINUE THROUGH THE COURSE

Previous topic

Next topic: Creating an international culture in your school

Course overview

Lesson topics

Previous Topic

Mark Complete

Next Topic

Back to Lesson