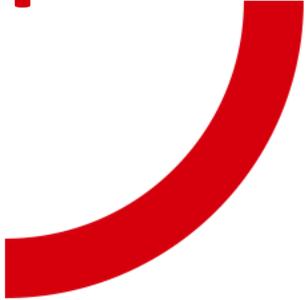




**QUEEN'S
UNIVERSITY
BELFAST**



International Exchange Advisers' Forum



Global Opportunities Team

22 January 2026

Global Opportunities Team

(Careers, Employability and Skills)

- Donna Beckington
Head of Global Opportunities Team
- Ruairi McGrillen
Global Opportunities Development Officer
- Conleth Burns
Global Opportunities Development Officer
- Caroline Malone Drumm
Global Opportunities Officer (Incoming Students, Student Exchange Agreements)
- Richard McFarland
Global Opportunities Officer (Outgoing Students, Promotion)
- James Clendenning
Global Opportunities Clerical Officer
- Christopher Compton
Global Opportunities Clerical Officer



Schedule

- Update on funding / Erasmus re-association
- Process for outgoing students in 2026-27
- Process for incoming students in 2026-27
- Other updates
 - Upcoming events and short programmes
- Q&A



Student Mobility Funding in 2025-26

- Turing Scheme funding of £193K (£342K in 2024-25)
 - Irish Government funding of £867 (£742K in 2024-25)
- ⇒ £1.06m approx
- University underwrite if required?
 - “International Mobility Grant” offered to students for
 - full-year study or work placements in Europe / Rest of World
 - one-semester study or work placements in Europe / Rest of World
 - shorter work placements/internships (over 4 weeks) in Europe / Rest of World
 - medical electives in Europe / Rest of World
 - work placements in Republic of Ireland
 - Tuition Fee Waiver (at Queen’s) – NI Department for the Economy
 1. for students on full-year study or work placements
 2. normally qualify for “home fee” status
 3. must be in receipt of Turing Scheme funding
 - compensation to University by DfE for 1-3 above
 - agreement from University Management Board to waive tuition fees for 1-2 above, for placement in Europe / Rest of World (not Republic of Ireland)



Student Mobility Funding in 2026-27

- **Turing Scheme**

- Outline guidance recently released
- Application portal opens in late January
- Deadline 16 March
- Similar to previous years
 - Student mobility to any country beyond UK
 - Study or work placements
 - UG / PGT / PGR
 - 1 September to 31 August
 - Duration 2 weeks (14 days) to 12 months
 - Additional funding for students from widening participation categories or with special needs

- **Irish Government funding**

- Ongoing commitment from Irish government
- No application information yet
- Preference for mobility to ROI or Europe, but rest of world permitted

- **Tuition Fee Waiver** (at Queen's) – full year non-UK placements

- awaiting clarification from Department for the Economy (NI)



Student Mobility Funding in 2026-27

- Global Opportunities Team co-ordinating institutional bids for Turing and Irish Government funding
- Projections from Schools
 - request in late January/early February for study/work placement numbers
- Tuition Fee Waiver – full year non-UK placements
 - continuing to seek clarification from Department for the Economy (NI)
- University underwrite for mobility grants / tuition fee waivers?
 - request to University Management Board – Spring 2026



UK to rejoin Erasmus+

- December 2025 – UK Government announce reassociation for 2027
 - Final year of 2021-2027 cycle
 - Further negotiations required for 2028-2032 cycle
- Enable UK institutions to apply in funding calls in 2027
 - Normally for activity in 2027-28
 - Or length of project
- Erasmus Charter for Higher Education required
 - Quality framework for European and international co-operation activities within Erasmus+
 - Application deadline of 24 March 2026
 - Normally valid for 7-year cycle
 - Further ECHE application likely to required in 2027 for 2028-32 programme

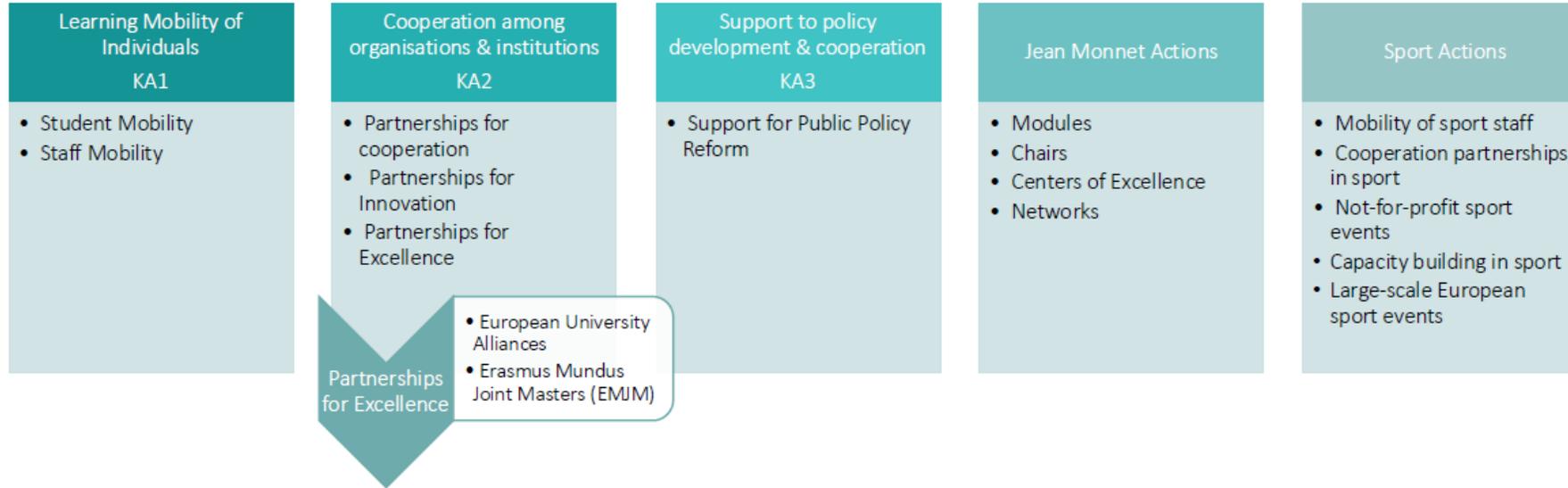


Global Opportunities Team

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incoming-exchange@qub.ac.uk

Overview of the Erasmus+ programme 2021-2027

Indicative financial envelope of more than 26 billion EUR: financial envelope of the programme is set at €24.574 billion in current prices and an additional top-up of €1.7 billion in 2018 prices (EC)



Source - UUKi, December 2025

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Student Exchange Agreements

- Over 200 agreements for Student Mobility
 - By subject area
 - Valid to 2027-28
- Mostly Erasmus Inter-Institutional Agreement for “third countries”
- May have to renew/adapt after re-association
- Preference to renew for next cycle 2028-2032
- Query submitted via UUKi and other sector groups



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Questions?

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CAREERS,
EMPLOYABILITY
AND SKILLS

Process for outgoing student exchange to European Institutions

Promotion of outgoing Study exchange placements

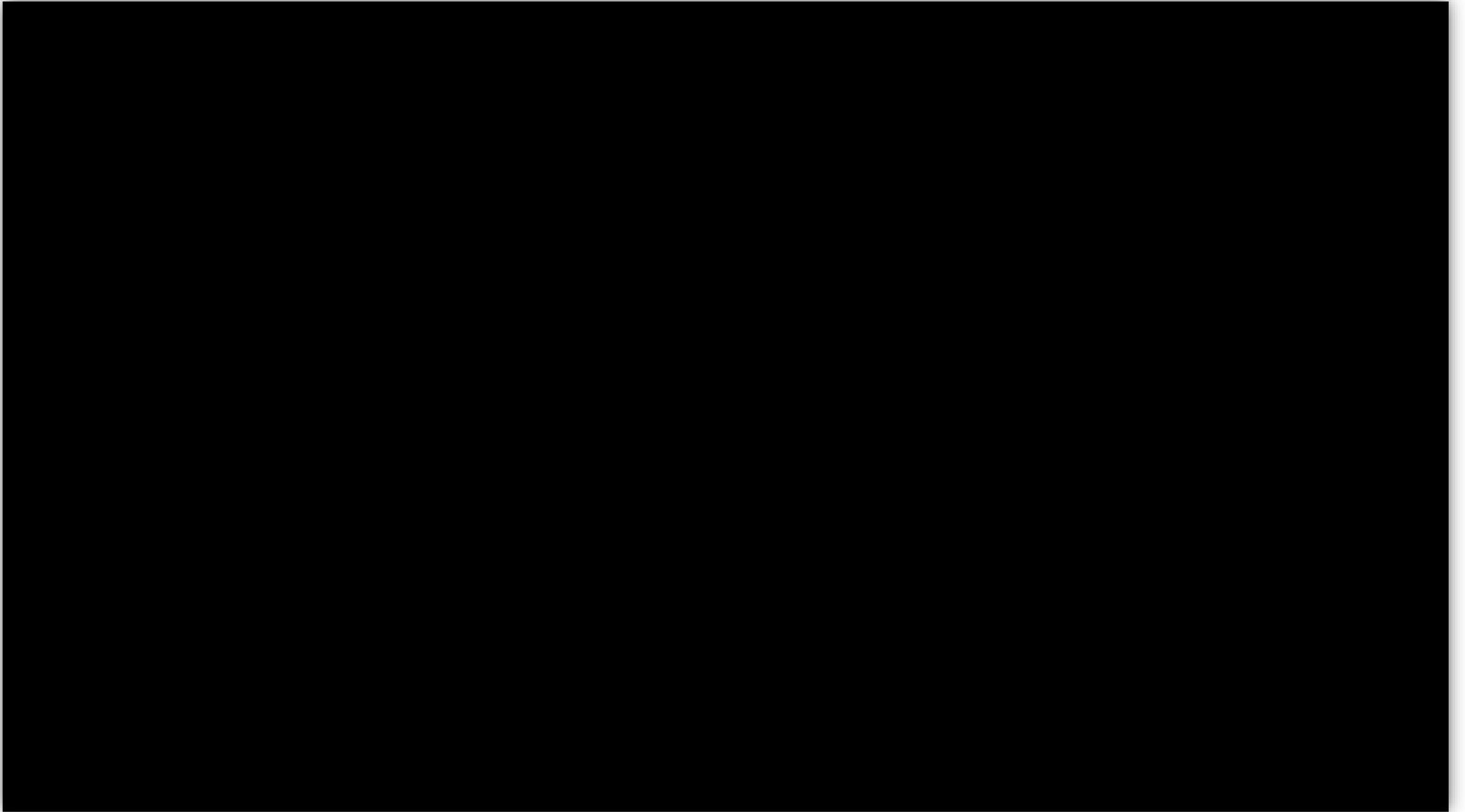
- Go Global Fair (Oct) and Go Global Showcase (Jan)
- Promoted through Careers Social Media Platforms
- Information sessions in Schools (January/February)
- Virtual drop in sessions
- Global Opportunities Website
- Global Ambassadors
- Promotion within Schools

Referral to International Exchange Advisor

- Academic aspects of the placement
- School application process (if required)
- School approval (Risk Assessment)
- Approval of modules
- Return dates for Semester 2

Application / Nomination process

- Global Opportunities contact in February with Nomination form
- Returned to Global Opportunities Team by **1 March 2026** detailing students, duration and destination
- Identified students nominated to their chosen university
- Students provided with funding application
- Students contacted to complete Risk Assessment



Nominations

- Nomination made by Global Opportunities Office to our equivalent in host university
- Nominations made to your point of contact in the host university
- Most nomination deadlines are in April/May/June
- However there are some early deadlines – e.g.
 - March
 - Heinrich Heine University, Düsseldorf, Germany
 - Rheinisch-Westfälische Technische Hochschule, Aachen, Germany
 - Aarhus Universitet, Denmark
 - Rijksuniversiteit Leiden, The Netherlands
 - Universiteit Maastricht, The Netherlands
 - Universiteit Utrecht, The Netherlands
 - Universidad de Granada, Spain
 - Université de Strasbourg, France
 - Lund University, Sweden

Student preparation

Students undertaking early research is essential

- Accommodation
 - Location
 - Costs
 - Deadlines
- Visas/study permits
 - Required?
 - Costs
 - Potential interviews involved
- Support services
- Transport links
- City/Country
- Budget

Learning Agreement

- Outlines the modules to be studied at the host institution
- Can be hard copy or electronic
- Completed by student and signed by IEA
- Digitally signed off by student, IEA and host university
- Required for Funding

- Can be submitted before their start date.

International Mobility Grant and requirements

- Aware of funding available in Summer 2026
- Grant is only available for placements between 1 September 2026 to 31 August 2027
- Calculated from the start date of classes/orientation and end date of classes/exams. Dates provisionally taken from funding application form then confirmed with Confirmation of Attendance Forms.
- International Mobility Grant calculation based on countries cost of living – e.g. 25/26 rates - High Cost of living - £420pm / Med/Low cost of living - £360pm
- Widening Participation supplement– e.g. 25/26 rates - High cost of living - £540pm / Med/low cost of living - £480pm
- Grant paid in two instalments 80% of total in Sept/Oct and 20% in Aug/Sept

International Mobility Grant and requirements

For first instalment (80%)

- Students are required to submit 3/4 pieces of paperwork to receive 1st Instalment of their grant:
 - Funding contract - to be completed and signed by the student before their start date
 - Learning Agreement - completed and signed by International Exchange Advisor, student and Contact in host university) – can be completed before they start.
 - Confirmation of Attendance form – signed by host university after start date.
 - Evidence of relocation (flight confirmation, rental agreement)

Once we receive these and have received the funds from the funding provider we can release their first instalment. Usually Sept/October but can be later.

International Mobility Grant and requirements

For second instalment (20%)

- Students are required to submit 2 pieces of paperwork to receive 2nd Instalment of their grant:
 - Confirmation of Completion form – signed by host university after at end date.
 - Survey – send out after completion

Once we receive these and have received the funds from funding provider we can release their second instalment. Usually August/Sept.

Pre departure

- Pre departure sessions scheduled for May 2026
- Provide guidance on cultural differences, insurance, paperwork, etc and to encourage the students to start preparing for their time abroad
- Past participants talking about their experiences and hints/tips

Contact and return

- Email students throughout the year about funding but also to see how they are getting on
- Use returned student experience for Go Global Week/Showcase
- Blogs and testimonials on Go Global Website
- Recruit students as Global Ambassadors to promote opportunity to peers
- Refer potential students to returned students for information on accommodation, city, etc
- All Study placements can go towards the Future Ready award



Overview of process for non-European exchanges

- Early recruitment due to early nominations – open November / close December.
- Central application process for exchanges to Australia, Canada, New Zealand and the US.
- Students advised to talk to a member of staff within their School about their ability to undertake exchange (IEA, DoI, AoS)
- Students have to identify potential modules as part of the application process.
- Shortlisted students are invited for a video interview
- Successful interviewees are asked to get formal approval from School before being nominated.

Exchange Agreements

Exchange Agreements

- 200 exchange agreements - valid until 2027/28
- Process for establishing new agreements, usually taken forward by the International Exchange Adviser
- New Exchange Proposal Form to be completed
- Agreement document drawn up by Global Opportunities and shared with partner for their review
- Queen's Legal Services and Information Compliance Unit



Incoming Exchange Students

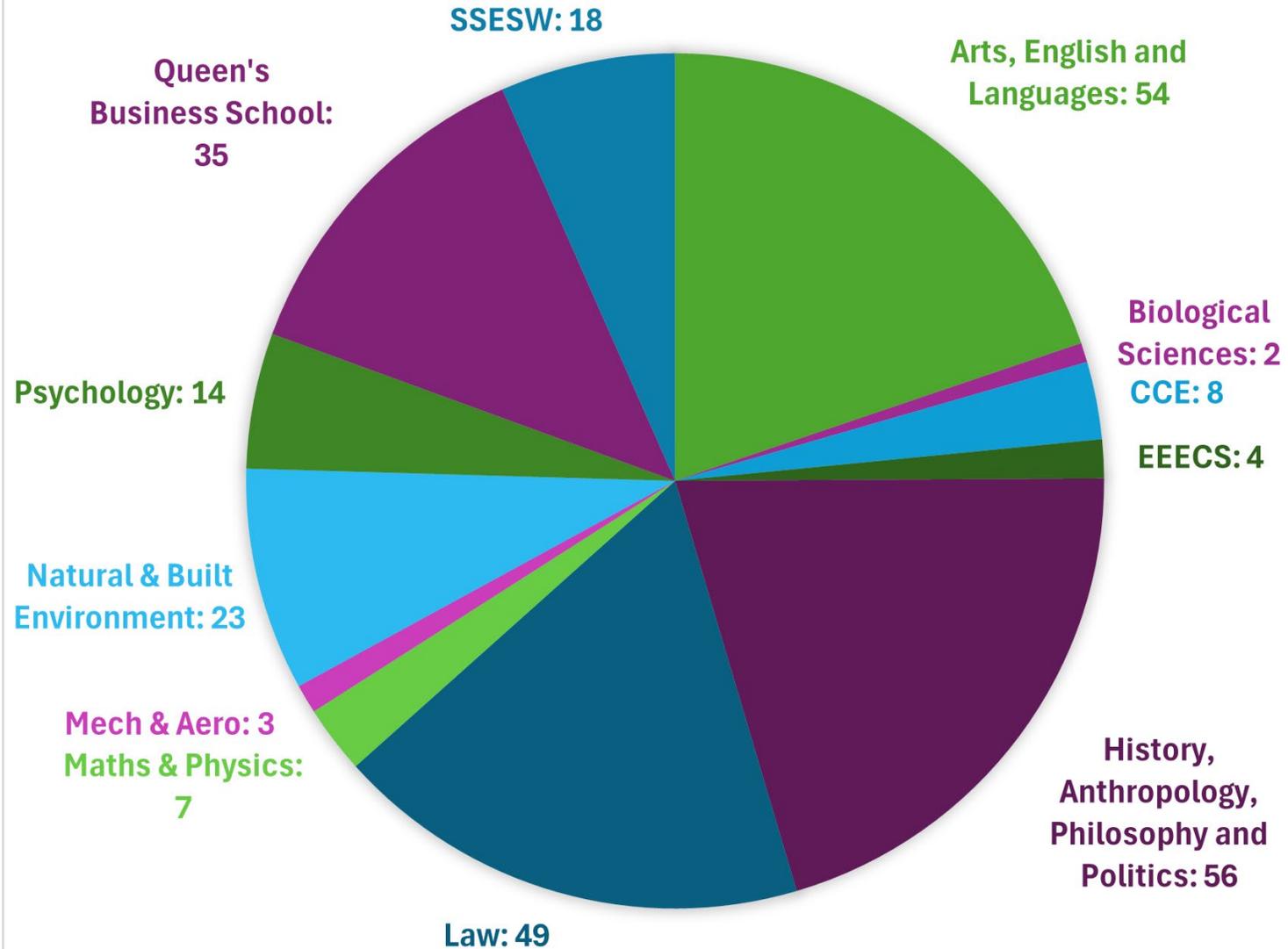
Overall increase in number of incoming Exchange students over 3 years (S1, S2 and FY)

- 2023/24 – 161 students
- 2024/25 – 246 student
- **2025/26 – 273 students**

Number of partners sending students to Queen's in 2025-26:

- 116 institutions from 20 countries
- France (78), Germany (50), Spain (29), USA (27), The Netherlands (20).

INCOMING EXCHANGE STUDENTS 2025-26 BY SCHOOL



Process for Incoming Student Exchange

Process for Incoming Student Exchange

- Global Opportunities Team communication to partners in February - link to nomination form for 2026-27 academic year
- Deadline for partner to submit nominations:
30 April (Semester One and Full Year) and **30 September** (Semester Two)
- Deadline for students to submit application to Global Opportunities
14 May and **14 October**
- Sense check of applications and documentation by Global Opportunities Team – English language certificate, academic transcript, overview of module selection and subject area, passport/nationality (visa requirements)
- Applications sent to International Exchange Advisers for review.
- Decision/acceptance communication email to students after 14 days
- Preparation of CAS (Confirmation of Acceptance for Studies) and Visitor Visa Study letters for students

Process for Incoming Student Exchange

- **Pre-Arrival Webinars** – June and November - in collaboration with Immigration Support Services and Queen's Accommodation
- **Welcome Week Programme** – September and January – in collaboration with Study Abroad and Student Experience Team – week prior to start of teaching
- Enrolment and Registration
- Presentations from range of student support services:
- Academic Processes, Accessible Learning Support and Wellbeing, Academic English Service, IT and Library Services, Queen's Sport, SU Clubs and Societies
- Appointments with International Exchange Advisers/Adviser of Studies
- Student card collection
- Campus and library tours, city tours, social activities

Global Opportunities Appointments

When: Every Tuesday and Thursday

Time: 12-1pm

Where: Students can book an online MS Teams
appointment on MyFuture



*Global Opportunities
Explore the World*



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CAREERS,
EMPLOYABILITY
AND SKILLS

G O ✈
G L O B A L
S H O W C A S E

28 JANUARY
12-1.30PM
THE FOYER,
ONE ELMWOOD



EUROPEAN STUDY EXCHANGE INFO SESSION

INFORMATION SESSIONS ABOUT STUDYING OR
WORKING IN EUROPE

THE CUBE, ONE ELMWOOD
17 FEBRUARY 2026
3-4PM

[GO.QUB.AC.UK/CAREERSEVENTS](https://go.qub.ac.uk/careersevents)



QUEEN'S
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CAREERS,
EMPLOYABILITY
AND SKILLS

- Open to UG (Inc Integrated Masters) - any Subject/Year
- 180+ courses - Humanities, Business, Law, Science, Health, Tech etc.,
- 1 – 3-week courses
- Costs:
 - Global Opportunities covers course fee & accommodation (£1,400)
 - Social activities
 - Widening Participation Grant- £150
 - Student covers flights & spending money
- Applications open 28 January and close 4 March (12 noon)

Mitacs Research Internship – Canada- 26-27

- ✓ Undergrad
- ✗ Final year
- ✗ Postgrad
- ✗ Graduates
- ✓ International

- 12-week Research Internship (Summer 2027)
- Supervision from senior academic staff from a choice of 70 Canadian universities
- **Fully funded** - flight, visa, tuition fees, accommodation and living stipend etc.
- All subject areas considered - Science, Engineering, Mathematics, Humanities and Social Sciences
- Competitive application process

Eligibility

- 18 years of age
- FT UG in their 1st of a 3 yr or 2nd of a 4-yr programme
- 65%+ average
- Be fluent in the oral and written English and/or French

Applications open in May/ June 2026 | Closing date – July 2026



Questions



Global Opportunities Team
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