

# **Brexit Britain's new student programme set out to beat EU's by over 50% in year one**

**Government's Turing Scheme planned 28,000 students, versus 10,000 under EU's Erasmus+**

**Another Remain campaign myth is put to the sword by the blade of Brexit reality**

On Monday we looked at the EU's highly expensive Erasmus+ scheme and how little it had been used by British students to study abroad. Today we look at the UK Government's replacement: the Turing Scheme, based on the plans when it was announced. Then in the final part of this series we will evaluate its performance against these plans and ask whether this is another 'Brexit bonus'.

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**A CIBUK and Brexit Facts4EU three-parter  
on opportunities for overseas study post-Brexit**

**Part of our 'Dare to Think Differently' campaign for young  
people**

**Part One :** The facts about Erasmus+

Part Two : Brexit Britain's new student programme set out to beat EU's by over 50% in year one (**This report**)

Part Three : Latest update on Turing Scheme in 2023 – UK's global alternative to EU's Erasmus+

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# A three-part CIBUK and Facts4EU.Org explainer – for students, parents, politicians, and the public

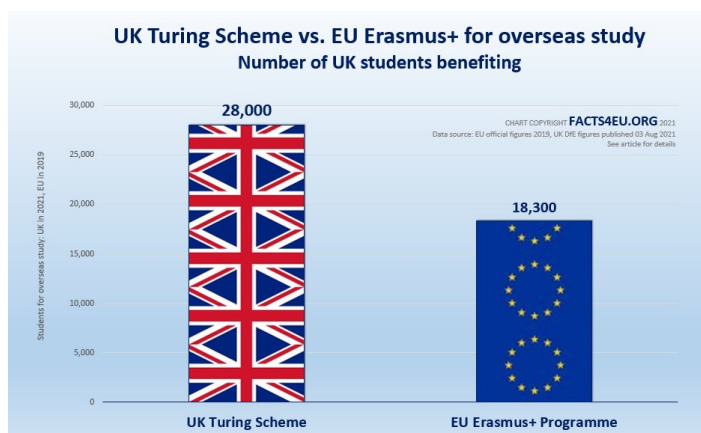
## What did the Department for Education announce?

The Government initially planned for a total of 40,000 students and pupils to study and work abroad under the new Turing student exchange programme, spanning 150 countries. 28,000 of these placements were designated for university students. The DfE says that this compares with 18,300 under the EU's Erasmus+ scheme. (Facts4EU.Org disputes this figure and believes the numbers are even better – see below.) The total budget in the first academic year (2021-22) was £110m.

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## Summary

### Dept for Education's figures for the Erasmus+ replacement



- 28,000 overseas placements for UK university students under UK's new Turing Scheme

- 18,300 overseas placements for UK students under EU's Erasmus programme

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Source: UK Department for Education statement, 03 Aug 2021

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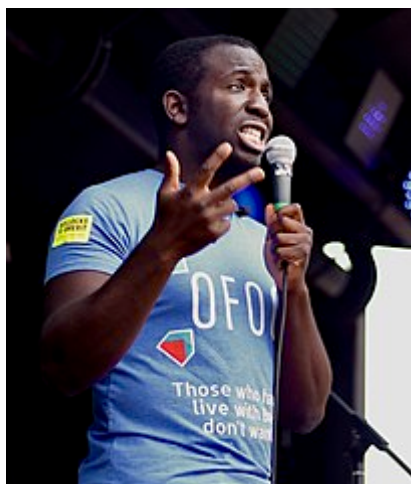
## **Brexit Britain continues to go global**

As part of the new global scheme, Australia, Canada, Japan and the United States are amongst over 150 international destinations where UK students will be funded to take up work and study placements – as well as EU countries like Germany and France.

The DfE said: *“At the heart of the Government’s post-Brexit vision is an ambition to create a truly Global Britain where we learn, work and trade with countries well beyond Europe’s frontiers. The Turing Scheme, which has replaced the UK’s participation in Erasmus+, gives young people the opportunity to benefit from working and studying abroad, while boosting our ties with international partners in the process.”*

## **The Remain campaign’s Project Fear attacked the loss of Erasmus+**

The subject of Brexit denying students the right to study abroad came up many times during the Referendum campaign and in the years that followed. Here is one example, from the campaign arm for young people called ‘Our Future Our Choice’ (OFOC) led by Femi Oluwole.



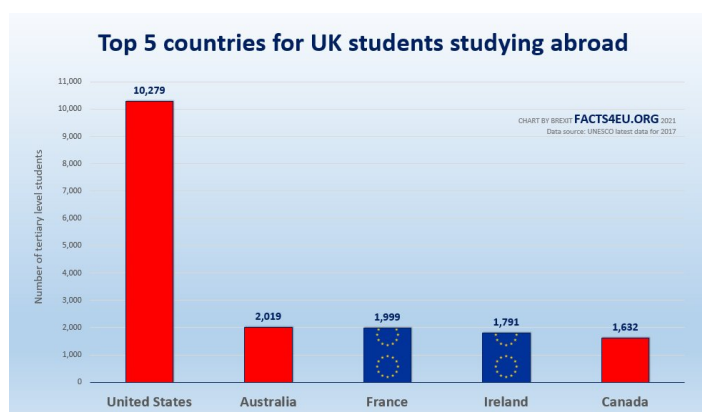
'Our Future Our Choice' (OFOC)

*"The outcome will impact us the most: we are losing our rights to live, work and study anywhere in our continent."*

– 'Our Future Our Choice' website – a Remain campaign group

'Our Future Our Choice' was funded by Best for Britain, Open Britain, and The European Movement. This means that indirectly they received funding from the foreign billionaire George Soros.

**The Turing Scheme was designed to benefit UK students – we will no longer be paying for EU27 students**



For years Facts4EU.Org has published reports on the EU's Erasmus+ programme. We continually pointed out that **twice as many EU27 students were benefiting from coming to the UK compared to UK students going to the EU.** We

also highlighted the fact that far more UK students went to the United States than to any EU country.

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## Finally, did Gavin Williamson got his sums wrong?



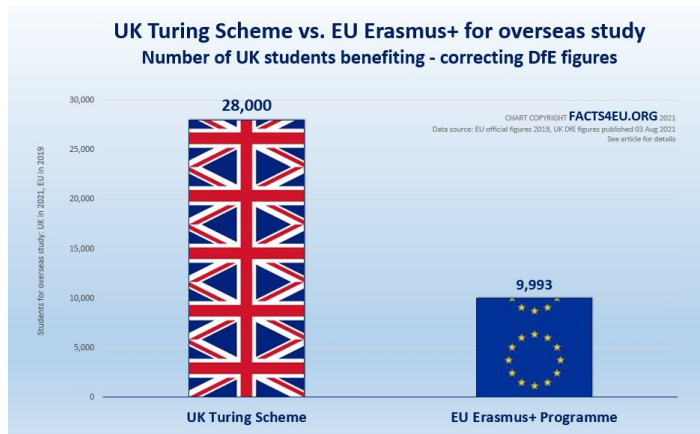
The statement from the Department for Education in 2021 contained the following key section:-

*"The total number of individual placements supported this year through the £110m scheme stands at over 40,000 – exceeding the Department for Education's own estimates. This includes 28,000 placements for university students – compared with only 18,300 under Erasmus+ in the academic year 2018/9."*

Er, no. It appears that they made the same mistake that so many Remainers have made. The figure for outgoing UK students under Erasmus+ in that year was in fact 9,993, according to the EU's own official figures. It would appear that the Department for Education under Gavin Williamson had mistakenly included 'trainees' (work placements, apprentices, etc) in its total.

Adding in trainees takes the EU's figure for UK nationals to 18,305. If the UK Government's new scheme provides *"28,000 placements for university students"*, as they said, then they

should have compared this to the EU's Erasmus figure for UK students, which is only 9,993. That would make the comparison chart look like this:-



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Source: UK Department for Education statement, 03 Aug 2021,  
and official EU statistics for UK students in 2019  
– the last pre-Covid year.

## **Finally, the vastness of the global opportunities for the UK's students compared to EU's Erasmus+**

The UK's Turing scheme of 160 countries (see tomorrow's report) contrasts with the EU's Erasmus programme which has just 33 countries formally approved. Here is the EU Commission's official list as of 24 July 2023.

The EU27 : Belgium, Bulgaria, Czechia, Denmark, Germany, Estonia, Ireland, Greece, Spain, France, Croatia, Italy, Cyprus, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Hungary, Malta, Netherlands, Austria, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovenia, Slovakia, Finland, Sweden.

Then you have:

- North Macedonia
- Serbia
- Iceland
- Liechtenstein
- Norway
- Turkey

All other countries are subject to all manner of EU rules and regulations. If the UK's young people don't believe us, here is what the EU Commission says :-

*“The following countries can take part in certain Actions of the Programme, subject to specific criteria or conditions (consult Part B of this Guide for the exact list of eligible countries for each specific action).*

*“Funding will be allocated to organisations in the countries within their territories as recognised by international law. Funding must respect any restrictions placed on EU external assistance imposed by the European Council. Applications have to be in line with the overall EU values of respect for human dignity, freedom, democracy, equality, the rule of law and respect for human rights, including the rights of persons belonging to minorities as foreseen in Article 2 of the Treaty of the European Union.”*

Good luck with that.

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## Observations

Once again Brexit Britain confounded its critics. To put in place a new student overseas study programme in the first full year of Brexit must be seen as an achievement.

Even if Gavin Williamson got his sums wrong, the Government's new Turing Scheme set out to involve substantially more students than under the EU's Erasmus+ programme. One further advantage was that the UK was no longer going to be funding 18,000 EU students and 12,000 EU27 trainees each year. Naturally they are still welcome to come, but not at the British taxpayer's expense.

Instead the UK Government said they would be making available grants to worthy students from all around the world (including some from the EU of course), contributing to a continued, vibrant, higher education sector. Turning the United Kingdom once again into an exciting, globally outward-looking country is part of what Brexit was all about.

**Tomorrow :** In the final report in this three-part series tomorrow we will look at how the Turing Scheme is doing now and ask: ***"Is this yet another Brexit benefit?"***

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The original article can be found [here](#).

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