

**Erasmus: Northern Ireland students with British passports can access funding**

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5 Simon Harris said his officials will work with in the coming weeks to finalise the arrangements

Erasmus is an EU programme that helps students study in other countries. Prime Minister Boris Johnson announced that the UK will not continue to participate in it and will be replacing it with  
10 a new scheme. But students at NI ( = Northern Ireland ) universities can participate in the scheme under an arrangement with the Irish government, at a cost of about €2.1 (£1.9m) a year. Last year, 649 students and staff from Northern Ireland took part in the scheme. In addition funding for NI students on the Erasmus scheme will not be limited to those with an Irish passport after Brexit.

15 Simon Harris, the Republic of Ireland's higher education minister, said that "the government of Ireland made a very solemn commitment to Northern Ireland that, even after Brexit, we would make sure that there were still ways for us to co-operate and collaborate in relation to higher education." "I think it's a very practical example of us wanting to continue to collaborate with  
20 Northern Ireland post-Brexit," he added. Mr Harris said it is "really important that students in Northern Ireland can continue to access" the Erasmus scheme. Students from Northern Ireland will need to temporarily register with Irish higher education institutions to participate.

Erasmus is also involved in vocational training and work overseas, as well as with teachers who  
25 want to work or train abroad. Previously, a report from the House of Lords EU Committee warned the benefits of the Erasmus programme would be very difficult to replicate with a national programme as the government is planning. It added that vocational education and training would stop, and that leaving Erasmus would "disproportionately affect people from disadvantaged backgrounds and those with medical needs or disabilities".

30 Source : [www.bbc.com/news/uk-northern-ireland](http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-northern-ireland)

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