

**Erasmus: What could happen to the scheme after Brexit?**

By Anthony Reuben (BBC.news.com)

5 **The Erasmus scheme is a European Union (EU) programme that helps students study in other countries.**

Prime Minister Boris Johnson has announced that the UK will not continue to participate in it and will be replacing it with a new scheme named after the mathematician Alan Turing.

10 He said leaving Erasmus had been a "tough decision" but that under the new scheme, students would "have the opportunity... not just to go to European universities, but to go to the best universities in the world".

The EU's Brexit negotiator Michel Barnier said he regretted the decision.

Students at universities in Northern Ireland will continue to participate in Erasmus, as part of an arrangement with the Irish government.

15 The UK government has already introduced a new immigration regime for students.

Although coronavirus is now affecting student mobility, figures from before the pandemic showed that about half of UK university students who studied abroad did so through Erasmus.

20 **In 2017**, 16,561 UK students participated in Erasmus, while 31,727 EU nationals came to the UK.

Erasmus is also involved in vocational training and work overseas, as well as with teachers who want to work or train abroad.

25 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.

UK universities are still eligible to participate in Erasmus programmes. And as long as funding is awarded before the end of 2020, students and staff will be able to go ahead with their exchanges even if they take place after the end of the transition period.

30 Universities UK's guidance is that: "In effect, this means staff and students can complete mobility periods and receive funding up until the end of the 2021-22 academic year."

However, UK and EU students will have to deal with new immigration regulations.

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