

UK students lose Erasmus membership in Brexit deal

Students and young people from Britain will no longer take part in the Europe-wide Erasmus exchange programme after the UK failed to reach agreement over its post-Brexit membership.

- 5 The omission of Erasmus from the UK-EU deal ends a scheme¹ that had offered student exchanges as well as school links, work experience and apprenticeships across Europe since 1987. Under the latest version of the scheme, Erasmus+, around 200,000 people have taken part including around 15,000 British university students each year.

Adam Tickell, the vice-chancellor of the University of Sussex, said: “Leaving Erasmus is a real
10 sadness (...). Over the years the Erasmus programme transformed the lives of thousands of young people.”

In January, Johnson assured MPs there was “no threat to the Erasmus scheme”. But confirming the end of membership, he said on Thursday: “On Erasmus, it was a tough decision.” He claimed the UK “loses out” financially because of the larger number of EU nationals coming to study in
15 the UK.

“So what we are doing is producing a UK scheme for students to go around the world,” the prime minister said. “It will be called the Turing scheme, named after Alan Turing, so students will have the opportunity not just to go to European universities but to go to the best universities in the world. (...)”

- 20 The new scheme is not expected to fund students coming to the UK, as Erasmus does now, which suggests British universities will miss out on a source of income. A report earlier this year said ending Erasmus membership would cost the UK more than £200m a year.

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1 A scheme = (ici) un programme

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