

Global Student Mobility at BU

1. Introduction

- 1.1. This paper provides an overview of outward student mobility at Bournemouth University (BU), including its background, current status, and future plans.
- 1.2. The paper goes on to summarise how the outward student mobility agenda at BU is being managed and led across the institution. This includes a summary of the activities that are being undertaken to attain the BU 2018 performance indicator on student mobility (PI7), as well as some recommended actions for all stakeholders engaged across the University to deliver these activities.
- 1.3. The paper begins by examining the external context for internationalisation and outward student mobility, followed by a summary of the internal context at BU. Appendix A at the end of the paper provides a snapshot of current performance on outward student mobility at BU. Appendix B provides an overview of student mobility internal and external funding streams currently available at BU.

2. External Context

- 2.1. The UK Higher Education (HE) sector historically has not achieved high rates of outward student mobility, and recent trends show that only 1.3% of UK domiciled students were mobile in 2014/15 ([Hesa, 2015](#)). The UK's decision to leave the EU in June 2016 has brought internationalisation and mobility to the fore and provides an opportunity and necessity for innovative approaches to and concepts of all types of mobility.
- 2.2. A more detailed analysis of the external context for global engagement and HE was presented in the [Annual Global Engagement Update](#) in July 2016, and is available on the intranet.

3. Internal Context

- 3.1. As a University we passionately believe that undertaking a range of activities overseas is of considerable benefit to our students. Experiencing the learning and/or working environment of another country and culture enriches their learning experience and journey at BU, and enhances their employability by providing them with a skillset and perspective that are essential to today's job market.
- 3.2. The University Strategy *BU2018: Creating, Sharing, Inspiring*, launched in 2012, reflects this belief in the importance of international experiences for our students, and set a target of 20% of undergraduate (UG) students having engaged in exchange and mobility in their programme by 2018 (PI 7). More recently, the [Global Engagement \(GE\) Plan](#) finalised in July 2015, and formally launched to all staff from October 2015, expands on the purpose, objectives and enablers of *BU 2018* within the 1:6:3 framework as follows:
 - 1 purpose: A Global BU
 - 6 objectives: partnerships, mobility, recruitment, research, professional practice, education
 - 3 enablers: People, Environment, Finance
- 3.3. The GE Plan contains a specific objective on student mobility as follows: 'We will enrich our (staff and) student experience through a range of outward and inward

mobility programmes'. This objective further acknowledges the core belief that gaining an international experience is an essential part of our student experience at BU.

4. The Evolution of Student Mobility between 2012 and 2016

- 4.1. This section describes the context and scale of outward student mobility at BU at the launch of BU2018 in 2012, and up to 2016. The scale of activity has increased from 2012 with the introduction of the Student Mobility Strand of the Fusion Investment Fund (Global Horizons Fund), and the gradual expansion of support from the central mobility team. Table 1 below provides more detail.

2012/13

- 4.2. As shown in Table 1, in 2012, the scale of outward student mobility was relatively modest and had mostly been limited to the Erasmus programme for study exchanges and work placements. Whilst there was initially an upward trend after the introduction of the Global Horizons Fund in 2012, the numbers then subsided in 2013.
- 4.3. At this point, only activities funded centrally through Erasmus and Global Horizons were captured in the PI. Also, only 12 students participated in study exchanges in 2012/13, which reflects the early stages of establishing a culture of outward student mobility at that time at BU, as well as a partnership portfolio that only included two international, non-Erasmus study exchange destinations.

2014-2016

- 4.4. From 2014/15 onwards, following the arrival of the Pro Vice-Chancellor (Global Engagement) in 2014 and the launch of the Global Engagement Plan in 2015, we have undertaken a series of initiatives to recover the momentum established from 2012/13.
- 4.5. Broadly speaking, the change of approach for student mobility, as set out in the GE Plan, is predominantly focused on enabling institutional-led activity for groups of students, rather than sole emphasis on supporting and administering individual student mobility. Group mobility programmes are intended to complement the growing individual student activity that had been taking place. These programmes were designed to create mobility opportunities for larger numbers of students and to embed mobility as part of the culture of the institution. More detail on the pilot initiatives are described below in paragraph 4.9.
- 4.6. As part of the GE Plan development, a range of discussions took place with stakeholders both internal and external to the University. Through these conversations it was recognised that the existing definition of PI7 was not fully representative of the mobility picture at BU. In the autumn of 2015, PI7 was subsequently revised to include mobility of any duration undertaken by any student, not only at undergraduate level.
- 4.7. Additionally, data capture for PI7 has been expanded over 2015/16 year by introducing the use of Student Travel Insurance Register as a measure tool that includes records of activity not organised or funded by the central mobility team.
- 4.8. In parallel, it was recognised that to achieve the scale of improvements required, additional resources (both financial and human) were required (see Table 1).

Together these changes have already resulted in a marked improvement of PI7 (from 1.7% to 3.9%). This is expected to rise further, when the next census data will be produced in October 2016, as many students undertake short term mobility during the summer. The detailed breakdown of the current picture of performance is available in Appendix A of this paper.

	Staffing	Funding	Performance
2012-14	<p>Initially, a 0.8 FTE Exchanges Coordinator in Academic Partnerships was responsible for this activity.</p> <p>In 2012, a full-time Partnership & International Development Manager was appointed.</p> <p>In 2013, the 0.8 Coordinator post became a full-time Student Mobility Officer post, and a full-time Student Mobility Administrator was also appointed.</p>	<p>The Student Mobility Strand of the Fusion Investment Fund was launched in 2012 under the name of 'Global Horizons Fund' (GHF) with a budget of £200,000.</p>	<p><u>2012/13</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 52 students undertook study exchange and Erasmus work placements overseas. - The Global Horizons Fund supported a further 146 students to be outwardly mobile - The total number of students mobile was 198, representing 1.6% percentage of the UG population. <p><u>2013/14</u></p> <p>The total number of students mobile decreased in 2013/14 from 1.6% of the UG population to 0.8% of the UG population.</p>
2014-16	<p>A new mobility team was established in early 2016, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - two existing roles of Mobility Officer and Administrator - Two new posts of Global Engagement Administrators who support two Faculties each. - The new post of a dedicated Mobility Manager joined the team in early August, allowing the current International Partnership Development Manager to focus on partnership development. 	<p>The Global Horizons Fund budget increased to £300,000 from 2014/15 onwards.</p> <p>BU secured an additional grant of €9840 to fund student mobility both to and from our study exchange partner in the USA, Montclair State University, starting in the 2016/17 academic year.</p> <p>Extra funding was obtained from the Fair Access Fund in 2015 to provide an extra grant of £500 for students from Widening Participation backgrounds going on study exchanges to partner institutions outside Europe.</p>	<p><u>2014/15</u></p> <p>Outward student mobility rose to 1.7% of the UG population.</p> <p><u>2015/16</u></p> <p>3.9% of all students were outwardly mobile by the census point of May 2016.</p>

Table 1. Evolution of Student Mobility at BU from 2012-2016.

Key Initiatives to Support Student Mobility

- 4.9. In addition to the staffing, financial and data capture changes described above, a number of key initiatives were piloted during the 2015/16 year to embed further the culture of outward student mobility activity required to deliver the target in PI7 by 2018/19. These included:
- Group mobility programmes to partner institutions in India and China, as well to the Festival of Learning in Malaysia and China. 35 students participated in these programmes in 2015/16.
 - Raising the profile of mobility through related projects. For example, the link between employability and mobility was integrated within the pilot [Global Talent Programme](#) (GTP) which involved over 150 students.
 - A small pilot of virtual mobility run through the Jamestown Project in the USA – a lecture was delivered on 26 March 2016 through streaming technology to BU staff and students on the Talbot Campus from the curator of the Jamestown Museum speaking in the USA.
 - A soft-launch of an online support tool kit for staff and enhanced information provided to students over 2015/16. This information is currently being reviewed and refreshed for 2016/17.
 - Working with IT to scope requirements for a comprehensive IT system to support the management and administration of BU's growing student mobility offer.

5. Priorities from 2016/17

- 5.1. Although improvements in PI7 have been made over the last two years, significant progress is still required in order to achieve the 20% target for PI7 by 2018/19. Delivering the ambitions set out in BU2018 and its derivative the Global Engagement Plan will require a joined up effort of departments and individuals across the Faculties and Central Services at BU: each will have a key role to play in increasing and promoting opportunities for students to be outwardly mobile.
- 5.2. The three sectoral barriers to student mobility have been well documented as: cost, culture, and curriculum. Overcoming these barriers calls for a cross-institutional effort and commitment to deliver enhanced student mobility opportunities for as many students as possible so that student mobility becomes embedded across BU as a cultural norm, and the University becomes known for its student mobility offer.
- 5.3. The mobility operational plan describes in detail the priorities in the next two years (a copy of which is available on the I-drive [here](#)), and a summary of the key activities is shown below in Table 2.
- 5.4. Table 2 also captures the initiatives we have undertaken thus far to reduce or remove the principle barriers to student mobility in terms of cost, curriculum and culture. The table contains some recommended actions for stakeholders across the University to increase the numbers of students engaging in mobility.

5.5. The Faculties will be supported by the mobility team in the Global Engagement Hub to engage in initiatives to increase student mobility. The [mobility toolkit](#) for staff on the intranet has been updated to provide a resource for Faculties in developing mobility opportunities and playing their role in supporting students.

Barrier	Initiatives to Date	Planned Action 2016/17 – Global Engagement Hub	Recommended Action 2016/17 – Faculties	Recommended Action 2016/17– Student Services	Recommended Action 2016/17 - IMSRT
Cost	Internal funding: Global Horizons Fund; External funding: Erasmus+ and Santander.	Consider options for future changes to internal funding to keep pace with external environment. Raise external funds and refresh existing funding streams.	Allocate/raise funding for field trips and other Faculty outward mobility opportunities. Include funding for outward student mobility in research funding bids.	Accommodation: Negotiate shorter accommodation leases for BU outgoing and incoming exchange students and cooperate on resolving other accommodation and visa barriers	
Curriculum	Semesterisation has been introduced through the Common Academic Structure, which facilitates study exchange through closer alignment of semester dates with partners.	Expand targeted programme for short courses at partners, including a targeted programme of volunteering opportunities with selected organisations.	Embed mobility in the curriculum by creating relevant, exciting products and opportunities for students to have international experiences, whether these are study exchanges abroad, field trips linked to units, virtual mobility or other kinds of activities that provide internationalisation on campus. Record all student mobility activities on the Student Travel Insurance Register.		

<p>Culture</p>	<p>The BU Festival of Learning going global to China and Malaysia in 2016.</p> <p>Destination India, Destination China cohort mobility programmes.</p>	<p>Launch a wider range of cohort mobility programmes organised at Faculty and institutional levels.</p> <p>Adopt a more flexible definition of outward mobility to contribute to PI7.</p> <p>Enhance information available to staff and students through toolkits.</p> <p>Virtual mobility pilot - GE Mobility contribution to the Global Talent Programme.</p> <p>Enhance BU proposition for incoming exchange students.</p> <p>Pilot BU Student Conference on mobility, continuing to engage with groups of students</p> <p>Implement IT system to manage and record mobility.</p>	<p>Embed mobility in programmes.</p> <p>Develop a wider range of cohort mobility programmes organised at Faculty and institutional levels.</p> <p>Develop some taught foreign language provision at BU linked to particular programmes.</p> <p>Create a fund-raising culture among students to complement university funding they may receive.</p>	<p>Promote overseas placements; develop more opportunities for students to undertake placements overseas.</p>	<p>Promote BU as an exchange destination to selected partner universities.</p>
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Table 2: Initiatives and actions to address mobility barriers.

6. Recommendations

- 6.1. This paper makes the following key recommendations for the AY 17/18 based on the context and performance outlined above.
 - 6.1.1. Plan for a possible increase in Global Horizons Funding to £500k per year by 2017/18 in case of the loss of Erasmus+ funding during the UK's Brexit negotiations.
 - 6.1.2. Continue the shift from individual activity to group and cohort-based activity to increase volume and impact.
 - 6.1.3. Faculties to create new opportunities and products to embed outward student mobility in the curriculum.
 - 6.1.4. Adopt a more flexible definition of outward mobility to contribute to PI7, as recommended in the [UK Strategy for Outward Mobility](#), to include virtual mobility and internationalisation on campus.
 - 6.1.5. Implement an IT system for mobility to support the management of an increase in student mobility.

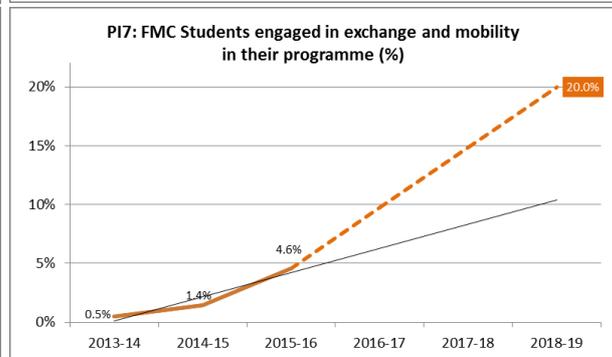
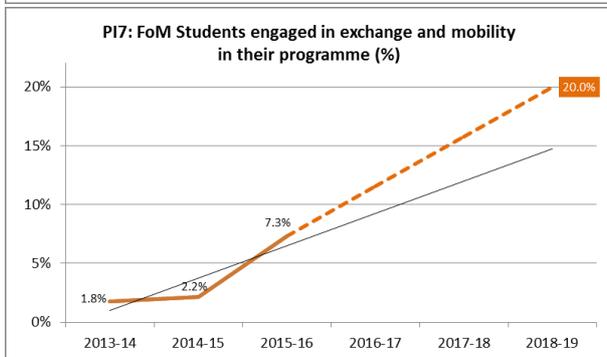
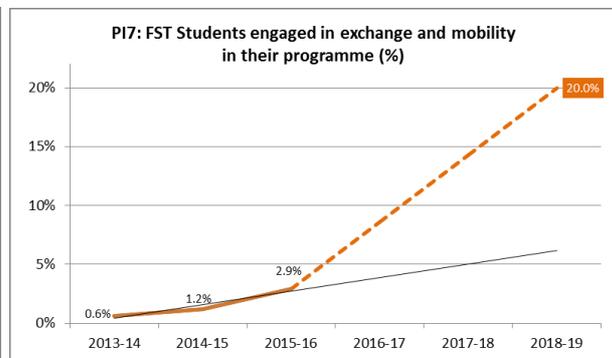
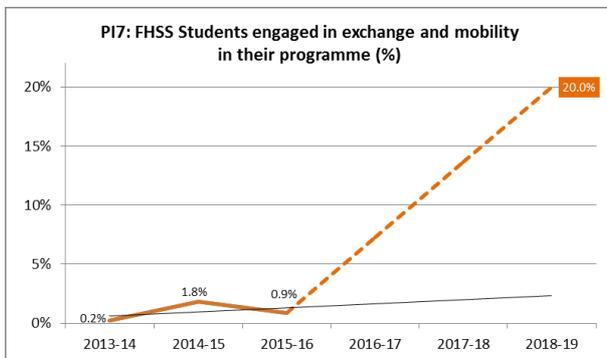
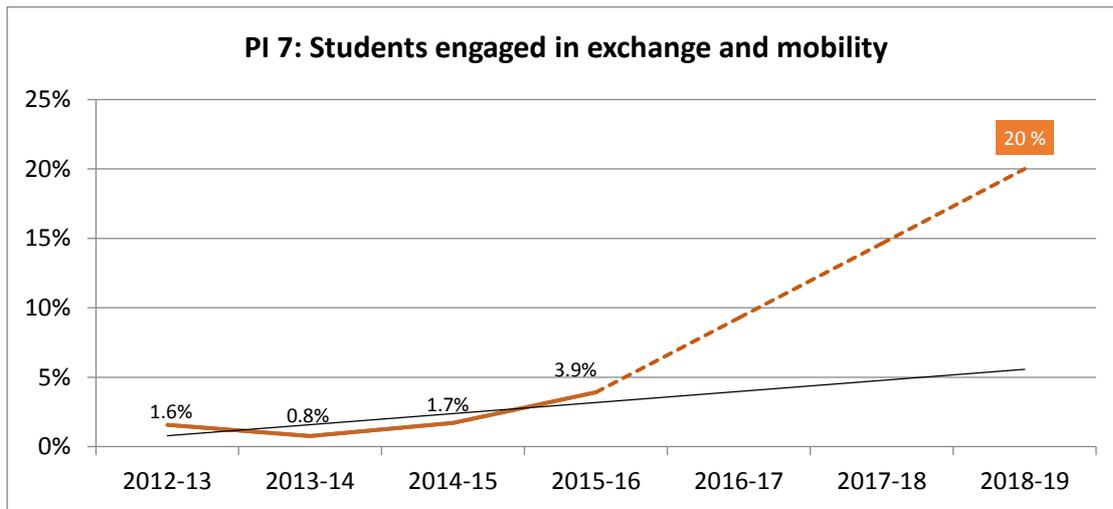
These will be considered during the course of the AY 16/17 and will be fed into the Annual Refresh to this paper.

7. Conclusion

- 7.1. This paper has provided an overview of outward student mobility at BU from the launch of *BU2018* until the present. It has also described investments and initiatives undertaken since 2014 to improve performance in PI7.
- 7.2. However, considerable improvements still need to be made. In support of this, and in order to increase the opportunities for and impact of student mobility, a shift in emphasis from individual mobility to group mobility has also recently been initiated. However, embedding outward student mobility as part of the core offer and culture at BU will require consistent, joined up action across the institution, as described above in Table 2.
- 7.3. Outward student mobility remains a UK HE sectoral challenge, particularly in terms of cost. Equally, the benefits of student mobility, both to the student experience and students' future employability, is well documented and consequently is a core part of any HEI's offer. This paper is intended therefore to provide a clear and confident direction of travel demonstrating how BU commits to attain the mobility targets in *BU2018*.

Appendix A: Student Mobility Data (May 2016)

This appendix provides a snapshot of outward student mobility data. The charts below plot the PI7 trajectory over the last three to four years at both a BU and Faculty level. Data for 2015/16 is taken at the most recent census point (May 2016). Progress is shown against the BU target of 20% by 2018/19 and also shows a linear trajectory based on actual performance since 2012/13. The 2018 target is shown and the dotted line represents the progress required by BU and Faculties to meet the 2018 target.

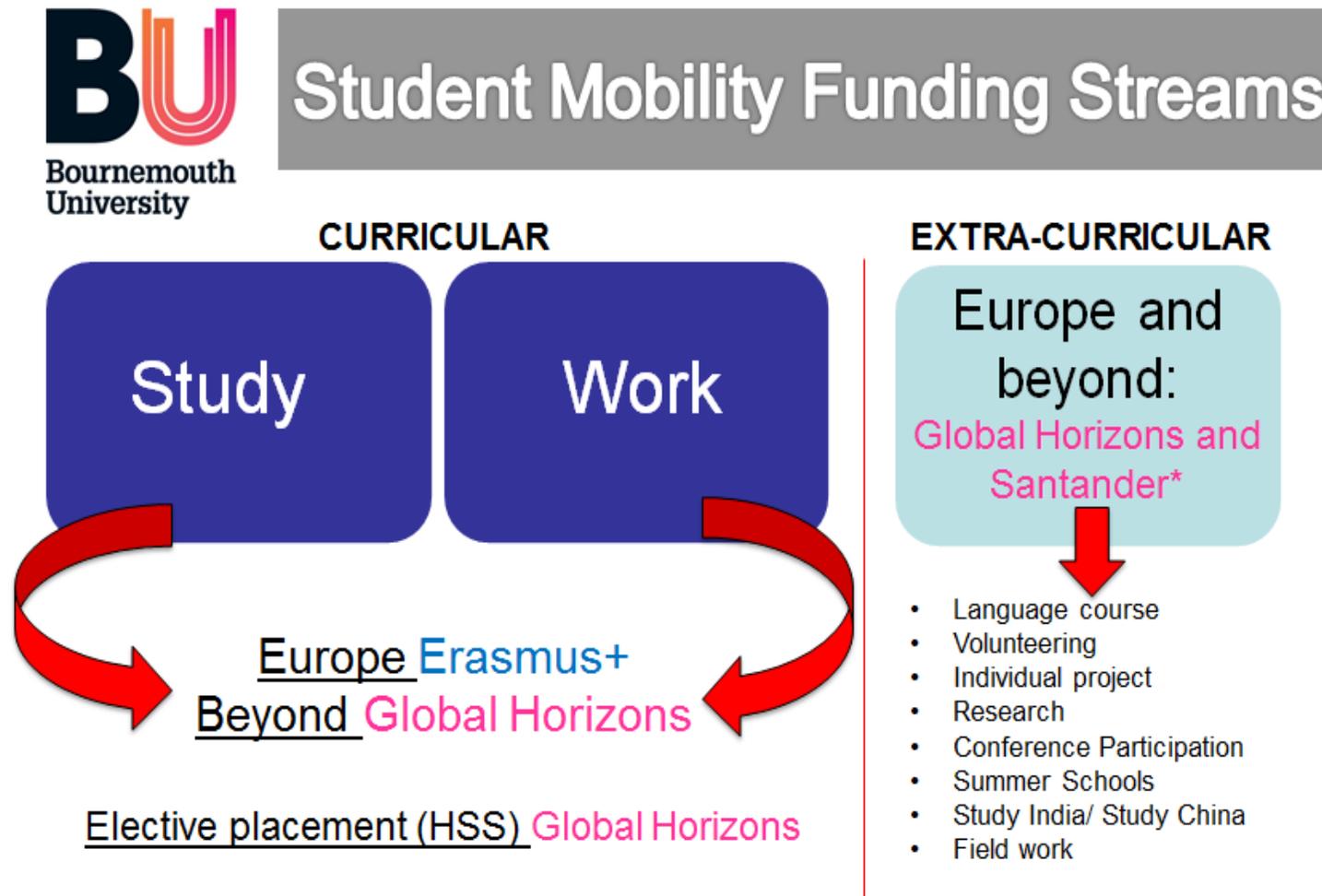


Data is also captured at student level, therefore can be analysed at programme and Department level. The table below shows students engaged in outbound international mobility activities by department as at May 2016.

Faculties and Academic Departments	%
Human Sciences & Public Health	1.1%
Nursing & Clinical Sciences	0.9%
Social Sciences & Social Work	1.1%
Faculty of Health & Social Sciences	0.9%
Archaeology, Anthropology & Forensic Science	2.4%
Computing & Informatics	0.0%
Creative Technology	2.0%
Design & Engineering	1.4%
Life & Environmental Sciences	13.6%
Psychology	2.7%
Faculty of Science & Technology	2.9%
Accounting, Finance & Economics	1.2%
Events & Leisure	4.8%
Leadership, Strategy & Organisations	1.9%
Marketing	14.5%
Sport & Physical Activity	9.9%
Tourism & Hospitality	24.3%
Faculty of Management	7.3%
National Centre for Computer Animation	9.9%
Corporate & Marketing Communications	5.4%
School of Journalism, English & Communication	4.6%
Law	0.4%
Media Production	1.2%
Faculty of Media & Communication	4.6%
BU	3.9%

Whilst PI7 focuses on outbound mobility, we are also working towards improving performance on incoming student mobility. A summary of the key data for incoming student mobility from 2013/14 to 2015/16 is included below:

2013/14			2014/15			2015/16			2013/14 - 2015/16		
Erasmus+	Intl	Total	Erasmus+	Intl	Total	Erasmus+	Intl	Total	Erasmus+	Intl	Total
44	6	50	59	16	75	70	33	103	173	55	228



* Santander grants are awarded via the Global Horizons application process and will be awarded by the Global Horizons Panel to successful applicants who meet the eligibility criteria. **NOTE:** The Global Horizons application process is competitive.

Student Mobility Funding Streams at BU (Refreshed August 2016)

Suitable for...	ERASMUS+		BU Global Horizons Fund	Santander
	<i>Study Abroad Exchanges in the EU Funding awarded on a first come first served basis and dependent on the amount of funding awarded by the British Council annually.</i>	<i>Traineeships /placements in the EU Funding awarded on a first come first served basis and dependent on the amount funding awarded by the British Council annually.</i>	<i>Study, Work, Summer Schools and other International Opportunities outside the EU and inside the EU (where you are not eligible for funding under ERASMUS+) Applications are competitive.</i>	<i>Study, Work, Summer Schools, Language courses and other Activities in Eligible Countries only Applications are competitive.</i>
Where can you go?	Any of BU's partner Universities in the EU. Exchange opportunities are course specific.	Any company outside of the UK but within the EU (excluding Switzerland). Placements must be approved by your Placement Coordinator and on MyCareerHub.	Any of BU's partner Universities and companies outside the EU, including Switzerland. You can organise activities yourself. Summer Schools, volunteering, Electives (HSS) and Language courses are also eligible.	Study at BU partners or at companies within eligible countries only (<i>Argentina, Brazil, Belgium, Chile, China, Colombia, France, Germany, Ghana, Mexico, Poland, Portugal, Puerto Rico, Qatar, Russia, Singapore, Spain, USA, United Kingdom, UAE, and Uruguay</i>).
Duration	Min 3 months up to a maximum of 360 days. (1 study mobility grant allowed per person per year)	Min 2 months up to a maximum of 360 days. (1 traineeship mobility grant allowed per person per year)	No minimum duration, maximum duration is restricted by the amount of funding - up to £2000 (or up to £2500 for study in North America). Funding is dependent on flight costs and daily subsistence rate.	Study Abroad max 6 months, other activities max 2 months if your activity exceeds this duration you will need to apply via the Global Horizons fund.
Fees	No tuition fees to be paid at host university but continue to pay BU tuition fees. Visas, flights accommodation, administration and other costs may apply.	Continue to pay BU tuition fees. Flights, accommodation and other costs may apply.	Continue to pay BU tuition fees. Visas, flights accommodation, administration and other costs may apply dependent on chosen organisation. No tuition fees to be paid at partner university.	Continue to pay BU tuition fees. Visas, flights accommodation, administration and other costs may apply dependent on chosen organisation. No tuition fees to be paid at partner university.
Total Grant	Amount varies by country group, but in 20-16/17 are either 280 or 330 euro per month. Grant is split into 2 payments, 75% in advance and 25% on completion of the British Council questionnaire sent to you on your return.	Amount varies by country group, but in 2016/17 are either 380 or 430 euro per month. Grant is split into 2 payments, 75% in advance and 25% on completion of the British Council questionnaire sent to you on your return.	Set amount for flights which is country dependent along with daily subsistence rate.	Exact grant numbers and amounts for 16/17 are to be confirmed.
Widening Participation	WP applicants are eligible for an additional 100 euro per month.	N/A	Additional funding for WP students undertaking study exchange in 16/17 Will be confirmed in December 2016.	N/A
Deadlines	Expression of interest forms must be submitted to the faculty by 15th February for travel in the next academic year. Learning agreements and grant agreements must be completed and signed before the start date.	At least 1 month before start of placement. Learning agreements and Grant agreements must be completed before the activity start date.	3 cycles per year, deadlines as follows: 15 March, 30 June, 15 November. Applicants can apply out of cycle for activities that are a compulsory part of your BU course (placement, study exchange or HSS elective).	3 cycles per year, deadlines as follows: 15 March, 30 June, 15 November. Applicants can apply out of cycle for activities that are a compulsory part of your BU course (placement, study exchange or HSS elective).
How to apply	Automatically funded as part of the Study Abroad programme. Students are required to complete a Learning Agreement, Grant Agreement and British Council Questionnaire. For more information visit: Erasmus+ for study Bournemouth University	Automatically funded as part of the Study Abroad programme. Students are required to complete a Traineeship Agreement, Grant Agreement .and British Council Questionnaire. For more information visit: Erasmus+ for work Bournemouth University	Students will need to download the application from the Global Horizons webpage and email to Internationalgrants@bournemouth.ac.uk For more information and the application form visit: Global Horizons Fund Bournemouth University	Currently allocated via the Global Horizons application form. Students will need to download the application from the Global Horizons Webpage and email to Internationalgrants@bournemouth.ac.uk For more information and the application form visit: Global Horizons Fund Bournemouth University