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Convener
Education, Children and Young People Committee
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27 September 2023

Dear Convener,

Update on the Scottish Education Exchange Programme- Test and Learn Project

At my committee appearance on 21 June 2023, I committed to developing a Test and Learn Project to re-establish some of the opportunities Erasmus+ provided. I also agreed to update the committee on progress and funding as soon as possible.

Although smaller in scale than Erasmus+, it will support student and staff exchanges to help develop stronger international partnerships. Over July to September 2023, my officials have worked with representatives from our universities, colleges, and national bodies to quickly develop this project.

In October 2023, Scottish universities and colleges can bid for one short term grant for a minimum of £1,000 and maximum of £25,000 to undertake international projects by 31 March 2024. They can also apply for an additional £10,000 for projects which contain cross sector educational partnerships e.g. with schools, youth work, adult learning, and sports organisations and will prioritise placements for disadvantaged groups,

Scottish Government are committing and initial up to £1 million to this test and learn project. This shows our commitment to enable young people and staff to study and live abroad, and to EU and global partnerships.

As outlined in our recent Programme for Government commitment, we will build on this initial test and learn project to develop the Scottish Education Exchange Programme in 2024/2025.

Scottish Ministers, special advisers and the Permanent Secretary are covered by the terms of the Lobbying (Scotland) Act 2016. See www.lobbying.scot

I am also happy to provide any further information if requested.

GRAEME DEY MSP

Minister for Higher Education, Further Education; and Minister for Veterans

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