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EU Bars People Living in Russia From Erasmus+ Exchange Program

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The European Union has barred people living in Russia from taking part in its Erasmus+ education program in 2027, cutting off access to student and faculty exchanges as well as scholarships for master's degrees in Europe.

The restriction applies regardless of citizenship and covers Erasmus Mundus scholarships, which fund study in joint master's programs.

"Organizations based and individuals residing in Russia cannot participate in any of the actions under this Program in any capacity," the European Commission said in its 2027 Erasmus+ guide published Wednesday.

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The same restriction applies to residents of Russian-occupied areas of Ukraine, with an exception for Ukrainian citizens. The guide also rules out student and faculty exchanges to and from Russia.

It does not specify whether the restrictions will affect scholarships or projects that have already been approved for funding.

Some 13,200 students and faculty members from Russia took part in Erasmus between 2014 and 2021.

The European Parliament backed raising the program's budget to 47.4 billion euros for 2028-2034 in October, but the final amount still needs to be agreed with EU member states.

After Russia launched its full-scale invasion of Ukraine in 2022, the EU barred Russian state institutions from receiving funding and other support through programs financed by the bloc.

Russia's Education and Science Ministry then recommended that universities end their participation in Erasmus.

Russia also decided to leave the Bologna system, which made it easier for graduates to pursue further study and find work abroad.

The country plans to replace four-year bachelor's and two-year master's degrees with basic higher education programs lasting four to six years and specialized programs lasting one to three years.

The transition is due to be completed by 2030.

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