

On Jan 8th, the House of Commons voted down an amendment requiring the Government to seek continuing membership of Erasmus+, which funds opportunities for young people to train and study across Europe. KAHAL UK expresses its grave concern about this vote and what it signifies for the future of such an important and meaningful program for UK citizens and the UK economy.

Our experience working with hundreds of British students exploring the continent through Erasmus has shown us the transformational impact such experiences can have on youth development. What's more, we have seen how students traveling to and studying in the UK from around Europe can infuse vibrancy and meaning into our communities. Without the support of Erasmus+, many students will lose out on the opportunity to develop the skills and networks necessary to succeed and thrive in a complex global marketplace. The Association of Colleges, representing further education and sixth-form colleges, estimates that 100 colleges have been awarded about €77m (£66m) to fund more than 30,000 placements between 2014 and 2020. In expressing their concerns about the significance of this vote, the Association stated that the government "should pursue every avenue to stay in the Erasmus+ programme" or risk losing vital training and placement opportunities.

KAHAL UK recognizes and applauds the Department of Education's official position that it is committed to maintaining the UK's membership of the Erasmus+ programme despite the vote. While we are disappointed by the vote and the message it sends to our students, KAHAL UK strongly encourages the Government to follow through on its promise to ensure British students continue to have access to meaningful and developmentally-critical experiences abroad.

In a time of global turmoil, KAHAL UK remains committed to supporting the hundreds of Jewish students studying abroad to and from the UK each year. We urge the government to consider the positive impact of the Erasmus programme on the UK's youth, universities, and our economy and ensure the continued involvement of the UK in global exchange schemes such as Erasmus+.

I encourage you to publicly stand with KAHAL in supporting future plans for accessible education abroad.

With best regards,

Mia Yellin
Director: Strategic Partnership
Mia@kahalabroad.org