

# European Student Card Initiative

*Helping every student to have a high quality mobility experience abroad, and higher education institutions to manage mobilities more easily*

Part of the ambitious **European Education Area** is to make learning and training abroad the norm. With a major budget increase for the Erasmus programme foreseen, many more students from all backgrounds could be supported to be mobile in the future.

By combining several Europe-wide projects, the **European Student Card Initiative** will standardise and digitalise the most time-consuming processes around student mobility. These new services will be available through new online single-points-of-entry for coordinators and students, and the main mobility management software systems supplied by third-parties.



Students should also have easier access to campus and other services abroad, as institutions convert their existing student cards into European Student Cards by adding the new hologram and QR code onto their cards. These will also be a visible symbol of European student identity.

Two key projects are the **Erasmus Without Paper** and **European Student Card** projects. **Higher education institutions are encouraged to get involved with both projects now.**

## Erasmus Without Paper

**Erasmus Without Paper (EWP)** is all about standardisation, digitalisation and creating a secure electronic data-sharing network between higher education institution IT systems for mobility-related data, thus making communications between them much more efficient.

Through EWP, mobility coordinators will be able to manage **inter-institutional agreements, online learning agreements, nominations and transcripts of records**. They will also be able to automatically upload participant data to the **European Commission's Mobility Tool+**. Early users of the online learning agreement management system have reported **saving 40-50% of their time** compared to the old paper-based processes!

### Three ways your institution can join Erasmus Without Paper:

- If you use an **in-house mobility management system**, connect it to the EWP network using free plug-ins (APIs).
- If you are using a **third-party software solution** your supplier should be adding connection to the EWP network soon – ask them for details.
- Finally, if you **do not have a mobility management system**, or do not want to connect your in-house system to the EWP Network, then you can get access via the web-based, single-point-of-entry, the *Erasmus Without Paper Dashboard*. Over 1,100 institutions are already using it to verify that it is fit for purpose. Go to [erasmuswithoutpaper.eu](https://erasmuswithoutpaper.eu) to request access.



## Timeline:\*

Under the next Erasmus programme, higher education institutions **will be required to use EWP** to exchange mobility data, to ensure that all institutions can benefit from the more efficient processes:

- **2021:** institutions should use EWP to manage inter-institutional agreements and online learning agreements;
- **2022:** mobility coordinators should use the system to send and receive student nominations and acceptances;
- **2023:** institutions should use the system to exchange transcripts of records related to mobilities.

\* *Timeline dependent upon systems being ready and fit for purpose.*

The **Erasmus+ mobile app** is currently being upgraded to provide students with a single entry point for all of the information and administrative procedures they need before, during and after their mobility. Students can already download the first version of the app and, if their higher education institution is already using EWP, they can use it to manage their learning agreements, receive notifications and view customised checklists.



*Speak to experts from Erasmus Without Paper at the European Commission stand, or visit: [www.erasmuswithoutpaper.eu](http://www.erasmuswithoutpaper.eu)*

## European Student Card project



This project enables student card issuers to turn their existing cards into **European Student Cards**. This will foster a stronger sense of **European student identity** and **make it easier for mobile students to access services** such as catering, libraries and accommodation, whilst they are in another higher education institution. Students could also use their enhanced cards whilst on mobility for non-campus services such as local transport, and online to verify their student status for special offers and deals.

Existing student cards can be enhanced by adding the following **European Student Card elements**:

- **European Student Card hologram;**
- **European Student Card Number;**
- **QR code** containing the European Student Card Number and a unique student identifier.

Students from institutions which have adopted the new card will also be able to use a **virtual version of their card** through the upgraded Erasmus+ mobile app.



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