



Asfar CIC

**International & Transnational
Programmes**

ERASMUS+



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Asfar's Erasmus+ programmes provide unique opportunities for young people, aged 18 to 30 years old, both from the UK and the Middle East, to participate in Transnational activities including Youth Exchanges, Volunteering, informal Language learning and Cultural exchanges.

Between January and July 2015, Asfar will organise 3 Erasmus+ programmes between UK, Turkey, Jordan and Palestine. All of Asfar's Erasmus+ programmes include:

- **Free travel** opportunities to the **Middle East**, via a **Transnational** activity;
- **Inter-cultural engagement**;
- Investigation into different **Societies; Faiths; History; Citizenship; Cultural tolerance**;
- Informal **Language** learning in **Arabic, Turkish** and **English**;
- **Digital; Social Action; Employability & Photography** Skills.

Each Erasmus+ programme has different aims and objectives, however, all involve opportunities to develop new skills, meet fellow young people from different countries and gain real cultural experiences of the Middle East, beyond the realms of politics and conflict.

What is Erasmus+?

Erasmus+ is the European Union programme for education, training, youth and sport. It runs for seven years, from 2014 to 2020, with organisations invited to apply for funding each year to undertake creative and worthwhile activities.

Erasmus+ aims to modernise education, training and youth work across Europe. It is open to education, training, youth and sport organisations across all sectors of lifelong learning including school education, further and higher education, adult education and the youth sector.

The Erasmus+ programme in the UK falls under the authority of the Department for Business, Innovation & Skills (BIS). The programme itself is managed in the UK by the UK National Agency, a partnership between the British Council and Ecorys UK.





Changing lives, opening minds: Erasmus+ will help participants at all stages of their life, from school through to adulthood, to pursue stimulating opportunities for learning. It will help them to gain the valuable life-skills and international experience they need to succeed in today's world.

It offers pupils, students, young people, adults, professionals, lecturers, youth workers and teachers a unique opportunity to obtain education, training, development and work experience in another European country and beyond, both inside and outside the classroom. Benefits include personal and professional development, the opportunity to broaden cultural horizons, boost confidence, and develop language skills and many more. These are felt not only at an individual level, but also among the education, training and youth support systems of all the participating countries and their wider communities.

Asfar and Erasmus+

In August 2014, Asfar received confirmation of its' status as an official Erasmus+ programme managed by the British Council and Ecorys UK.

Erasmus+ allows Asfar to offer our Contributors, Volunteers, Students, Graduates and wider Young People the opportunity to learn about the Middle East, its' history, culture, diversity, languages, arts, geography, economics, and of course, its' politics.

However, like Asfar's original objective, Erasmus+ will allow young people of all backgrounds, to understand the region first hand, beyond the study of International Relations, Media reports, War, Religion and Conflict.

Asfar's Erasmus+ programme, will assist Young People to understand the Middle East and to also learn that it is more than a region of conflict.

Asfar's Erasmus+ programmes also develop participants' Skills, Citizenship, Cultural awareness and Work-readiness, and bring groups of young people together from diverse backgrounds, breaking down social, cultural and economic barriers.