

Name:

Class:

Duration: 40 minutes

RESPONSE PARAGRAPH WRITING

GRADE: _____

THE ERASMUS PROGRAM

Every year, a lot of students go to another country to get a university education. A small group of these students are called exchange students. They are basically visitors from other countries. They do not get their entire university education in a foreign university, but they study there only one or two semesters.

In order to increase such student mobility in Europe, the European Commission set up the Erasmus Program in 1987. About 3 million students have joined the Erasmus Program since it started. However, Turkey has not been a very popular destination, and only 1900 Erasmus students came to Turkey in 2013.

Universities that are popular with Erasmus students get a lot of money from the European Commission every year. If a university attracts more students, it gets a bigger share from this financial support. As a result, universities that are already rich get more money from the European Commission. However, the ones that really need this financial support cannot get it. This creates an unfair advantage over universities in developing countries such as Turkey.

One aim of the Erasmus Program is to modernize education. Therefore, universities from developing countries need more support than major universities in Europe. A modern university must have a rich library. However, some Turkish universities do not even have a budget for their libraries. According to a report from Hacettepe University, there are about 5 million books in all Turkish university libraries put together. On the other hand, Cambridge University alone has 8 million books in its library. The Sorbonne University in France spends over 1 million Euros on books and electronic resources in its library.

In addition, universities with strong research programs are preferred more by Erasmus students. Similar to library facilities, research programs require financial strength. Therefore, top research universities in Europe, which are also the economically strong ones, get more than 70% of all exchange students and receive more money again. Most Turkish universities cannot compete with these rich universities.

In addition to modernizing education, the Erasmus Program aims to help students experience different cultures. Countries like France, the UK, and Holland are already popular places, so they don't need advertising. However, most European students do not know much about Turkey. Therefore, Turkish universities should be more active in advertising the Turkish culture in order to attract more exchange students. This means they need to spend money on advertising. If these universities do not have money for their libraries or research projects, how can they pay for advertising campaigns?

If the European Commission really wants to improve education in Europe and increase awareness of other cultures, they should give more financial support to universities in developing countries such as Turkey.

Read the text and write a response paragraph answering the question below.

QUESTION: Do you agree with the writer that Turkish universities should get more financial support than European universities? Why/Why not?

REMEMBER! While writing your paragraph, you should **summarize the main points from the reading text, provide relevant background information, and make a clear connection between the text and your personal answer.**