



European Parliament
Liaison Office
in the United Kingdom



I AMBASSADOR SCHOOLS

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The European Parliament Ambassador Schools programme (EPAS) connects over 2,200 schools and colleges across the EU and the UK.

It is an annual programme of accreditation open to all secondary schools and colleges in the UK and the EU. The UK programme is run by the European Parliament Liaison Office in the UK.

It enables students to learn more about European parliamentary democracy, organise and take part in practical activities related to the EU, and engage with their community and Members of the European Parliament.

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CRITERIA



To become a European Parliament Ambassador School you need to:

1. Appoint Senior and Junior Ambassadors
2. Create and maintain an Info Point
3. Mark Europe Day (9th May)
4. Use the European Parliament's teaching materials
5. Share European culture
6. Promote democratic engagement

There is no set number of activities that you need to run, and one activity may help you meet several criteria in one go.

By taking an active role in planning, promoting, and running these activities, your Junior Ambassadors will develop **leadership**, **teamwork**, and **communication** skills.

Over the next few pages we will explain each of these criteria in more detail.

PROVIDING EVIDENCE

As a European Parliament Ambassador School you have a 'School Dashboard' on epas.org.uk where you can see your progress and upload evidence.

APPOINT JUNIOR AND SENIOR AMBASSADORS



WHAT ARE AMBASSADORS?

Senior Ambassadors are the staff members who lead the project in your school or college. Junior Ambassadors are the students involved.

As EPAS is about promoting democratic agency in young people, the Junior Ambassadors should play a leading role in the activities your school or college runs as part of EPAS.

HOW MANY JUNIOR AMBASSADORS DO WE NEED?

There is no set number of Junior Ambassadors required. We have Ambassador Schools with 4 to 80.

You may have one team that meets regularly throughout the year, or several small groups who come together just to run one-off events. All can be Junior Ambassadors.

HOW DO WE RECRUIT JUNIOR AMBASSADORS?

There are guides and resources at epas.org.uk/epas-resources/ for how to recruit Junior Ambassadors and how to run your first meetings with them.

Many schools and colleges link it to specific subject areas, getting MFL, Politics, Citizenship, Geography, Travel and Tourism or Modern Studies students as volunteers to run activities or create projects on aspects of European democracy or culture that interest them.

PROVIDING EVIDENCE

Upload a list of all your Junior and Senior Ambassadors to your [School Dashboard](#). They will all receive certificates. You can do this – and update it – at any point in the year.



Your Info Point is a physical or online place where your school or college community can find out more about Europe, the European Parliament, and/or the work of your Ambassador Schools team.

There is no fixed format or content that is required. Choose what works for your school or college community.

MEDIUM

- Noticeboard
- Website
- Social media channel
- Information screens (TVs)

MESSAGE

Some of the things Ambassador Schools share on their Info Points:

- Country profiles
- Issues being debated in the European Parliament
- Activities being run by the Ambassador Schools team
- Facts about and history of the EU and European Parliament
- Cultural events being celebrated in different EU countries

There is a detailed guide to creating an Info Point at epas.org.uk/epas-resources/

PROVIDING EVIDENCE

Upload a few photos of your Info Point to your School Dashboard along with an explanation of how you have chosen to do it and what information you are sharing through it.



WHAT IS EUROPE DAY?

Europe Day celebrates peace and unity in Europe. The date marks the anniversary of the 'Schuman Declaration', a historic proposal made by Robert Schuman, French Foreign Minister, in 1950 that laid out the foundation of European cooperation.

WHEN IS IT?

Europe Day takes place on the 9th of May, but you may choose to raise awareness of it any time that works for your school or college.

WHAT KINDS OF ACTIVITIES CAN WE RUN?

You should mark Europe Day in a way that feels appropriate for your school or college. Some activities run by Ambassador Schools:

- Assembly
- Quiz
- Food and games
- Euro fair with stalls
- European film screening
- Wearing European flag colours
- Greetings in European languages
- Debates about European issues

Each year the European Parliament Liaison Office in the UK publishes guides and materials for you to use to mark Europe Day.

PROVIDING EVIDENCE

Upload a few photos and a short write-up of the activities you have run to mark Europe Day to your [School Dashboard](#). You may also use these to tick off other criteria too

USE THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT'S TEACHING MATERIALS



Learning and teaching about how the European Parliament works and how young people can participate democratically is central to the Ambassador Schools programme.

LESSON PLANS

A selection of interactive lessons plans, including Europe@School is available at:

epas.org.uk/learning-resources/

You may want to run some of these for your Junior Ambassadors, or have your Junior Ambassadors run them for other people in your school or college.

DIGITAL JOURNEY TO THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

As well as the lesson plans there is also a link to a number of interactive, online activities that you may want to explore:

digital-journey.europarl.europa.eu/

SESSIONS RUN BY EPLO UK EXPERTS

We may be able to arrange for an expert-led session for your group at Europe House in London, or at your school or college. We have a limited capacity for these, but please ask and we will do our best to accommodate you. Book here:
europarl.org.uk

PROVIDING EVIDENCE

Take some photos or videos of your Junior Ambassadors participating in or running these sessions, upload them to your [School Dashboard](#) along with a short write-up of how it went.

SHARE EUROPEAN CULTURE



UNITED IN DIVERSITY

"United in diversity", the motto of the European Union, first came into use in 2000.

It signifies how Europeans have come together, in the form of the EU, to work for peace and prosperity, while at the same time being enriched by the continent's many different cultures, traditions and languages.

CULTURAL ACTIVITIES RUN BY AMBASSADOR SCHOOLS

This is a great way for Junior Ambassadors to run fun events, celebrate their family cultures and learn about other places and traditions.

- Languages-based events
- Heritage days: share your heritage
- Bake/cook a national dish
- LUX film screening
- Linking with EU-based schools
- Trips and exchanges
- Marking European national days
- Putting on a European play
- Projects on European art
- Eurovision quiz

You can, of course, run cultural activities at any time of the year but some schools and colleges run them as a way to mark Europe Day.

PROVIDING EVIDENCE

Upload photos and a short write-up to to your [School Dashboard](#). If you're able to share any resources you made or used, even better!

PROMOTE DEMOCRATIC ENGAGEMENT



“Democracy is not distant or abstract it’s something you do.”

Roberta Metsola

President of the European Parliament

Junior Ambassadors learn the skills to participate actively and effectively in democracy by doing: creating and taking part in projects that encourage collaboration, cooperation, debate, compromise and campaigning.

Understanding how to interpret the media and construct a debate is as important a part of being a democratic citizen as knowing how to lobby your elected representatives and register to vote.

DEMOCRATIC ACTIVITIES RUN BY AMBASSADOR SCHOOLS

- Interactions with law-makers
- Debating
- Art and Democracy workshops
- Schools forum/council
- Celebrating national liberation from authoritarianism
- Voter registration

Encouraging students to choose their own topics for debate, or causes to champion, is an important part of the democratic process.

PROVIDING EVIDENCE

Upload photos and a short write-up to to your [School Dashboard](#). We particularly appreciate hearing the reflections of your Junior Ambassadors on these activities.

KEY DATES AND TIMELINE



There is no set timetable, it's flexible and we will fit in with your school year.

Some schools and colleges space things out across the year, others focus them all around Europe Day.

It is an annual programme though, so your activities do need to be completed within one academic year.

SUGGESTED TIMELINE

- Now: Recruit Junior Ambassadors
- At some point over the next two terms:
 - ▶ Junior Ambassadors run events
 - ▶ You upload evidence to epas.org.uk
 - ▶ We assess this as evidence and share it through our channels
- Mark Europe Day on or around the 9th of May
- May/June: You tell us your evidence is complete and we send you an impact survey
- June/July: Awards and certificates given out

SUBMITTING EVIDENCE



Evidence is all submitted through the epas.org.uk website.

You can log in and check your [School Dashboard](#) any time to see what you have done, and what you still need to complete.

The process is simple, but if you need any help, we are on hand to provide you with feedback, guidance and ideas.

1. Run your activity
2. Take photos/video
3. Log in and select '[Submit evidence](#)' on epas.org.uk
4. Fill out the online form that will ask you for:
 - Date
 - Numbers involved and impacted
 - Title and description of activity
 - Any images, videos, or resources you can share

SHARING YOUR SUCCESSES

To inspire other schools and colleges, and celebrate what you have achieved, we share your projects – with your permission – on epas.org.uk/news and through our social media channels.

Follow us and tag us:

@EpinUK and **#AmbassadorSchools**

USEFUL LINKS AND RESOURCES

THE YOUTH HUB

The Youth Hub brings together everything the European Parliament is doing for and with young people – from youth programmes to activities in all of the EU's 24 official languages: youth.europarl.europa.eu

EPLO in the UK

The European Parliament's Liaison Office in the United Kingdom: europarl.org.uk

EU-WIDE AMBASSADOR SCHOOLS WEBSITE

Find and link up with other Ambassador Schools across the EU: youth.europarl.europa.eu/more-information/ambassador-school.html

UK AMBASSADOR SCHOOLS RESOURCES

This page on the European Parliament Ambassador Schools (UK) website has links to the full list of resources and will be kept updated with new Ambassador Schools resources: epas.org.uk/epas-resources/

THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENTARY RESEARCH SERVICE (EPRS)

europarl.europa.eu/thinktank

THE DIGITAL JOURNEY TO THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

- Virtual tour of the Parliament in Brussels and Strasbourg
- Be an MEP – Virtual Reality Experience
- Virtual Role Play Game

digital-journey.europarl.europa.eu

VISIT THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

visiting.europarl.europa.eu/en

HOUSE OF EUROPEAN HISTORY

historia.europa.eu/en

TOGETHER.EU

Connect with like-minded people from across Europe and share knowledge, learn new skills, while encouraging others to engage in European democracy: together.eu

FURTHER LINKS

As well as the links here, there are many more useful websites for learning and teaching about the EU. There is an extensive list here: epas.org.uk/useful-websites/



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epas.org.uk

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