

ERASMUS+

KEY ACTION 1 - DEGREE MOBILITY

1. Context

Until now, Southern Mediterranean higher education institutions have only marginally benefited from Erasmus Mundus Action 1 which supports the development and implementation of high-quality joint programmes offered by a consortium of European, and possibly third-country universities. Only four of them were full partners of in joint master or doctoral programmes selected over the last 4 years.

But at the same time, since 2004, 760 Southern Mediterranean academic staff, master students and doctoral candidates benefited from scholarships to participate in one of the Erasmus Mundus joint masters or doctorates, showing a clear interest of high level students for such programmes.

2. Joint Master degrees under the future Erasmus +

Joint Master Degrees (JMD) are high-level integrated international study programmes delivered by a consortium of European and (where relevant) non-European universities. They aim at increasing the quality and the attractiveness of the European Higher Education Area (EHEA) by offering full degree scholarships to the best Master students worldwide.

TAKING PART AS AN ORGANISATION

Eligible participating organisations

- Recognised Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) from European and non-European countries (i.e. Programme and Partner countries)
- Non-academic partners, in particular enterprises and other representatives of working life (e.g. chambers of commerce, social partners, etc.)
- Research institutions and bodies active in the area of education and training
- Non-profit organisations, NGOs
- Associations, foundations, and other bodies involved in the fields of education and training
- Local, regional and national public authorities

Who can apply?

HEIs located in a Programme¹ country, fully recognised by the competent national authorities and holding an Erasmus Charter for Higher Education (ECHE).

Number of participating organisations

Minimum three HEIs from different Programme countries; each of these HEIs must be Master degree-awarding HEIs.

¹ According to the Commission's proposal Southern Mediterranean countries are « partner » countries. Programme countries are EU Member States, Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway, Switzerland and EU candidate countries having Erasmus+ National agency.

Duration of project

Depending on the duration of the Joint Master Degree the consortium will receive a 4/5-year grant agreement to finance one preparatory year and three consecutive student intakes.

Duration of Activity

Joint Master Degrees will have a duration of 1-2 academic years (60/90/120 ECTS)

Funding

The JMD grant will cover a lump sum for the consortium management fees and academic mobility (one for the preparatory year and one for each intake) and a variable number of student scholarships of maximum 25,000 euro per year). The global JMD grant will vary between 2 and 2.5 million euro.

Sustainability of the JMD

Before the end of the 4/5-year grant agreement, the JMD consortia have the possibility to apply for the inclusion in an Erasmus+ "JMD Catalogue". Following a quality review performed by independent experts, and if selected, the JMD consortia will continue benefitting from the E+ JMD brand name and possibly receive a lump sum to cover their management fees and receive student scholarships allocated on the basis of a shared/matched funding principle (E+ will provide a number of scholarships corresponding to the number of scholarships funded by the consortium and its sponsors).

Conditions relating to higher education institutions

- JMD programme must lead to the award of either a joint Master degree diploma or multiple Master degree diplomas.
- The programme follows a bottom up approach and does not impose any restriction in terms of disciplines.
- All participating universities should be master degree awarding institutions and the corresponding degrees must be fully recognised by the competent national authorities in the Programme countries concerned.
- A Consortium Agreement, signed by partner institutions prior to the signature of the Erasmus+ grant agreement, will have to cover as precisely as possible all academic, operational, administrative and financial aspects related to the implementation of the JMD and the management of the Erasmus+ scholarships.
- Institutions from Partner countries are not expected to hold an Erasmus+ Higher Education charter but will be required to sign-up to its principles as part of the Consortium Agreement.

Where to apply? Education, Audiovisual and Culture Executive Agency (EACEA, Brussels).

When to apply? The first Call for proposals will be published in December 2013²

TAKING PART AS AN INDIVIDUAL

Eligible participants

Students at Master level, invited scholars (/guest lecturer) from Programme and Partner countries.

² Subject to change depending on the time of the approval of the Programme legal basis by the Parliament and Council.

Student scholarship

It will cover the entire duration of the Master course. Students will have to study in at least two different Programme countries and where applicable Partner countries, where they will have to acquire at least 20 ECTS (for 60 ECTS study programmes) or 30 ECTS (for 90 or 120 ECTS study programmes).

Individual applications: Students and scholars apply directly to the selected consortia.

Conditions relating to Master students

- Master students wishing to enrol in a JMD must have previously obtained a first higher education degree or demonstrate a recognised equivalent level of learning according to national legislation and practices.
- At least 80% JMD student scholarships must go to students who are not residents from a Programme country.
- The JMD student scholarships will cover participation costs, insurance coverage and any other mandatory costs charged to students, a contribution to the students' travel and installation cost and a monthly subsistence allowance.
- A Student Agreement will be signed between the student and the JMD consortia covering all academic, financial, administrative aspects and scholarship management.

3. Joint Doctorates under Marie Skłodowska-Curie³

In line with simplification in European programmes aiming at doctoral candidates, as of 2014 the joint doctorates will be supported by the Marie Skłodowska-Curie actions (MSCA) under Horizon 2020. European Joint Doctorates (EJD) will be a sub-scheme of the Innovative Training Networks (ITN), one of the four MSCA. The objectives of EJD will be to provide doctoral training of high quality, to promote the development of, and create bridges between, the European Higher Education Area and the European Research Area. This will be achieved by promoting greater structural co-operation between participating organisations in terms of programme design and mutual recognition of qualifications.

To provide young researchers with attractive career perspectives and enhance their employability, it is expected that every supported researcher (doctoral candidate) will be exposed to the non-academic sector and offered substantial training modules addressing key skills common to all fields (e.g. entrepreneurship, management and financing of research activities and programmes, management of intellectual property rights, other exploitation methods of research results, ethical aspects, communication, standardisation and societal outreach).

TAKING PART AS AN ORGANISATION:

Eligible participating organisations: Open to all types of organisations and covering all research areas (bottom-up approach).

Number of participating organisations

³ The information provided in this note is subject to the adoption of the Horizon 2020 legislative package as well as the accompanying 2014-2015 work programme.

Minimum three HEIs from different EU Member States or countries associated to Horizon 2020⁴. Above the minimum participation, any other organisation from the same or other countries (worldwide) can participate under the conditions provided by the Horizon 2020 Rules for Participation. Not more than 40% of the project budget will be dedicated to hosts in the same country.

Duration of project

The duration of the project is 4 years (i.e. one intake). This gives flexibility to the host regarding recruitment of the candidates.

Duration of Activity: The duration of the fellowship is 3 years.

Funding

The EJD grant will cover living and mobility allowances related to the recruitment of the researcher. Research and training allowance is foreseen to cover additional costs related to project, like e.g. networking among participants, trainings, participation to conferences, organisation of workshops, etc. To maintain and manage the network the host will be entitled to receive management costs and overheads linked to the number of hosted researchers.

Where to apply?

The deadlines for calls and rules for application will be published on the Participant Portal: <https://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/portal/page/home>. The first call for proposals will be open in December 2013⁵.

TAKING PART AS AN INDIVIDUAL

Eligible doctoral candidates

- Candidate must have a degree which would formally entitle him or her to embark on a doctorate, either in the country in which the degree was obtained or in the country in which the researcher is recruited or seconded.
- Candidate must have less than 4 years of research experience and be without doctoral degree.
- Candidate may not have spent more than 12 months in the last 3 years in the host institution (mobility rule).
- Candidates of all nationalities are eligible.

Individual applications

Candidates apply directly to the involved institutions. The list of the partners within funded project divided by the discipline and the country as well as open vacancies can be found on the EURAXESS website: <http://ec.europa.eu/euraxess/>

Fellowship

Doctoral candidate shall receive an employment contract from the host institution as well as allowances based on the Marie Skłodowska-Curie rates.

⁴ The list of associated countries will be available at the Participant Portal: <https://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/portal/page/home>

⁵ Subject to change, depending on the time of the approval of the Horizon 2020 legal base by the Parliament and the Council.