



# **Erasmus+ for Higher Education Students and Staff**

*Frequently Asked Questions*

This document covers the main questions and answers from students and staff interested in participating in the Erasmus+ programme.

If your question is not covered here and it regards (1) studying or training abroad as an Erasmus student, (2) applying for an Erasmus+ Master Degree Loan or (3) applying for an Erasmus Mundus Joint Master Degree, you are invited to contact the relevant organisation as explained below.

- (1) For questions regarding **studying or training abroad as an Erasmus student**, you are kindly invited to first contact your higher education institution.

For further information on Erasmus+ mobility, we invite you to contact the organisation that works with the European Commission and manages directly the implementation of Erasmus+ mobility actions in your country:

- If you are enrolled in a higher education institution located in one of the Erasmus+ "Programme Countries"<sup>1</sup>, you should contact one of the "National Agencies for Erasmus+". You can find their contact details here:  
[http://ec.europa.eu/programmes/erasmus-plus/tools/national-agencies/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/programmes/erasmus-plus/tools/national-agencies/index_en.htm)
- If you are enrolled in a higher education institution located in one of the following Erasmus+ "Partner Countries"<sup>2</sup>, you should contact the relevant "National Erasmus+ Office":
  - Western Balkans: Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo\*<sup>3</sup>, Montenegro, Serbia
  - South-Mediterranean countries: Algeria, Egypt, Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, Palestine, Syria, Tunisia
  - Eastern Partnership countries: Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine
  - Central Asia: Kazakstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan
  - The Russian Federation

You can find their contact details here:

[https://eacea.ec.europa.eu/erasmus-plus/contacts/national-erasmus-plus-offices\\_en](https://eacea.ec.europa.eu/erasmus-plus/contacts/national-erasmus-plus-offices_en)

- (2) **Erasmus+ Master Degree Loans** are available to students who live in one of the 28 EU Member States and other Programme Countries which participate fully in Erasmus+ (i.e. Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Turkey).

Your National Agency for Erasmus+ will be able to answer your questions:

[http://ec.europa.eu/programmes/erasmus-plus/tools/national-agencies/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/programmes/erasmus-plus/tools/national-agencies/index_en.htm)

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<sup>1</sup> Programme Countries: Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Germany, Denmark, Estonia, Spain, Finland, France, Greece, Croatia, Hungary, Ireland, Iceland, Italy, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Latvia, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Malta, the Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Sweden, Slovenia, Slovakia, Turkey, United Kingdom.

<sup>2</sup> Please, check page 24 of the Erasmus+ Programme Guide: [http://ec.europa.eu/programmes/erasmus-plus/documents/erasmus-plus-programme-guide\\_en.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/programmes/erasmus-plus/documents/erasmus-plus-programme-guide_en.pdf)

<sup>3</sup> \*This designation is without prejudice to positions on status, and is in line with UNSCR 1244 and the ICJ Opinion on the Kosovo declaration of independence.

(3) For questions regarding **Erasmus Mundus Joint Master Degrees** you are invited to first contact the consortium delivering the programme. You can find the complete list of courses, and corresponding consortium, below:  
[http://eacea.ec.europa.eu/erasmus\\_mundus/results\\_compendia/selected\\_projects\\_action\\_1\\_master\\_courses\\_en.php](http://eacea.ec.europa.eu/erasmus_mundus/results_compendia/selected_projects_action_1_master_courses_en.php)

If you are unable to find an answer to your question, you should address yourself to the EACEA Erasmus + EMJMD functional mailbox: [EACEA-EPLUS-JMD@ec.europa.eu](mailto:EACEA-EPLUS-JMD@ec.europa.eu)

**Before submitting a question through the contact form available [here](#)**, make sure that:

- It is not answered in the FAQ;
- You have contacted your higher education institution, National Agency for Erasmus+ or National Erasmus+ Office if you want to study abroad as an Erasmus student;
- You have contacted the consortium delivering the Erasmus Mundus Joint Master Degree, or the EACEA.

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## General

### 1. What is Erasmus+?

Erasmus+ is the EU's new umbrella programme for education, training, youth and sport, designed to be more global and more integrated than ever before. It brings together seven EU programmes and offers more opportunities for cooperation than its predecessors. For more information on the priorities of the programme, the actions supported, the funding available and the modalities of participation, please have a look at the Erasmus+ Programme Guide, which you can find here: [http://ec.europa.eu/programmes/erasmus-plus/documents/erasmus-plus-programme-guide\\_en.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/programmes/erasmus-plus/documents/erasmus-plus-programme-guide_en.pdf)

### 2. What opportunities are available for higher education students and staff?

The Erasmus+ programme offers a wide range of opportunities for students and staff to study and train abroad.

The programme funds intra-EU and international credit mobility for students to study in a receiving institution for a period of 3-12 months and obtain credits which are then recognised by the sending institution. Students can also do a traineeship abroad for a period of 2 to 12 months. Note: Traineeships between Programme and Partner Countries are not available for the time being (see question 5).

Erasmus+ provides additional opportunities regarding full Master's programme abroad through scholarships for Erasmus Mundus Joint Master Degrees and through Erasmus+ Master Degree Loans. Please refer to questions 24 and 27 for more information.

A number of Erasmus Mundus Action 2 partnerships offer scholarships until 2017 to students and staff. More information can be obtained here: [http://eacea.ec.europa.eu/erasmus\\_mundus/programme/action2\\_en.php](http://eacea.ec.europa.eu/erasmus_mundus/programme/action2_en.php)

Doctoral candidates who want to follow part of their doctoral studies abroad may also receive support through the Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions under the Horizon 2020 programme. Please refer to questions 34 and 35 for more information.

The Erasmus+ programme also funds staff mobility, allowing university staff to teach and be trained abroad. The minimum duration is 2 days when the mobility is between Programme Countries and 5 days when it is between Programme and Partner Countries. In both cases, the maximum duration is 60 days.

## Credit mobility

### 3. What is credit mobility?

Credit mobility can be defined as a limited period of study or training abroad (in the framework of on-going studies at a home institution) for the purpose of gaining credits. After the mobility phase, students return to their home institution, where the credits are recognised and they complete their studies.

Since 2015, Erasmus+ also funds international credit mobility, in addition to intra-European credit mobility (known until now as 'Erasmus mobility').

#### **4. What is international credit mobility?**

For nearly 30 years, Europe has funded the Erasmus programme, which has enabled over three million European students to spend part of their studies in another higher education institution or in a company in Europe. Erasmus+ now opens up these opportunities, allowing for mobility of students and staff, from and to other parts of the world (between the so-called "Programme" and "Partner Countries", see question 5).

#### **5. What are "Programme" and "Partner Countries"?**

Programme Countries are those countries participating fully in the Erasmus+ programme. To do so, they set up a National Agency and contribute financially to the programme. The 33 Programme Countries are: the 28 EU Member States, Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Turkey.

Partner Countries are all the other countries in the world. For a complete list of Partner Countries please refer to page 24 of the English version of the [Erasmus+ Programme Guide](#).

#### **6. Is international credit mobility available in my country?**

Not all Partner Countries are eligible for international credit mobility. Switzerland, Andorra, Monaco, San Marino, the Vatican City State, Iran, Iraq, Yemen, and the countries of the Gulf Cooperation Council are not eligible for international credit mobility.

For 2015, cooperation is not possible with Region 11 ACP countries (see page 25 of the [Programme Guide](#)), although we expect this will be possible in the 2016 selection onwards.

For more information on eligible Partner Countries/regions, please refer to pages 37 and 25 of the English version of the [Erasmus+ Programme Guide](#).

#### **7. Where can I study or do a traineeship under Erasmus+?**

Starting from the 2015/2016 academic year, it will be possible to study in institutions based in Programme and Partner Countries (see question 5), as long as these institutions have signed an "inter-institutional agreement" with your home institution. To find out exactly where you can study/train, please contact the International Office of your higher education institution.

For traineeships, the receiving organisation can be any private or public organisation active in the labour market or in the fields of education, training and youth. Some examples are:

- a public or private, small, medium or large enterprise (including social enterprises);
- a public body at local, regional or national level;
- a social partner or other representative of the working life, including chambers of commerce, craft/professional associations and trade unions;
- a research institute;
- a foundation;
- a school/institute/educational centre (at any level, from pre-school to upper secondary education, and including vocational education and adult education);
- a non-profit organisation, association, NGO;
- a body providing career guidance, professional counselling and information services;

- It is also possible to carry out a traineeship in a higher education institution located in one of the Programme Countries. However, the programme of the traineeship cannot consist of following courses, as that would be considered a study period and not a traineeship.

The following types of organisations are not eligible as receiving organisations for student traineeships:

- EU institutions and other EU bodies including specialised agencies which are listed on the following website: [ec.europa.eu/institutions/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/institutions/index_en.htm);
- organisations managing EU programmes, such as National Agencies.

Note: Traineeships between Programme and Partner Countries are not available for the time being.

## **8. How long can my Erasmus+ period for studies or traineeships abroad be?**

Students and doctoral candidates are able to study abroad for a period of 3 months (or one academic term or trimester), and up to a maximum of 12 months per study cycle.

The duration of a traineeship period is of a minimum of 2 months to a maximum of 12 months. In case of a combined study and traineeship, the minimum duration is 3 months and the maximum duration is 12 months, no matter how the time is shared between studies and traineeship.

For staff mobility, the minimum duration (excluding travel) is 2 days when the mobility is between Programme Countries and 5 days when it is between Programme and Partner Countries. In both cases, the maximum duration is 60 days. T

## **9. The university where I am studying is in a different country than my country of origin. Can I do a mobility period in my country of origin?**

It is possible to do a mobility period (study or training) in your country of origin as an Erasmus+ student, provided that your country of origin is not the country you normally study and live in.

However, the selection criteria are defined by the higher education institutions participating in the programme, which could decide that students applying to study in their country of origin should have a lower priority than those applying to a country different from their country of origin.

In any case, the selection criteria need to be set out in a fair and transparent way before participants submit their applications, and it is not possible to introduce differences in grant allocation based on nationality.

## **10. What options are available if my Partner Country university does not have an agreement with a university in a Programme Country?**

Without inter-institutional agreement between both universities, you will not be eligible for credit mobility. However, there are other international opportunities under Erasmus+, such as Erasmus Mundus Joint Master Degrees and Joint Doctorates.

For Erasmus Mundus Joint Master Degrees, you must apply directly to the consortium to find out more about entry requirements and timing, and ultimately to submit your application. Please refer to question 24 for more information. The complete list of



available Erasmus Mundus Masters Courses for 2015-2016 can be found here: [https://eacea.ec.europa.eu/erasmus-plus/library/scholarships-catalogue\\_en](https://eacea.ec.europa.eu/erasmus-plus/library/scholarships-catalogue_en)

A number of Erasmus Mundus Action 2 partnerships offer scholarships until 2017 to students and staff from certain Partner Countries to study part or all of a degree course in a European university. More information can be obtained here: [http://eacea.ec.europa.eu/erasmus\\_mundus/programme/action2\\_en.php](http://eacea.ec.europa.eu/erasmus_mundus/programme/action2_en.php)

Doctoral candidates who want to follow part or their doctoral studies abroad may also receive support through the Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions under the Horizon 2020 programme. Please refer to question 34.

## Eligibility

### **11. How do I know if I am eligible to study or do a traineeship abroad with Erasmus+?**

To study/train abroad, you must be registered in a higher education institution and you must be following studies leading to a recognised degree or other recognised tertiary level qualification, such as a Bachelor, a Master or a Doctorate.

Your institution must be located in one of the countries participating in Erasmus+ mobility for higher education (see question 5).

In addition, if your institution is located in a Programme Country, it must have been awarded the Erasmus Charter for Higher Education (ECHE). This Charter is part of an accreditation procedure established to guarantee a quality framework for all participants in mobility activities. You can check your institution's website to know if it is an ECHE holder or see the full list of institutions here: [http://eacea.ec.europa.eu/funding/2014/call\\_he\\_charter\\_en.php](http://eacea.ec.europa.eu/funding/2014/call_he_charter_en.php)

The selection criteria to study or train abroad with Erasmus+ are defined by your higher education institution. To know more about it, please read question 12.

### **12. What are the selection criteria to participate in Erasmus+ credit mobility?**

To participate in Erasmus+ credit mobility, you need to fulfil the eligibility criteria listed in question 11.

In addition, you need to fulfil the selection criteria defined by your higher education institution. Your institution may include selection criteria such as the academic performance of the candidate, previous mobility experience, motivation, experience in the receiving country, etc.

The selection of students - as well as the procedure for awarding them a grant - must be fair, transparent, coherent and documented, and shall be made available to all parties involved in the selection process.

For more information, you are kindly invited to visit your higher education institution's website or contact its international relations office.

### **13. Is there an age limit to apply to any Erasmus+ mobility activity?**

There is no age limit to participate in any Erasmus+ mobility activity. However, you will need to fulfil the selection criteria for the programme you are applying for, as defined by your higher education institution.

#### **14. Is the programme available to students with special needs?**

All actions of Erasmus+ are open to people with special needs. The programme aims at promoting equity and inclusion by facilitating the access to learners with disadvantaged backgrounds and fewer opportunities compared to their peers including people with mental, physical, sensory or other disabilities. For more information, please consult page 13 of the [Erasmus+ Programme Guide](#).

#### **15. I am finishing my studies and would like to do a traineeship abroad: can I do so with Erasmus+?**

Yes. This is a new possibility that the Erasmus+ programme offers to recent graduates. However, you must be selected by your higher education institution during your last year of study and you must carry out and complete your traineeship abroad within one year of graduating. Note: Traineeships between Programme and Partner Countries are not available for the time being.

### **Multiple and combined mobilities**

#### **16. Is it possible to have more than one mobility experience with Erasmus+ as a higher education student?**

Erasmus+ enables students to study or train abroad more than once as Erasmus students as long as the minimum duration for each activity and a total maximum of 12 months per study cycle is respected. Students who follow long cycle or one-cycle study programmes, such as Medicine, can be mobile for up to 24 months during their studies.

This means that you could apply, for example, to study abroad for a period of 6 months and, later on, do a traineeship for 6 months within the same study cycle (e.g. your Bachelor's degree). You could also combine both types of activities. Splits of 4+8 months, or 3+3+6 etc. are possible, but in all cases the minimum set for each kind of activity (i.e. 2 months for traineeships, 3 months or an academic term or trimester for studies) have to be respected.

Note: The maximum of 12 months per study cycle also includes former mobility experiences under the previous Erasmus-Lifelong Learning programme.

#### **17. Is it possible to combine mobility for studies and traineeships within a single mobility?**

Combining studying and training abroad in a single mobility is a new possibility offered by Erasmus+.

In this case, the minimum duration is 3 months (or an academic term/trimester) and the maximum is 12 months. These minimum and maximum durations are the same regardless of how the time is shared between both activities.

#### **18. I have already enjoyed an Erasmus experience under the Lifelong Learning programme; can I study or do a traineeship abroad with Erasmus+?**

If you have already studied or trained abroad as Erasmus student under the former Lifelong Learning programme, it does not exclude you from benefitting from another international experience with Erasmus+.

Erasmus+ enables students to study or train abroad more than once as long as a total maximum of 12 months per study cycle is respected (i.e. up to 12 months at Bachelor level including "short cycle" studies, up to 12 months at Master level, up to 12 months at Doctoral level).

Prior experience under the Erasmus-Lifelong Learning programme counts towards the 12 months per study cycle. In case you did not yet reach the maximum of 12 months, you may study or train abroad again in the same study cycle. If you have already reached the limit, you will be able to apply to further study periods or traineeships abroad once you undertake a degree in the next study cycle.

Let's imagine that you studied for 4 months in another university under the Erasmus-Lifelong Learning programme during your Bachelor. If you want to study abroad in your last Bachelor year or do a traineeship abroad, you can still apply for mobility activities totalling 8 months ( $12 - 4 = 8$ ). If you enrol in a Master's programme your counter will be set to zero for that study cycle and you will be able to apply for mobility for up to 12 months. After that, you will be eligible for another maximum period of 12 months at doctoral level. If you do a second Master's degree and have already used up 6 months during your first Master's degree, you can study or train abroad for 6 months, thus totalling 12 months, the maximum possible time.

Do not forget to contact your higher education institution as it is responsible for the selection of participants and can set additional criteria (e.g. give priority to students who have never enjoyed an Erasmus experience).

### **19. I did a Leonardo placement under the Lifelong Learning programme; can I study or do a traineeship abroad with Erasmus+?**

Yes. Participation in other actions of the Lifelong Learning programme (e.g. Leonardo) or in other programmes such as Youth in Action is not taken into account for participation in Erasmus+ higher education mobility activities.

### **20. I did a European Voluntary Service under the Youth in Action programme; can I study or do a traineeship abroad with Erasmus+?**

Yes, participation in the Youth in Action programme is not taken into account for participation in Erasmus+ higher education mobility activities.

## **Application**

### **21. How do I apply to study/train abroad with Erasmus+?**

You will need to apply through your own higher education institution, irrespective of the kind of mobility activity you are interested in.

The International Office of your institution will be able to inform you about the conditions to participate in Erasmus+ mobility activities: details of the selection process, documents that you need to prepare, places where you can go and requirements that you will have to respect during your period abroad.

### **22. What happens once I am selected to study/train abroad with Erasmus+?**

Once you have been selected, your sending institution must give you the "[Erasmus student charter](#)" setting out your rights and obligations with respect to your period of

study or traineeship abroad, and explaining the different steps to take before, during and after the mobility.

If the main language of instruction or work during your period abroad is English, French, German, Italian, Spanish or Dutch (more languages will be added from the academic year 2015/16 onwards), you will be asked to undertake an online linguistic assessment test (except if you are a native speaker of that language or in duly justified cases). By taking this assessment before your exchange abroad, you will be able to determine your proficiency in the language you will use to study or work. Taking this assessment before departure is a pre-requisite for all higher education students, to make sure that they meet the recommended level at their receiving organisation (except for native speakers or in duly justified cases). The results of this assessment test will only be available to you, your sending institution and the European Commission. As you have already been selected, the results of the language assessment will not prevent you from taking part in the mobility activity.

Based on your assessment results, you may be granted access to a free online language course before and during your stay abroad, in order to improve your language competences and help you get well prepared for your mobility abroad. Access to the course includes tutoring, forums, tips from former Erasmus+ students, and more. In case your main language is not covered by the OLS, linguistic support may be provided through other means by your sending or receiving organisation.

Upon your return, you will be asked to take a final assessment which will allow you to measure the progress you made during your stay abroad. It will also allow the European Commission to know to which extent participation in Erasmus+ has an impact on students' language skills.

Note: This does not apply to mobility to and from Partner Countries.

### **23. I am already studying/doing a traineeship abroad and I would like to extend it, what should I do?**

You can request an extension of the duration of your period abroad at the latest one month before the foreseen end date upon which you had agreed in your Learning Agreement.

Please bear in mind that the total duration of the period abroad, including previous participation in the Erasmus-Lifelong Learning programme, cannot exceed 12 months per study cycle (except for one-cycle study programmes, such as Medicine, where the maximum is 24 months for the entire study programme). This limit includes any time spent abroad, even if you did not receive a grant from EU funds.

Provided that you have not reached the 12-month limit mentioned above, your sending and receiving institutions may agree to extend the duration of your period abroad.

If you have received a grant from EU funds, your institution may propose that the extension of your period abroad be considered a "zero-grant" period, if the entire available budget has already been allocated. Alternatively, it may agree to modify your grant agreement so that it covers the extended duration of your period abroad. In any case, you will need to modify the Learning Agreement and receive an e-mail confirming these changes both from your sending and receiving institution.

## Degree mobility

### 24. What is an Erasmus Mundus Joint Master Degree?

An Erasmus Mundus Joint Master Degree is a high-level integrated international study programme of 60, 90 or 120 ECTS (European Credit Transfer and Accumulation System) credits (i.e. between 12 and 24 months in length). It is delivered by an international consortium of higher education institutions from different countries and - where relevant - other educational and/or non-educational partners with specific expertise and interest in the study areas/professional domains covered by the joint programme.

There must be at least three higher education institutions from Programme Countries in the consortium. Beyond these three higher education institutions, there may also be additional institutions from Programme Countries or from Partner Countries.<sup>4</sup> Studies must take place in at least two different Programme Countries. Part of the studies can also take place in an institution from a Partner Country.

Erasmus Mundus Joint Master Degrees provide specific EU-funded scholarships to excellent students worldwide to cover travel costs, participation costs and living costs during the entire duration of the Master course.

For more information please see question 27.

### 25. What are the conditions to receive a scholarship for an Erasmus Mundus Joint Master Degree?

Students must first apply to the Erasmus Mundus Joint Master Degree (EMJMD) of their choice through the website of the consortia (see question 27). Only students who are selected to take part in an EMJMD organised under the Erasmus+ programme may receive these scholarships, but self-funded students can also be enrolled in addition to the scholarship holders.

Before applying to the EMJMD consortium of your choice, make sure that you respect the following conditions:

- You must have obtained a first higher education degree or demonstrate a recognised equivalent level of learning according to national legislation and practices in the degree awarding countries. This condition must necessarily be fulfilled at the time of enrolment and some EMJMD consortia may decide to accept scholarship applications from students in the last year of their first higher education degree.
- You are not eligible to apply to further EMJMD scholarships if you have already obtained an EMJMD scholarship or an Erasmus Mundus Master Course/Joint Doctorate scholarship in the past.

Each year, around 15 scholarship holders are selected to take part per EMJMD programme and a minimum of 75 % of the scholarships are earmarked for candidates from Partner Countries.

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<sup>4</sup> See page 24 of the Erasmus+ Programme Guide: [http://ec.europa.eu/programmes/erasmus-plus/documents/erasmus-plus-programme-guide\\_en.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/programmes/erasmus-plus/documents/erasmus-plus-programme-guide_en.pdf)

## **26. To how many Erasmus Mundus Joint Master Degree programmes can a student apply to?**

A student can apply to up to three Erasmus Mundus Joint Master Degree programmes in one selection year.

## **27. Where can I find the Erasmus Mundus Joint Master Degrees offered under Erasmus+?**

A list of all Erasmus Mundus Joint Master Degrees (EMJMD) can be found on the website of the Executive Agency (EACEA) and can be accessed here: [https://eacea.ec.europa.eu/erasmus-plus/library/scholarships-catalogue\\_en](https://eacea.ec.europa.eu/erasmus-plus/library/scholarships-catalogue_en)

In the summer of each year a new batch of selected EMJMDs will be added to the list. These programmes will open applications to potential scholarship-winners in the last quarter of that same year for students who will start in September/October of the following year.

This list includes a number of Erasmus Mundus Masters and doctoral Courses selected before 2014. Some of these will continue to select students and doctoral candidates up to 2017.

## **28. How can I be sure that my Erasmus Mundus Joint Master Degree is recognised in a country that is not involved in the consortium where I study/studied?**

Erasmus+ requires that all graduated students are awarded at least a double degree officially recognised in the degree-awarding countries, and preferably a joint degree.

Recognition in another European (or non-European) country of a national degree delivered by a given European country is a decision for the country concerned (usually based on bilateral agreements between the two countries) and in which the European Union cannot intervene.

As a result, the only way to obtain an answer for specific cases would be to raise the question to the appropriate authorities in the country concerned, providing them with the official name of the degree offered by the Erasmus Mundus Joint Master Degree programme in question. Click here to see the appropriate bodies: <http://www.enic-naric.net/>

## **29. Under an Erasmus Mundus Joint Master Degree, can I study/do research/prepare part of my thesis in an institution not belonging to the consortium, or in a country outside the consortium countries?**

As a matter of principle, study or research periods abroad should be carried out in an institution belonging to the consortium (as a full partner or, as it is often the case for placements in enterprises, as an associate partner). Study or research periods outside the consortium should be regarded as an exception to the rule.

For this exception to occur, the consortium would have to justify the relevance of the mobility and the added value for the study. The consortium would have to explain the role of the receiving institution and confirm that this institution is accepting this role. Furthermore, the student's mobility would need to be monitored and evaluated by at least one of the partners in the consortium.

### **30. How does the Erasmus+ Master Degree Loan work?**

Erasmus+ Master Degree Loans are loans with favourable pay-back terms aimed at students who study in a Programme country that is neither their country of residence nor the country in which they obtained the qualification granting access to the Master's programme. To be eligible you must live in one of the Erasmus+ Programme Countries.

The amounts of the loans will be of a maximum of EUR 12 000 for a one-year Master and EUR 18 000 for a two-year Master.

To apply for these loans, you will need to address yourself to participating national banks or student loan agencies. For more information, please visit the webpage on Erasmus+ Master Degree Loans: [http://ec.europa.eu/education/opportunities/higher-education/masters-loans\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/education/opportunities/higher-education/masters-loans_en.htm)

### **31. Where can I find the list of participating national banks or student loan agencies to apply for an Erasmus+ Master Loan?**

The first loans are expected to be available for students in 2015. It is however not possible to say when exactly any particular country might be covered because the agreements with banks and student loan agencies will be done gradually on a country by country basis.

You can find interesting information on scholarships on the [scholarships portal](#). This portal allows you to filter the scholarships offered depending on your country of origin, the level and discipline of your studies and the place where you would like to study.

### **32. What is Erasmus for Young Entrepreneurs?**

Erasmus for Young Entrepreneurs is a cross-border exchange programme which gives new or aspiring entrepreneurs the chance to learn from experienced entrepreneurs running small businesses in other Participating Countries. You can find more information here: <http://www.erasmus-entrepreneurs.eu/>

### **33. I am looking for a Bachelor/Master/Doctoral programme on a certain discipline, where can I find information on study programmes in Europe?**

The [StudyPortals](#) website is an international study choice platform, where you can find several study portals that allow you to look for Bachelor, Master or Doctoral programmes filtering per discipline (i.e. Humanities & Art) and per sub-discipline (i.e. Cultural Studies Art & Art History or Language, Literature and Cultural Studies). This same website also includes a "scholarship portal".

In addition, under the Erasmus+ programme there are "Erasmus Mundus Joint Master Degrees" that count with specific EU-funded scholarships for excellent students and until 2017 a number of "Erasmus Mundus Joint Doctorates" selected in the past generation of the programme will continue to offer fellowships to candidates to take part in full doctoral programmes (3-4 years). The catalogue of available EU-funded scholarships and fellowships at Master and Doctoral level is accessible here: [https://eacea.ec.europa.eu/erasmus-plus/actions/key-action-1-learning-mobility-individuals/joint-master-degrees/scholarships\\_en](https://eacea.ec.europa.eu/erasmus-plus/actions/key-action-1-learning-mobility-individuals/joint-master-degrees/scholarships_en)

## Doctoral studies and Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions

### 34. I am a doctoral candidate; can I get a grant to do research in an institution abroad?

Under Erasmus+, doctoral students enrolled in a higher education institution in a Programme Country and most Partner Countries can study or train abroad more than once as long as a total maximum of 12 months per study cycle is respected. This means that you can receive grants for mobility periods totalling up to 12 months during your doctoral studies. In the case of Erasmus+ traineeships, it is possible to apply during your last year of studies and carry out the mobility in the year following your graduation. In any case, the traineeship needs to be done through your home university, which is responsible for defining the selection criteria for participation.

Doctoral candidates who want to follow part or their doctoral studies abroad may also receive support through the Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions under the Horizon 2020 programme. The National Contact Points (NCP) can provide additional information. Their main role is to guide potential applicants on choosing relevant types of action, advise on administrative procedures and contractual issues, provide training and assistance on proposal writing, distribute documentation (forms, guidelines, manuals etc.) and assist in partner search. Their contact details can be found on the [H2020 Participant Portal](#).

Until 2017, a number of Erasmus Mundus Joint Doctorates selected in the past generation of the programme will continue to offer fellowships to candidates to take part in full doctoral programmes (3-4 years). You can find more information on courses and application here:

[http://eacea.ec.europa.eu/erasmus\\_mundus/results\\_compendia/selected\\_projects\\_action\\_1\\_joint\\_doctorates\\_en.php](http://eacea.ec.europa.eu/erasmus_mundus/results_compendia/selected_projects_action_1_joint_doctorates_en.php)

### 35. Are there any opportunities for doing a PhD outside of Europe under Erasmus+?

From the academic year 2015-16, it will be possible for Programme Country institutions to have inter-institutional agreements with institutions established in Partner Countries around the world (see question 5): these agreements can fund doctoral level mobility. Please contact your higher education institution to find out if it has agreements with Partner Countries.

A number of Erasmus Mundus Action 2 partnerships offer scholarships for doctoral studies for Programme Country students until 2017. More information can be obtained here: [http://eacea.ec.europa.eu/erasmus\\_mundus/programme/action2\\_en.php](http://eacea.ec.europa.eu/erasmus_mundus/programme/action2_en.php)

Beyond Erasmus+, you could look at the individual research grant opportunities available under the Marie-Skłodowska-Curie Actions, part of the EU's programme for Research "Horizon 2020".

## Grants and funding

### 36. Is my Erasmus+ grant compatible with other scholarships or types of revenue?

The entitlement to any grant or loan awarded to students to study in their sending institution must be maintained during the period abroad.



In the case of traineeships, any allowance or remuneration that the receiving organisation may grant the student, including contributions in kind such as meals or accommodation, is compatible with the Erasmus+ EU grant.

A mobility period is compatible with a part-time job. Furthermore, the Erasmus+ EU grant is compatible with the revenue that the student receives as long as he or she carries out the activities foreseen in the agreed mobility programme.

### **37. Can my institution reduce my grant/ask me to reimburse part of/all of my Erasmus+ grant?**

Students that receive an Erasmus+ grant from EU funds will have to fully or partially reimburse the EU grant if they do not comply with the terms of the grant agreement.

However, there is an exception to this rule when students are prevented from completing their planned activities abroad due to a case of "force majeure", i.e. an "unforeseeable exceptional situation or event beyond the participant's control and not attributable to error or negligence on his/her part".

In that case, students are entitled to receive the amount of the grant corresponding to the actual duration of the mobility period (as defined in article 2.2 of their grant agreement) and remaining funds will have to be refunded (except if agreed differently with the sending organisation).

You should carefully check the grant agreement before signing it and keep it in mind during your period abroad. For example, if a final instalment is foreseen at the end of the period abroad, it will be subject to the submission of the compulsory online assessment at the end of the mobility, and you may be asked to partially or fully reimburse the EU grant received if you do not complete and submit the final online report.

### **38. Will top-up grants be made available for Erasmus+ traineeships?**

If you are studying in a Programme Country, you must contact the international office in your university to know the amount of the top-up grant that has been made available by your country's National Agency (between 100 and 200 EUR per month). Note: Traineeships between Programme and Partner Countries are not available for the time being.

### **39. Can I take part in an Erasmus+ mobility activity without a scholarship, or with other sources of funding?**

For credit mobility, you must contact the international office in your university to see if this is possible.

Erasmus+ funding provides a number of scholarships for Erasmus Mundus Joint Master Degrees (EMJMDs). Typically, each EMJMD will be able to award Erasmus+ scholarships to around 15 of the best-ranked students applying to a Masters in a given academic year. Joint Master Degree Courses will also recruit other students without Erasmus+ scholarships. Some Masters courses are able to offer full or part-scholarships from other sources, or have links to other funding agencies such as national or regional authorities, or the corporate sector. It is also possible to take part in an EMJMD as a fee-paying student.