

ERASMUS MUNDUS 2009 – 2013  
Frequently-asked questions  
General questions about Erasmus Mundus



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## **A GENERAL QUESTIONS ABOUT THE PROGRAMME**

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### **A1. What is Erasmus Mundus 2009-2013 ?**

Erasmus Mundus is a co-operation and mobility Programme in the field of higher education. It aims at enhancing the quality of European higher education and promoting dialogue and understanding between people and cultures through cooperation with third countries. In addition the programme contributes to the development of human resources and the international cooperation capacity of higher education institutions in third countries by increasing mobility between the European Union and these countries.

The name of the Programme comes from Desiderius Erasmus Rotterdamus, a 15th-century Dutch humanist and theologian who studied in the best monastic schools throughout Europe. In his days, he was known as one of the most brilliant students of the time. "Mundus" is the Latin word for "world" and thus stands for the programme's global outreach.

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### **A2. What are the specific objectives of the Programme?**

The programme's specific objectives are:

- to promote structured cooperation between higher education institutions and enhance the quality in European higher education with a distinct European added value, attractive both within the European Union and beyond its borders.

- to contribute to the mutual enrichment of societies by developing the qualifications of women/men so that they possess particular skills, are open minded- and internationally experienced. This is achieved through promoting mobility for the most talented students and academics from third countries towards the European Union and vice versa.

- to contribute towards the development of human resources and the international cooperation capacity of higher education institutions in third countries through increased mobility streams between the European Union and those countries.

- to improve accessibility and enhance the profile and visibility of European higher education in the world as well as its attractiveness for third country nationals and citizens of the European Union.

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### **A3. Who is responsible for the management of the Programme?**

The European Commission is responsible for the running of the Erasmus Mundus Programme (2009-2013). It manages the budget and sets priorities, targets and criteria for the programme. Furthermore, it guides and monitors the general implementation, follow-up and evaluation of the Programme at European level. The Education, Audiovisual and Culture Executive Agency (EACEA) is responsible for the implementation of the Erasmus Mundus Programme. It

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publishes the specific Calls for Proposals and is responsible for the entire life-cycle of the projects, including the selection, awarding of grants and monitoring.

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**A4. What are the most important documents to be consulted about the Programme?**

The [Programme Guide](#) contains all the general information about the different actions and the conditions on how to apply for funding.

In addition, [Calls for Proposals](#) are published in order to specify the activities and the budgetary allocations relevant to the call concerned for the specific actions. Applicants should read the Programme Guide in conjunction with the specific Call for Proposals.

For each annual Call, **Action 2 Guidelines** provide details of the budget and priorities, for the geographical lots covered by Action 2.

The **financial and administrative handbook for three Actions (Action 1, Action 2, Action 3)**, once you have been selected for funding, provides key information regarding the administrative issues. They can be found on the relevant [Calls for Proposals](#) pages.

The [Decision No 1298/2008/EC\(link\)](#) (OJ 240 19.12.2008, p.83) establishing the Erasmus Mundus Programme 2009-2013, adopted by the European Parliament and Council on 16.12.2008.

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**A5. What type of actions are supported?**

The Erasmus Mundus Programme supports three Actions:

**ACTION 1- supports**

- high-quality joint master courses (Action 1A) and doctoral programmes (Action 1B) offered by a consortium of European and possible third-country HEIs and
- Scholarships/fellowships for the third-country and European students/doctoral candidates to follow these Erasmus Mundus joint masters courses and doctoral programmes
- Short-term scholarships for third-country and European academics for research or teaching assignments as part of the joint master programmes

**ACTION 2:- supports Partnerships**

- with countries covered by the European Neighbourhood and Partnership Instrument (ENPI), Development Cooperation Instrument (DCI), Instrument for Pre-accession Assistance (IPA), the European Development Fund, and
- with countries and territories covered by the Industrialised Countries Instrument.
- including scholarships and fellowships for mobility at a range of academic levels

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**ACTION 3 – supports**

- Promotion Projects with an international dimension of all aspects of higher education, enhancing the attractiveness of Europe as an educational destination and a centre of excellence at world level.

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**A6. Who can apply for funding?**

The Erasmus Mundus Programme 2009-2013 is open to higher education institutions and to any organisation active in the field of higher education and research as well as to students, doctoral candidates, teachers, researchers and university staff (academic and/or administrative) from any part of the world. The funding opportunities are the following:

**(A) Higher education institutions organised into consortia/partnerships:**

Higher education institutions can participate in:

- Consortia to develop and implement joint masters/doctoral programmes (Action 1);
- Partnerships (Action 2);
- Consortia to develop and implement promotion projects (Action 3).

**(B) Other bodies:**

1) Other public or private bodies active in the field of education and research can participate in:

- Consortia to develop and implement joint masters/doctoral programmes (Action 1).
- Consortia to develop and implement promotion projects (Action 3).
- Enterprises and other employers can participate in Consortia to develop and implement joint doctoral programmes (Action 1).
- Erasmus Mundus National Structures can participate in Consortia to develop and implement promotion projects (Action 3).

2) Other bodies which could be particularly relevant for the objectives and activities of the Programme:

- Associate partners from the eligible countries can be involved in the Partnerships (Action 2). They play an active role in the action but they are not beneficiaries and may not receive funding from the grant.

**(C) Students and academics**

Students in higher education can receive scholarships for Undergraduate studies (Action 2) and Masters studies (Actions 1 and 2);

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Doctoral candidates can receive fellowships for Doctoral studies (Actions 1 and 2), Post-doctoral studies (Action 2);

Academics and researchers can receive fellowships for teaching and research periods (Actions 1 and 2);

Other university staff can receive scholarships / fellowships under Actions 2.

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**A7. What does the Erasmus Mundus scholarship cover?**

**For Action 1 + 2**

- Management/administration costs (lump sum)
- Scholarship for individual students, doctorates, academic staff, covering travel/installation contribution, tuition fees, insurance, monthly allowance

**For Action 3**

- Coverage of real costs based on the principle of co-funding (maximum 75%) of the eligible costs.

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**A8. How does the Programme select the disciplines?**

No priorities are set for academic disciplines. However, the proposal must prove its relevance and academic quality (increased importance given to both aspects in award criteria). Certain Action 2 geographical lots set a more limited range of academic disciplines that can be covered by the mobility scheme.

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**A9. What does the term “third-country” mean?**

In accordance with Article 2 of the Erasmus Mundus 2009-2013 Programme Decision (No 1298/2008/EC), "third country means a country that is not a European Country".

More concretely, the programme distinguishes three different groups of countries:

- The Member States of the European Union;
- Other countries or potential candidates possibly on the same footing as Member States (this category includes Iceland, Norway, Liechtenstein, Albania, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Croatia, Kosovo under UNSC Resolution 1244/99, the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Montenegro, Serbia, Turkey and Switzerland);
- Third countries.

Please consult the Programme Guide glossary for the latest status of European / third country definitions.

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The countries under the second category will be considered as "European countries" **only if** an agreement (or a Memorandum of Understanding or an EEA Joint Committee Decision) establishing the participation of the country concerned in the EM programme is in force by the date of the selection decision. If this is not the case, the country concerned is considered as a third country.

While third-country organisations can participate in and benefit from all three actions of the programme, they cannot act as applicants or beneficiaries, unlike organisations from European countries.

The term "third country" has to be understood in a cooperation context where the countries concerned act as "third parties" in an agreement between the European Union and the European countries. This term is by no means related to the so-called "third world".

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**A10. Which countries can participate?**

For specific actions, please read the [Programme Guide](#) (*link*).

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**A11. How to find information about the projects already selected under the Programme?**

The list of the projects selected under the Programme for each specific Action is published on the website of the [Education Audiovisual and Culture Executive Agency](#).

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**A12. Are there national information centres or contact points for the Programme?**

Yes, there are the [Erasmus Mundus National Contact and Information Points](#) ("National Structures") in the EU Member States and the EEA-EFTA states as well as the [European Union Delegations](#) located in third countries. They give information at national level about the Programme, guide and advice.

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**B. GENERAL QUESTIONS IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN APPLYING TO THE PROGRAMME:**

**As a Higher Education Institution (HEI):**

**B1. What are the funding opportunities for higher education institutions?**

European HEIs can submit:

- An **Action 1 application** proposing a joint programme at masters or doctoral level developed in cooperation with partner universities from Europe and, if relevant, third countries.

If your proposal is selected, Erasmus Mundus funding will be awarded during five consecutive years (subject to the renewal of the Programme beyond 2013) with the purpose of:

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- contributing to the joint programme's implementation and management costs;
- offering scholarships/fellowships to European and third-country students / doctorate candidates enrolled in the joint programme;
- offering short-term scholarships to European and third-country scholars to carry out teaching and research activities in the context of the joint programme.

- An **Action 2 application** presenting a structured cooperation partnership targeted at specific non-European countries/regions and composed of European and third-country HEIs from the geographical area concerned, with the purpose of offering full and short-term scholarships to students, scholars and professionals from the third countries and, if eligible, European countries concerned.

- An **Action 3 application** presented on behalf of a partnership/network of European and third-country HEIs/organisations active in the field of higher education with the objective of enhancing the attractiveness of the European higher education sector and to facilitate its cooperation with the rest of the world.

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**B2. What are the funding opportunities for research organisations?**

The Programme is open to any public or private research organisation that may contribute to its objectives, notably as regards the enhancement of the quality of higher education and the complementarities between higher education, research and development activities. These organisations can take part in all three Actions of the Programme but can only submit and coordinate projects under Action 1B (provided they are entitled to deliver doctorate degrees) and Action 3.

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**B3. What are the funding opportunities for organisations active in the field of Higher Education?**

While most of the Erasmus Mundus activities are targeted towards HEIs and the individuals involved in them, the programme is open to any organisation that is, directly or indirectly, active in the field of higher education. These can be public administration bodies, NGOs, social partners, professional organisations, chambers of commerce or industry, enterprises, etc. These organisations can take part as partners or associated members in all three Actions of the programme and can submit and coordinate projects under Action 3.

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**B4. Can the same coordinator apply for several actions?**

The EM Programme does not include any provision preventing a coordinator from coordinating both an EMMC and EMJD. However the experience shows that the management of an EM joint programme is often quite demanding. Therefore cumulating different coordinators responsibilities should not happen to the detriment of the quality of the coordination input provided. It is recommended that at an application stage, coordinators who may find themselves in such situation provide evidence that he /she will be assisted by the necessary staff on both courses.

**As a student or academic:**

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**B5. What are the funding opportunities for an individual?**

Actions 1 and 2 of the Programme provide financial support to European and third-country individuals to allow them to carry out study, teaching or research activities in the framework of selected consortia or partnerships. There are different possibilities for Bachelor students, Master Students, Doctoral candidates, Post-doctoral candidates, scholar/academic staff, or administrative staff from HEIs.

Individuals interested in an Erasmus Mundus scholarship have to apply directly to the selected Action 1 consortium or Action 2 partnership of their choice and go through a competitive selection process organised by the partners involved. This selection process will be organised in accordance with a procedure and set of criteria designed by the consortium / partnership and approved in advance by the Agency. The lists of consortia and partnerships are available at the following address; these lists are updated whenever new consortia are selected following a call for proposals.

[http://eacea.ec.europa.eu/erasmus\\_mundus/results\\_compendia/selected\\_projects\\_en.php](http://eacea.ec.europa.eu/erasmus_mundus/results_compendia/selected_projects_en.php)

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**B6. What are the different funding opportunities for students and academics?**

If you are a **Bachelor student**, you can apply for **Action 2, strand 1**.

If you are a **Masters student** you can apply for **Action 1A, an EMMC, for Action 2, strands 1 and 2**.

If you are a **Doctoral candidate** you can apply for **Action 1B, Action 2, strands 1 and 2**.

If you are a **Post-doctoral candidate** you can apply for **Action 2, strands 1 and 2**.

If you are a **Scholar/academic staff** you can apply for **Action 1A, Action 2 strands 1 and 2**.

If you are **Administrative staff from HEIs** you can apply for **Action 2, strands 1 and 2**.

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**B7. How can students and academics apply for scholarships/fellowships?**

Individuals interested in a Erasmus Mundus scholarship have to apply directly to the selected Action 1 consortium or Action 2 Partnership of their choice and undergo a competitive selection process organised by the partners involved. A complete list is available on the EACEA website:

[http://eacea.ec.europa.eu/erasmus\\_mundus/results\\_compendia/selected\\_projects\\_en.php](http://eacea.ec.europa.eu/erasmus_mundus/results_compendia/selected_projects_en.php)

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**B8. For how many different Erasmus Mundus courses can a student apply to in one selection year?**



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Under Action 1, you may apply to a maximum of 3 different Joint Programmes (Masters Courses and/or Joint Doctorates combined) per selection year. Therefore, you are usually requested to specify on the application form if you have applied to more than one programme.

Under Action 2 (former External Cooperation Window) there is no limit on the number of applications by an individual per selection year, i.e you can apply to as many projects as you are qualified for. However, if you have already benefited from one mobility activity within one selection year, you are no longer eligible for mobility within that project during that selection year.

Of course, if selected, you can participate only in one exchange, as you can receive only one grant.

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### **B9. Other funding opportunities within Higher Education**

Europe offers a vast range of higher education courses, and scholarships from national, regional or other funds may also be available. You may be interested in exploring these other scholarship and funding opportunities by consulting the "Study in Europe" website, which provides a range of useful information for students and links to courses, universities and national agencies.

[http://ec.europa.eu/education/study-in-europe/index\\_en.html](http://ec.europa.eu/education/study-in-europe/index_en.html)