

ERASMUS MUNDUS - QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

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GENERAL QUESTIONS

1. What is Erasmus Mundus?

Erasmus Mundus is the EU co-operation and mobility programme in the field of higher education which promotes the European Union as a centre of excellence in learning around the world. It tries to enhance the visibility and attractiveness of European higher education in third countries. It supports European top-quality Masters Courses and provides EU-funded scholarships for third-country nationals participating in these Masters Courses, as well as scholarships for EU nationals studying in third countries.

2. What does the name Erasmus Mundus mean?

The name patron of this programme – just as of its famous and well-known European sibling, the **Erasmus programme** - is 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 in the world. “Mundus” is the Latin word for “world” and thus stands for the programme’s global outreach.

3. What are the political ideas behind the programme?

Erasmus Mundus provides a response to the challenges European higher education is facing today: preparing European citizens for life in a global, intercultural and knowledge-based society and enhancing the quality and world-wide attractiveness of European higher education. This coincides with the European Union’s **“Lisbon strategy”**: EU governments have committed themselves to making Europe the most competitive and dynamic knowledge-based economy in the world and to turning European education systems into a world-wide reference for excellence and quality. Erasmus Mundus also supports the intergovernmental **“Bologna process”** by helping converge European university degree structures, which will make European higher education more transparent and attractive to students and academics both within and beyond the European Union.

4. What are the objectives of the programme?

The programme's overall aim is to enhance the quality of European higher education by fostering co-operation with third countries. Its ambition is to improve the development of human resources and to promote dialogue and understanding between peoples and cultures. The programme's specific objectives are:

- to promote a quality offer in higher education with a distinct European added value, attractive both within the EU and beyond its borders;
- to encourage and enable highly qualified graduates and scholars from all over the world to obtain qualifications and/or experience in the EU;
- to develop more structured co-operation between EU and third-country institutions and to encourage outgoing EU mobility as part of European study programmes;
- to improve the accessibility of higher education and to enhance the profile and the visibility of European higher education throughout the world.

5. Is Erasmus Mundus a development aid programme?

Erasmus Mundus is intended to develop excellence and quality in the European higher education area. Erasmus Mundus Masters Courses are run by European higher education institutions, although they may set up Partnerships with institutions in other countries throughout the world. While Erasmus Mundus offers opportunities for third-country students and visiting scholars – including students and scholars from developing countries - to benefit from a period of study in Europe, Erasmus Mundus is not a development aid programme.

6. What are the different elements ('Actions') of the programme?

The Erasmus Mundus programme comprises four concrete Actions:

ACTION 1 - Erasmus Mundus Masters Courses: They constitute the central component around which the Erasmus Mundus programme is built. The Erasmus Mundus Masters Courses are high-quality integrated study programmes at masters level offered by a consortium involving a minimum of three universities in at least three different European countries. Students have to study in at least two of the three universities and obtain a recognised double or joint degree upon graduation.

ACTION 2 – Erasmus Mundus scholarships: The scholarship scheme addresses highly qualified graduate students and scholars from third-countries who have been admitted to attend an Erasmus Mundus Masters Course..

ACTION 3 - Partnerships: Erasmus Mundus Masters Courses have the possibility of establishing Partnerships with third-country higher education institutions. These Partnerships allow for outgoing mobility of graduate EU students and scholars involved in the Erasmus Mundus Masters Courses in order to study or work at a third-country partner university.

ACTION 4 – Enhancing attractiveness: Erasmus Mundus supports projects aimed at enhancing the attractiveness of European higher education around the world. It supports activities that will improve the profile, the visibility and the accessibility of European higher education.

7. Who can apply for which Action? How are the various programme Actions linked to each other?

Action 1 - European higher education institutions from the 27 European Union Member States and the EEA/EFTA States. Candidate countries to the European Union can be involved once their participation in the programme is decided.

Action 2 - Graduate students and scholars from third-countries admitted in an Erasmus Mundus Masters Course

Action 3 - Selected Erasmus Mundus Masters Courses and third-country higher education institutions

Action 4 - Higher education institutions all over the world as well as private and public bodies active in the field of higher education

Erasmus Mundus Masters Courses selected under Action 1 are obliged to participate in the scholarships scheme under Action 2 and encouraged to form a Partnership under Action 3. Only Erasmus Mundus Masters Courses selected under Action 1 can participate in Actions 2 and 3. Action 3 also involves as partners third country higher education institutions with which Erasmus Mundus Consortia establish Partnerships.

Action 4, in turn, is open to higher education institutions, organisations or bodies active in the field of higher education all around the world, regardless of their participation in the Erasmus Mundus programme under Action 1. Erasmus Mundus Masters consortia selected under Action 1 are, of course, also eligible for Action 4.

8. Which countries participate in which part of the programme? What is the status of the EEA-EFTA (European Free Trade Association/European Economic Area) states, the candidate countries and third countries in the programme?

The 27 EU Member States:

Higher education institutions can participate in Actions 1, 3 and 4 of the programme. Action 4 is also open to private and public bodies active in the field of higher education. Students and scholars can benefit from an Erasmus Mundus Scholarship in the framework of Action 3.

The 3 EEA-EFTA states (Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway):

Their official participation has been formalised through the relevant instruments governing the relations between the European Community and these countries. Therefore, higher education institutions, can participate in Actions 1, 3 and 4 of the programme just as the 27 EU Member States. Action 4 is also open to private and public bodies active in the field of higher education. Students and scholars can benefit from an Erasmus Mundus Scholarship in the framework of Action 3.

The candidate countries for accession to the EU

(presently, Croatia, Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (FYROM), Turkey): Their official participation needs to be formalised through the relevant instruments governing the relations between the European Community and these countries. At present none of the candidate countries has formalised its participation in the Erasmus Mundus programme. Consequently, they cannot participate in Action 1 and have the status of third countries as regards Actions 3 and 4, until they formalise their participation in the programme. Their nationals are however *not eligible* to benefit from an Erasmus Mundus scholarship in the framework of Action 2.

Third countries:

The scholarship scheme under Action 2 is exclusively reserved for graduate students and scholars from third countries, i.e. all countries of the world with the exception of the 27 EU Member States, the 3 EEA-EFTA states and the candidate countries for accession to the EU. Third-country higher education institutions can be partner institutions under Action 3. Third-country higher education institutions and other third-country bodies active in higher education can participate in projects under Action 4.

9. What funds are available under the programme?

The overall budget for the programme amounts to €230 million over a five-year period

(2004-2008). The annual budget for 2004 stood at a relatively modest € 8 million, but is increasing progressively, reaching € 94 million in 2008.

10. How is the programme implemented?

The programme's implementation has been delegated by the Commission to the Education Audiovisual and Culture Executive Agency. Annual [Calls for Proposals](#) for all the Actions of the programme are published on its website:
<http://eacea.ec.europa.eu/static/en/mundus/index.htm> .

Applicants have to apply to the Agency, except for the scholarship scheme (Action 2) under which graduate students and scholars apply to the Erasmus Mundus Masters Courses directly. (See [list of Erasmus Mundus Masters Courses](#))

11. Are there national information centres or contact points for the programme?

Yes, there are Erasmus Mundus National Contact and Information Points ("National Structures") in the EU Member States and the EEA-EFTA states. (See [list of National Structures](#)).

12. When are the [Calls for Proposals](#) published and what are the application deadlines?

In principle the following annual deadlines apply:
Publication of the Calls for Proposals for all Actions: February of each year

Application Deadlines
Action 1: 30 April
Action 2: 28 February
Action 3: 30 November
Action 4: 31 May

13. How long has the programme been up and running?

The programme was adopted on 5 December 2003 and came into force on 20 January 2004. The programme has been up and running since the academic year 2004/2005. Action 3 (Partnerships with third-country universities) started in the academic year 2005/2006.

14. Which projects have already been selected under the programme?

[80 Erasmus Mundus Masters Courses](#), [19 Partnerships](#) and [23 projects enhancing the attractiveness of European higher education](#) have already been selected.

15. Is there not the risk that "Erasmus Mundus" will aggravate brain drain from developing countries?

The risk that the programme causes a brain drain from developing countries is rather limited, as the number of grantees per third country is relatively small. It also has to be kept in mind that the programme focuses on excellent students and scholars; it can

therefore be assumed that those individuals – in their search for an international education – would probably have left their home countries even without Erasmus Mundus. What is more, the grantees participate in a specific Masters Course in Europe over a limited period of time only. The idea is that they return to their home countries afterwards.

16. What will happen at the end of the Erasmus Mundus programme after 2008?

In the light of the results the Erasmus Mundus programme will produce, the Commission may propose a successor programme for the period after 2008.

17. What is an Erasmus Mundus Masters Course? What is its added value?

Erasmus Mundus Masters Courses are integrated study programmes at masters level designed to distinguish Europe as a centre of excellence in higher education. (For a definition of an “integrated study programme”, please see [Question 21](#) below.) They are offered by at least three universities in three different European countries.

Erasmus Mundus Masters Courses provide a distinctively European offer in higher education, which foresees a period of study in at least two universities in two different European countries. They result in the award of a double, a multiple or a joint degree recognised in the countries where the degree-awarding institutions are located. Moreover, they offer substantial study grants for top-quality third-country graduate students and scholars, who enjoy high-quality hosting and welcome facilities while participating in an Erasmus Mundus Masters Course. Finally, Erasmus Mundus Masters consortia may establish Partnerships with third-country universities, under which grants are awarded to EU graduate students and scholars who are enrolled in the respective Erasmus Mundus Masters Course in order to study or work at the third-country partner university.

18. What is an Erasmus Mundus Masters Course consortium?

An Erasmus Mundus Masters consortium is a group of at least three higher education institutions from three different European countries which has been selected to offer an Erasmus Mundus Masters Course under Action 1 of the programme.

19. What are the roles of the various higher education institutions (co-ordinating institution, partners) within an Erasmus Mundus Masters consortium?

Each Consortium has a co-ordinating institution that submits the proposal on behalf of the consortium. Upon selection of an Erasmus Mundus Masters Course by the Agency, the co-ordinating institution enters into a legal agreement with the Agency on behalf of the consortium. Throughout the duration of the Erasmus Mundus Masters Course, the co-ordinating institution is the Agency's contact partner who speaks and reports for the consortium. It is responsible for the financial management of the Erasmus Mundus Community funds paid to the consortium.

However, the co-ordinating institution does not necessarily play a predominant role in the delivery of the Masters Course. All higher education institutions participating in the consortium should have an active and clearly-defined role within the consortium. All higher education institutions involved in the consortium must be in the position to be a hosting

institution, i.e. to offer, in principle, at least 30% of the credits necessary for Course completion.

20. What is the minimum consortium partnership?

Each consortium should consist of a minimum three higher education institutions coming from three different eligible countries. In the cases where the consortium includes higher education institutions from an EEA/EFTA state or a candidate country, at least two of the participating institutions must be located in EU Member States.

21. What does an “integrated study programme” mean?

An integrated study programme offered by an Erasmus Mundus Masters consortium has the following features:

Course integration: delivery of a jointly developed curriculum or full recognition by the Erasmus Mundus Masters consortium of modules which are developed and delivered separately, but which together make up a common standard Masters Course. Parallel, but not integrated, study programmes in the higher education institutions participating in the consortium are not considered an integrated course.

Joint criteria for admission and examination: students must be able to apply to a single Course with common standards for admission, a common application procedure and a joint student selection process in accordance with the relevant national legislation in the countries of participating institutions. Entry requirements must be clearly described and common to the Masters Course. Possible tuition fees must be common to the Masters Course and must not depend on the individual study destination of the students (there can be one fee for third country students and one fee for European students). Examinations passed at one institution of the Erasmus Mundus Masters consortium are recognised fully and automatically by the other institutions of the consortium.

Mobility: students must carry out a period of study in at least two of the participating institutions. This mobility at a second institution cannot be replaced by virtual mobility. Neither can this mobility take place in institutions outside the consortium. The sequence of study periods spent in the various hosting institutions and the various possible mobility combinations must be known at the time of application for the Masters Course and made known to potential students in advance. In a minimum consortium of three partners (A, B, C), mobility combinations would normally be A+B, A+C, B+C or A+B+C. In cases where the consortium includes institutions from EEA-EFTA states, at least one of the hosting institutions must be located in a Member State. The length of the study period in each of the participating institutions is not prescribed; it will be determined by the need to ensure that students are granted a joint or a double or a multiple degree (see below) and the need to ensure an integrated approach. However, the Erasmus Mundus Masters Course must, in principle, foresee that at least 30% of the total ECTS credits be acquired in each hosting institution. All three higher education institutions involved in the minimum consortium must be in the position to be a hosting institution, i.e. to offer in principle at least 30% of the credits necessary for course completion. The consortium should ensure that there is no repetition of teaching content during mobility.

Guaranteed award of a recognised joint, or a double or a multiple degree after the

successful conclusion of the Erasmus Mundus Masters Course: a clear definition of the nature and the form of the final degree(s) delivered is required. A double or multiple degree is defined as two or more nationally-recognised diplomas issued officially by two or more institutions involved in an integrated study programme. A joint degree is defined as a single diploma issued by at least two of the institutions offering an integrated study programme. The possibility to deliver a double degree is a minimal requirement. This condition must be fulfilled at the latest by the time of selection (October) of the Erasmus Mundus Masters Course. Applying consortia must prove that the participating countries concerned recognise the degrees delivered. To fulfil this condition the appropriate arrangements must exist at national level.

22. How is a course at masters level defined? Does it include undergraduate or doctoral studies?

Courses at masters level are open to graduate students having obtained a first university degree lasting a minimum of three years. Neither undergraduate nor doctoral courses, but only courses leading to a masters degree, are eligible under Erasmus Mundus.

23. Does an Erasmus Mundus Masters degree give access to doctoral studies?

Yes.

24. How long does an Erasmus Mundus Masters Course last?

An Erasmus Mundus Masters Course carries between a minimum of 60 and up to max. 120 **ECTS credits** at masters level. 60 to 120 ECTS credits correspond to courses lasting from one up to two academic years.

25. Does Erasmus Mundus offer scholarships for part-time studies?

No, the Erasmus Mundus Scholarships are intended for full-time studies

26. Do Erasmus Mundus Masters Courses all use the ECTS credit system?

Yes. Erasmus Mundus Masters Courses all have to use the ECTS (European Credit Transfer System) or equivalent systems.

27. Which disciplines or subject areas are covered by Erasmus Mundus Masters Courses?

All fields of study and disciplines are welcome to apply. However, as of the academic year 2007-2008, Masters Courses operating in the following fields of study could be given priority over Masters Courses operating in other fields as long as they can meet the very high quality level requested from the selected Masters Courses. The current priority subject areas in alphabetic order are:

- Architecture, urban and regional planning;
- Art and design;
- Business studies, management sciences;
- Languages and philological sciences;
- Law;
- Mathematics, informatics;

- Medical sciences.

28. Which kinds of degrees are delivered at the end of an Erasmus Mundus Masters Course? In which countries are they recognised?

Erasmus Mundus Masters Courses lead to the award of a recognised double, multiple or joint degree. A double degree is a minimum requirement. A double or multiple degree is defined as two or more national diplomas issued officially by two or more institutions involved in an integrated study programme. A joint degree is defined as a single diploma issued by at least two of the institutions offering an integrated study programme. The obtained degrees will be recognised in the countries where the degree-awarding institutions are located.

29. What mobility requirements are there within an Erasmus Mundus Masters Course and to whom do they apply?

All students (European and non-Europeans) following an Erasmus Mundus Masters Course are obliged to study in at least two of the institutions offering the Course. The sequence of study periods spent in the various institutions and the various possible mobility combinations must be known to potential students when they apply for the Course. In cases where the consortium includes an institution from an EEA-EFTA state, at least one of the hosting institutions must be located in an EU Member State. The length of the study period in each of the participating institutions can vary, but normally at least 30% of the Course should be completed in a second institution.

Scholars are not obliged, but should be invited to perform part of their scholarly work in a second institution within the consortium.

30. What language requirements are there for an Erasmus Mundus Masters Course? Is there a prescribed language of instruction?

Erasmus Mundus Masters Courses provide students with the possibility of using at least two European languages spoken in the countries where the institutions offering the Erasmus Mundus Masters Courses are located. However, the use of at least two languages does not imply the use of two different languages of instruction: there can be a single language of instruction paired with the offer of learning a second language. Also, there is no obligation that the institutions use their national languages as the language of instruction.

In any case, institutions should have a clearly identifiable language policy to promote a national language. This can include language training or other induction courses (e.g. “survival language” course, cultural induction), regardless of the language of instruction.

31. What kinds of welcome and housing facilities should Erasmus Mundus Masters consortia offer?

Each institution of an Erasmus Mundus Masters consortium should have an “international office” with adequate opening hours and linguistic coverage. They should offer housing facilities, coaching, language support, activities aiming at social integration as well as assistance with residence permits and social insurance. These services must be of high

quality.

32. How many places are there on an Erasmus Mundus Masters Course for third-country students and visiting scholars?

Each selected Erasmus Mundus Masters consortium reserves a minimum number of places for third-country students and scholars: about 20 students and 3-4 scholars every year. Erasmus Mundus Masters consortia should ensure an appropriate balance in the distribution of these students and scholars between the partner institutions within the consortium.

33. Are there also European students on an Erasmus Mundus Masters Course?

Yes. Erasmus Mundus Masters Courses must also be attended by European students and applying consortia must demonstrate that they have taken the necessary measures to ensure such participation...

34. How many Erasmus Mundus Masters Courses have already been selected? How many more are anticipated? Where can I find more information about them?

So far 80 Erasmus Mundus Masters Courses have been selected under Action 1. By the end of the programme (2008), there will be about 100 Erasmus Mundus Masters Courses running. The [list of selected Erasmus Mundus Masters Courses](#) is available from this website.

QUESTIONS FROM STUDENTS AND SCHOLARS

35. What are the Erasmus Mundus scholarships and for which academic courses are they available?

Erasmus Mundus scholarships are only available for Masters Courses which have been selected under Erasmus Mundus ("Erasmus Mundus Masters Courses").

The Erasmus Mundus programme offers scholarship to highly qualified **third-country graduate students and scholars** to participate in an Erasmus Mundus Masters Course (Action 2). In the framework of such course, students may attend full-time studies for a maximum duration of two academic years and scholars may carry out teaching and research assignments and scholarly work in the institutions participating in an Erasmus Mundus Masters Course for a maximum duration of three months. Please see the [list of selected Courses](#)

In addition, selected Erasmus Mundus Masters consortia may enter into Erasmus Mundus Partnerships (Action 3) with third-country higher education institutions. Within the framework of these Partnerships, European students and scholars enrolled in the specific EM Masters Course may receive a scholarship in order to spend a short period of study or work (normally three months) at the third-country partner university. Please see the [list of selected Courses](#).

36. What are the so-called "Windows"?

In the framework of Action 2, additional funds for third-country students and scholars are made available from the Community's external relations budget. . The "Windows" do not diminish the possibility of third-country students coming from other countries to obtain an Erasmus Mundus scholarship, as the "Windows" scholarships are additional to the "normal" scholarships. The use of the "Windows" is optional and applied to the following regions for the Courses starting in 2007-2008:

- Asian Windows (China, India)
- Western Balkans
- African, Caribbean and Pacific countries

37. Are there any Erasmus Mundus Masters Courses offered at undergraduate or at doctoral level? Can students apply for an Erasmus Mundus scholarship to finance their undergraduate or doctoral studies?

There are no Erasmus Mundus Masters Courses at undergraduate or doctoral level. Therefore, Erasmus Mundus scholarships are not available to finance undergraduate or doctoral studies.

38. Can the Erasmus Mundus Masters Courses be part-time?

No, the Erasmus Mundus Masters Courses should deliver a full-time study programme and scholarship.

39. Which students can enrol in an Erasmus Mundus Masters Course?

European and third-country graduate students having completed their undergraduate studies and successfully obtained a first degree awarded by a higher education institution anywhere in the world can enrol in an Erasmus Mundus Masters Course.

Students have to register for an Erasmus Mundus Masters Course directly with the consortium offering the Course. The consortium informs interested students about specific admission conditions (e.g. study results, language skills, etc.) and about application deadlines.

40. Can European students enrol in an Erasmus Mundus Masters Course?

Yes, regardless of whether or not parts of the Course take place in their home countries. However, European students are not eligible to receive an Erasmus Mundus Scholarship to follow an EM Masters Course in the EU.

41. Can students who have already obtained a Masters degree enrol in an Erasmus Mundus Masters Course?

Students having successfully obtained a first degree awarded by a higher education institution anywhere in the world can apply; as can people who have obtained a degree of a higher level, if the specific admission conditions of the Masters Course so allow. The specific admission conditions (e.g. study results, language skills, etc.) are defined by each Erasmus Mundus Masters consortium. The consortia inform interested students about these conditions.

42. Who can apply for an Erasmus Mundus scholarship?

Erasmus Mundus scholarships are for graduate students and scholars. There are two different scholarship schemes for graduate student and scholars under Erasmus Mundus: one for third-country nationals (Action 2) and one for European nationals (Action 3).

Scholarships for third-country students and scholars coming to Europe (Action 2):

A limited number of scholarships are available for third-country nationals with excellent academic records. Eligible students/scholars:

- are graduates who have successfully obtained a first degree awarded by a recognised higher education institution anywhere in the world or are high quality academics and/or professionals of outstanding experience who can carry out teaching, research or scholarly work
- are nationals of any country around the world other than the 27 EU Member States, the EEA/EFTA States and the candidate countries for accession to the EU (for a full definition see also question 44)
- are selected to attend an Erasmus Mundus Masters Course by the consortium offering the Course in question

- are not a resident of any of the Member States or the participating countries
- have not carried out their main activities (studies, work etc.) for more than a total of 12 months over the last five years (reference date: 28 February) in any of the above mentioned countries (27 EU Member States, EEA/EFTA States and candidate countries).

Scholarships for European students and scholars going to third countries (Action 3):

A limited number of scholarships are available for European nationals (students/scholars) with strong academic records so that they can spend a short period of study or work (normally three months) at a third-country university with which the Erasmus Mundus consortium has established a Partnership (under Action 3 of the programme). Eligible students/scholars must be:

- nationals of the 27 EU Member States, and the EEA/EFTA States (Iceland, Norway and Liechtenstein)
- enrolled in or working for an Erasmus Mundus Masters Course
- third country nationals who had been legal residents in the EU for at least three years (and for purpose other than study) before the start of the scholarship

43. How is the period of 12 months over the last five years calculated?

The reference date for the 12 months period is the 28th of February (deadline for submission of the application for Action 2 by the Erasmus Mundus Consortia).

44. Do all students following an Erasmus Mundus Masters Course receive an Erasmus Mundus scholarship?

No. Not all students who follow an Erasmus Mundus Masters Course will necessarily receive an Erasmus Mundus scholarship. Each Erasmus Mundus Masters consortium selects the students who will receive a scholarship on the basis of merit and taking into account the Erasmus Mundus eligibility requirements.

45. How is a scholar defined?

A scholar is an academic and/or professional of outstanding experience who carries out teaching or research assignments and scholarly work within the framework of an Erasmus Mundus Masters Course.

46. What does “third-country national” mean? Does it mean people coming from the so-called “third world”?

Nationals coming from all countries other than the 27 EU Member States, the EEA-EFTA states (Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway) and the candidate countries for accession to the EU (presently Croatia, Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (FYROM), Turkey,), who are not residents of any of the above countries, and who have not carried out their main activities (studies, work, etc.) for more than a total of 12 months over the last five

years in any of the above countries are considered “third-country nationals”. Therefore, the term “third-country” does not have anything to do with the term “third world”.

47. Can a student/scholar with double nationality (EU and third country) apply for an Erasmus Mundus scholarship?

In the case where a student/scholar has a double nationality, EU + third country, the third country nationality determines the eligibility for Action 2 as long as the student/scholar complies with the rest of the criteria mentioned above (see question 41).

48. Can third-country nationals living in Europe apply for an Erasmus Mundus scholarship?

Third-country nationals living in Europe can apply for an Erasmus Mundus scholarships if they are not residents of the 27 EU Member States, the EEA-EFTA states and the candidate countries for accession to the EU, if they have not carried out their main activities (studies, work, etc.) for more than a total of 12 months over the last five years in any of the above mentioned countries, and if they fulfil all the other admission criteria (graduate student or high-quality scholar, accepted by the Erasmus Mundus Masters consortium).

49. Can third-country students and scholars who have already been accepted by any other masters course in Europe apply for an Erasmus Mundus scholarship?

No. Erasmus Mundus scholarships are exclusively reserved for students and scholars who have been admitted to an Erasmus Mundus Masters Courses selected under the Erasmus Mundus programme.

50. Does Erasmus Mundus provide scholarships for European students and scholars (Action 3)?

Erasmus Mundus Scholarships to European students and scholars are provided only in the framework of Action 3. More specifically, selected Erasmus Mundus Masters consortia may enter into Erasmus Mundus Partnerships (Action 3) with third-country higher education institutions. Within the framework of these Partnerships, European students and scholars may receive a scholarship in order to spend a short period of study or work (normally three months) at the third-country partner university. In order to be eligible for these scholarships, students and scholars must be:

- nationals of the 27 EU Member States, and the EEA/EFTA States (Iceland, Norway and Liechtenstein) or third-country nationals who have been legal residents in the European Union for at least three years (and for purposes other than study) before the start of the scholarship

- enrolled in an Erasmus Mundus Masters Course (students) or working for an Erasmus Mundus Masters Course (scholars)

51. Can European students receive scholarships from Community programmes other than Erasmus Mundus for the purpose of following an Erasmus Mundus Masters Course?

European students can apply for an **Erasmus** student grant under the integrated Lifelong Learning programme. However, the Erasmus student grant cannot cover the totality of the Erasmus Mundus Masters Course duration. Each student who attends an Erasmus Mundus Masters Course should spend a period of study in at least two universities in two different European countries. In practice, the university in which the European student starts the Erasmus Mundus Masters Course may grant an Erasmus student grant for the student's study period at the second hosting institution within the Erasmus Mundus Masters consortium. Erasmus student grant can cover mobility periods of 3 to 12 months. It is therefore not (yet) possible for European students to receive an Erasmus student grant for the whole duration of an Erasmus Mundus Masters Course.

52. Can European nationals living in third countries apply for an Erasmus Mundus scholarship just like third-country nationals?

No.

53. Where can students and scholars find the list of available Erasmus Mundus Masters Courses

The **list of selected Erasmus Mundus Masters Courses** is available from this website. Students and scholars are invited to apply directly to the consortia offering the Masters Courses following their application procedures.

54. How can students enrol in an Erasmus Mundus Masters Course and apply for an Erasmus Mundus Scholarship?

European and third-country students who wish to follow an Erasmus Mundus Masters Course (with or without a scholarship) must apply directly to the selected **Erasmus Mundus Masters consortium offering the Course** in question following the guidelines below:

- Go to the Erasmus Mundus website that at: http://ec.europa.eu/education/programmes/mundus/projects/index_en.html
- Find the academic discipline of their interest and click on it. A list of Erasmus Mundus academic Courses throughout Europe will appear.
- When clicking on the title of the Course, a full description of the Course including the Course's website appears. Each Course has its own website where each consortium provides information about the specific application requirements, application forms and deadlines.
- Students and scholars should ensure that they read the application and admission conditions of the Course of their choice carefully. All they have to do then is apply to the respective Course.
- There are no common application forms or common deadlines to all the Erasmus Mundus Masters Courses. Students and scholars must apply directly to the selected Erasmus Mundus Master Consortium offering the Course in question using the application system provided for by the Erasmus Mundus Masters consortium (as from the academic

year 2008-2009 the maximum number of courses students can apply for is 3). Applications submitted to the Agency are not receivable.

- While enrolling for an Erasmus Mundus Masters Course, students/scholars can at the same time apply for an Erasmus Mundus Scholarship.

55. How can students and scholars find out about specific admission conditions and application procedures?

Students and scholars can find out about concrete admission conditions and application procedures by contacting (or visiting the website of) the Erasmus Mundus Masters consortium offering the Masters Course they wish to enrol in or work for. The contact details of all Erasmus Mundus Masters Consortia can be found in the website mentioned above (see question 53). Erasmus Mundus Masters consortia are obliged to have transparent admission conditions and application procedures.

56. Who selects students and scholars for Erasmus Mundus Masters Courses and how?

The Erasmus Mundus Masters consortium offering the Masters Course selects the students and scholars. Each consortium has to identify its own common set of criteria to select third-country and European students and scholars (e.g.: CVs, study and academic merits, motivation, recommendations, language skills, etc)..The set of selection criteria should be common to the consortium and respect the eligibility requirements of the Erasmus Mundus programme. The selection criteria should be made known to potential applicants in advance.

57. When and how will applicants know if they have been accepted by an Erasmus Mundus Masters consortium and if they have been granted a scholarship?

The Erasmus Mundus Masters consortium offering the Masters Course will communicate to applicants if they have been accepted for the Course and if they have been awarded a scholarship. Applicants will normally know whether or not they have been accepted for the Course in May. Courses start between August and November, depending on the arrangements made by each consortium.

58. Can third-country students and scholars apply for admission to more than one Erasmus Mundus Masters Course?

Third country students and scholars can apply for admission to more than one Erasmus Mundus Masters Course. However, in the case they get accepted for more than one Masters Courses, they must decide which Course they want to follow as they can receive only one Erasmus Mundus scholarship. As of the academic year 2008/2009, the number of applications must be limited to three Erasmus Mundus Masters Courses maximum.

59. How much is the scholarship worth, and how is it paid to students and scholars?

Scholarships for third-country students and scholars coming to Europe (Action 2): Courses between 1 and 2 years. For each student the scholarship amounts to 21,000 Euro per academic year. This includes 10 monthly grants of 1,600 Euro and a fixed amount of 5,000 Euro for fees, travel expenses, relocation costs, etc. For Courses lasting

two years, the student receives double this amount, i.e. 42,000 Euro. The amount of an average three-month scholarship for scholars is 13,000 Euro. This includes three monthly grants of 4,000 Euro and a fixed amount of 1,000 Euro for travel expenses. The Erasmus Mundus Masters consortium pays the grants to students and scholars according to their own payment arrangements which are communicated to the grantees in advance.

Scholarships for European students and scholars going to third countries (Action 3): For each student the average scholarship amounts to 3,100 Euro for a three-month period. This includes a monthly grant of 700 Euro and a fixed amount of 1,000 Euro for travel expenses. The amount of an average scholarship for scholars is 13,000 Euro for a three-month period. This includes three monthly grants of 4,000 Euro and a fixed amount of 1,000 Euro for travel expenses. The Erasmus Mundus Masters consortium pays the grants to students and scholars according to their own payment arrangements which are communicated to the grantees in advance.

60. Do Erasmus Mundus Masters consortia charge tuition fees?

Most (but not all) Erasmus Mundus Masters consortia charge tuition fees for their Masters Courses. Details on these fees can be obtained from the co-ordinator of the Masters Course concerned. Tuition fees are valid for the whole Course across all the institutions involved and do not depend on the students' mobility track. Fees will be fixed and published in advance, before students apply for the Course. There may be one fee for "European students" and one fee for "Third Country students".

61. How can third-country students and scholars obtain a visa in order to study in Europe on an Erasmus Mundus Masters Course?

Once third-country students and scholars have received an official confirmation from the Erasmus Mundus Masters consortium that they have been accepted to participate in the Course, they have to start the procedures to obtain the necessary visa in their home countries in the embassies of the respective European countries which are involved in the Masters Course. Third-country nationals need visas for all European Union Member State countries (including if applicable the EEA/EFTA States) they will study or work in. It has to be borne in mind that it can take several months to obtain the necessary visas. The international office of each Erasmus Mundus Masters Courses consortium will advise third-country students and scholars on how to obtain their visas. The Commission and the Agency provide overall support to the Masters Courses for the facilitation of obtaining visa. In this framework COUNCIL DIRECTIVE 2004/114/EC of 13 December 2004 on the conditions of admission of third-country nationals for the purposes of studies, pupil exchange, unremunerated training or voluntary service is of interest.

62. Are students and scholars covered by an insurance scheme?

Third-country students who receive an Erasmus Mundus scholarship are covered by a complementary sickness and accident insurance offered by the Erasmus Mundus programme. Accompanying spouses and/or children can be covered by this insurance scheme at the personal cost of the third-country student concerned. All other students following an Erasmus Mundus Masters Course and third-country scholars working for the Course have to take out their own insurance (if necessary).

European students who receive an Erasmus Mundus scholarship in the framework of Action 3 are covered by a complementary sickness and accident insurance offered by the Erasmus Mundus programme for the period of outgoing mobility to the third-country institution.

63. Do Erasmus Mundus Masters consortia offer language courses?

Erasmus Mundus Masters consortia are obliged to have a language policy promoting European languages. Therefore, Erasmus Mundus Masters consortia normally offer language courses. Details can be obtained directly from the consortium in question.

64. Do Erasmus Mundus Masters consortia offer welcome and housing facilities?

Yes. Erasmus Mundus Masters consortia are obliged to offer to the Erasmus Mundus scholarship holders an “international office” with adequate opening hours and linguistic coverage, housing facilities, coaching, language support, activities aiming at social integration as well as assistance with residence permits and social insurance. These services must be of high quality.

65. What other services do Erasmus Mundus Masters consortia offer to students and scholars?

Erasmus Mundus Masters consortia may offer further services. The consortium in question may publish details on the services they offer on its website.

66. Is there an Alumni Association for graduates of Erasmus Mundus Masters Courses?

Yes. The Commission has set up an Alumni Association for all students (European and third country) graduating from an Erasmus Mundus Masters Course. This Alumni Association is funded under Action 4 of the programme. Further information on the Alumni Association can be found in the following website: <http://www.erasmusmundus-alumni.eu/>

QUESTIONS FROM HIGHER EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS AND OTHER BODIES ACTIVE IN THE FIELD OF HIGHER EDUCATION

67. What requirements must an applicant consortium fulfil to propose an Erasmus Mundus Masters Course?

The applicant consortium must fully comply with the eligibility and selection criteria listed in the Erasmus Mundus [Calls for Proposals](#).

In particular, the offered Masters Course must already exist and must be ready to be fully operational at the time of application. In other words, Erasmus Mundus does not provide funding for developing a Masters Course. A Masters Course must consist of an integrated study programme. The basic features of an integrated programme are described in detail under [Question 21](#). All of these elements must be fulfilled at the time of application and described in the application in detail.

Selected Erasmus Mundus Masters Courses must be of the highest possible quality. The Agency and its experts can only assess the quality of a Course and select it for five years, if its content and co-operation mechanisms are fully developed at the time of application and if they are fully described in the application. In concrete terms, the Masters Course must be ready to run in the academic year which the consortium applies for. The proposed course need not necessarily be an existing course with a track record; it can also be a completely new one which has been developed specifically for the purpose of applying under Erasmus Mundus. Erasmus Mundus does not, however, provide funding for developing or setting up a Masters Course.

68. What if a consortium cannot yet award a double, a multiple or a joint degree?

As the award of a double degree recognised in the countries in which the degree-awarding institutions are located is a minimum requirement for a consortium, it cannot apply unless it is in a position to award at least a recognised double degree.

69. What does it take for a degree to be recognised nationally? Are there any European norms?

National recognition provisions vary considerably from country to country. In some countries it is a national authority which recognises masters degrees, in others it is a regional authority, in others an independent non-governmental body, in others again the autonomous universities themselves. In some countries the question of recognition and accreditation is linked, in others not. There are no norms at European level. Therefore, each applicant consortium has to find out for itself what it takes for a degree to be recognised in their countries and enclose the respective proof in the application. Applicants are advised to turn to the [Erasmus Mundus national structures](#) in their respective countries to receive advice about the necessary proof of recognition to be provided. The Agency will check with the respective national structure whether or not the provided proof is appropriate for the country concerned.

70. What if a consortium is not able to offer any assistance with housing and welcome facilities?

As the Erasmus Mundus rules require a consortium to be able to offer high-quality assistance with housing and welcome facilities for third-country students, an application should only be submitted if the consortium is in a position to offer such services.

71. Up to how many higher education institutions can form a consortium and offer an Erasmus Mundus Masters Course? Do they all have to host students?

According to the Call for Proposals, each Consortium should consist of a minimum number of three partners. There are no limits as far as the maximum number of partners is concerned. One of the main selection criteria is that the offered course has all the features of an integrated study programme (see [Question 21](#)) and that its quality is of the highest level. Also, each partner of the consortium should play an active and clearly defined role within the consortium.

As regards mobility requirements, all three higher education institutions involved in the minimum consortium must be in the position to be a hosting institution unless duly justified in the application. Being a hosting institution means that a number of ECTS credits equivalent to at least one semester of study can be acquired in that institution.

72. Can third-country higher education institutions offer an Erasmus Mundus Masters Course or be part of an Erasmus Mundus Masters consortium?

Third-country higher education institutions may only be involved in Partnerships under Action 3 of the programme. However, they cannot offer an Erasmus Mundus Masters Course.

73. Up to how many third-countries partner universities can participate in a Partnership under Action 3?

There are no limits as far as the maximum number of partners is concerned. The Partnership should be of an overall high quality, which means that it is manageable, its co-operation mechanisms and activities are concrete and clearly defined, and all partners play an active role..

74. How many Partnerships can each Erasmus Mundus Masters consortium have under Action 3?

Each Erasmus Mundus Masters consortium should only have one Partnership including all the third-country partner universities with which it wishes to co-operate.

75. Should the third-country partner universities (Action 3) come from a specific geographical area?

No. There are no priority geographical areas from where third-country partner universities should ideally come.

76. Can third-country higher education institutions submit a proposal directly to the Agency for a Partnership (Action 3) with an Erasmus Mundus Masters consortium?

No. It is up to the co-ordinating institution of the Erasmus Mundus Masters consortium to apply for a Partnership under Action 3 on behalf of the consortium and the third-country universities.

77. What should a third-country higher education institution do if it is interested in entering into a Partnership with an Erasmus Mundus Masters consortium?

A third-country higher education institution that is interested in entering into a Partnership with an Erasmus Mundus Masters consortium should contact the co-ordinating institution of the consortium to discuss its possible participation in a Partnership. It is then up to the consortium to decide whether or not to establish a Partnership with the interested third-country institution.

78. Who can submit proposals under Action 4 and what sort of activities are eligible for co-funding?

Action 4 is open to higher education institutions and to public or private organisations or bodies active in the field of higher education around the world, regardless of their participation in the Erasmus Mundus programme under other Actions. Erasmus Mundus Masters consortia selected under Action 1 are, of course, also eligible for Action 4. Three universities/bodies coming from different European countries constitute the minimum project partnership under Action 4. Third-country universities/bodies can also be partners to a project.

Through this Action, the Community supports activities aimed at promoting European higher education in the world and at facilitating access to European higher education for third-country students. The Community also supports complementary activities dealing with the international dimension of quality assurance, of credit recognition, of curriculum development, of mobility, studies, surveys, etc. Activities (which may include seminars, conferences, workshops, development of ICT tools, production of material for publication, etc.) may take place anywhere in the world.

Thematic networks selected under Socrates / Erasmus may apply for an add-on grant under Action 4 to extend their network to third-country institutions. Only activities which are not yet funded under Socrates / Erasmus and which directly relate to the third-country dimension of the network are eligible.

Moreover, under this Action, the Community supports an alumni association of all students (Europeans and non-Europeans) graduating from Erasmus Mundus Masters Courses (see also [Question 65](#)). The [list of projects which have been selected under Action 4](#) so far is available from this website.

79. Can Erasmus Mundus Masters consortia use Action 4 to fund their promotion activities?

No. Any such applications will be rejected, as promotion activities for Erasmus Mundus Masters Courses are to be carried out by the Erasmus Mundus Masters consortia within the framework of Action 1.

80. Can there be proposals under Action 4 covering more than one of the activity areas listed in the Call for Proposals?

Yes, as long as the proposal forms a coherent whole, it can cover more than one of the activity areas listed in the Call for Proposals.

81. Are selected Erasmus Mundus Masters consortia obliged to participate in Action 2 (scholarships), Action 3 (Partnerships) and Action 4 (Enhancing attractiveness)?

An Erasmus Mundus Masters Course (Action 1) is selected for a five-year period. During that period, the Erasmus Mundus Masters consortium offering the Course is obliged to participate in Action 2 (scholarships for third-country nationals). Actions 1 and 2 are therefore an inseparable package.

The participation of selected Erasmus Mundus Masters consortia in Action 3 (Partnerships) and Action 4 (Enhancing attractiveness) is optional, although they are strongly encouraged to participate in Action 3.

82. How can consortia apply under the Erasmus Mundus programme? What are the deadlines?

The Call for Proposals contains detailed instructions on how to apply, the application deadlines for each Action and the application forms. All proposals must be addressed to the Agency within the given deadlines:

Action 1: 30 April

Action 2: 28 February

Action 3: 30 November

Action 4: 31 May

83. Can a higher education institution submit more than one proposal under Action 1 at a time? Can it submit identical Erasmus Mundus Masters Courses involving different partners? Is it advisable to do so?

A higher education institution is free to submit as many proposals as it wishes, provided that all the eligibility and selection criteria are fulfilled and that the offered courses are of high quality. It is advisable for the applicant to submit only those proposals which he considers of very high quality. However, the proposals have to be unique and it is unlikely that two "identical" proposals involving different partners will be selected.

84. When can selected Erasmus Mundus Masters consortia apply under Actions 3 and 4?

Once an Erasmus Mundus Masters consortium has been selected, it is entitled to apply for a Partnership under Action 3 right away. In other words, if a Masters Course gets selected in a specific year, it can apply for a Partnership by the 30 November deadline of the same year (or any year after). Therefore, should the Action 3 Partnership application be successful, it can start in the same year as the Masters Course (or in any subsequent year).

Erasmus Mundus Masters consortia can apply under Action 4 completely independently from their application under Action 1: either before, in parallel to or after their application under Action 1. In order to be eligible under Action 4, it is not a prerequisite to be selected under Action 1.

85. Who selects the proposals and how?

Proposals under Actions 1, 3 and 4 are evaluated by independent academic experts from the relevant fields. In addition, the best proposals under Actions 1 and 3 are also reviewed by a Selection Board composed of 12 high level representatives from the academic and professional world.

In the frame of Action 1, the Erasmus Mundus National Structures give their judgement on eligibility. The Erasmus Mundus programme Committee also gives its opinion. The Commission takes the formal selection decision, which is communicated to all applicants by the Agency.

As far as Action 2 is concerned, the Erasmus Mundus Masters consortia select a specific number of third-country students and scholars who are to receive a scholarship and send the list of potential grantees, including a reserve list, to the Agency. Applications are subject to an eligibility check by the Agency whereas the formal decision that confirms the selection carried out by the consortia is taken by the Commission.

86. Once an Erasmus Mundus Masters Course has been selected, what does this mean for the offering consortium? For how many years is an Erasmus Mundus Masters Course selected?

An Erasmus Mundus Masters Course is selected for a five-year period subject to an annual renewal procedure. During that period, the selected Erasmus Mundus Masters consortium is obliged to run the Course and to participate in Action 2 (i.e. to select and host third-country nationals and to pay Community scholarships to them). In the light of the results the Erasmus Mundus programme will produce, the Commission may propose a successor programme for the period after 2008.

87. Do Erasmus Mundus Masters consortia receive funds for developing the Masters Course?

No. The Course must already exist and be fully developed at the time of application.

88. How much money does a selected Erasmus Mundus Masters consortium receive (Action 1)?

Each Erasmus Mundus Masters consortium selected under Action 1 receives a lump sum of 15,000 Euro per year which is to be divided between the partners of the consortium so that no partner receives more than 5,000 Euro. This amount does not increase if there are more than three partners to the consortium.

Apart from the lump sum mentioned above, the consortium also receives scholarships to be granted to third-country students and scholars under Action 2..

89. How much money does an Erasmus Mundus Masters consortium receive for a Partnership (Action 3)?

Each Erasmus Mundus Masters consortium receives an annual lump sum of 5,000 Euro per third-country partner institution. If the Partnership involves more than three third-country institutions, the annual amount is a maximum of 15,000 Euro. This amount is to be divided between the partners of the Partnership (both European and possibly non-European), so that no partner receives more than 5,000 Euro. Parts of the Community funds can also go to third-country partner institutions.

Apart from the lump sum mentioned above, the consortium also receives scholarships to be granted to European students and scholars on mobility in a third country partner institution.

90. Can a consortium, a Partnership or a project selected under Erasmus Mundus also receive other Community funds for the same consortium, Partnership or project for the same period?

No. If a consortium, a Partnership or a project selected under Erasmus Mundus also receives other Community funds for exactly the same consortium, Partnership or project, for exactly the same activities and for exactly the same period, the selected consortium, Partnership or project has to decide for one source of Community funding and renounce the other(s).

91. Can Community funds for Partnerships or projects partly go to third-country partners?

Yes in the framework of Action 3 and 4 only.

92. Who pays the Erasmus Mundus scholarships to third-country students and scholars and how?

The Erasmus Mundus Masters consortia are responsible for paying the scholarships to their grantees on the basis of arrangements between the partners of the consortium on the one hand, and with the scholarship grantees on the other. Consortia are free to establish their own payment modalities provided they respect the full amount to be paid. Also, consortia are obliged to provide their grantees with an advance and to perform payments on a regular basis.

93. Can Erasmus Mundus Masters consortia keep a percentage of the grantees' scholarships to cover administrative or other expenditure?

No. The whole scholarship including the fixed amount of 5,000 Euro for students to cover tuition fees, travel expenses, etc. (1,000 Euro in case of scholars) must be paid to the grantees. Part of the scholarship could be set off against the obligatory payment of e.g. tuition fees, but only upon explicit and written approval by each grantee concerned.

94. Can consortia charge students tuition and registration fees for Erasmus Mundus Masters Courses?

Yes, each consortium is free to charge tuition and registration fees to students according

to national legislation and to the arrangements struck between the members of the consortium. This implies that tuition fees need not necessarily be distributed equally between the various members of the consortium. However, tuition and registration fees must be common to the Masters Course: each student pays the same price to the consortium which is valid for the whole Masters Course. This means that tuition fees must not depend on where a student starts, continues and ends his studies. There can be different tuition fees for European and third-country students. Tuition fees should include all obligatory costs incurred by students, as far as possible. All obligatory costs must be known to students when they apply for the Course.

95. Can the content of a selected Erasmus Mundus Masters Course and its consortium be modified during the five-year period for which it has been selected?

As regards a change in the content of an Erasmus Mundus Masters Course, the selected consortia have committed themselves to maintaining the Course substantially in the form approved, subject to necessary up-dating and adaptation. The Agency will therefore not approve substantial changes to the content of the Masters Course (such as a change of subject), as such changes would undermine the basis on which the selection decision has been taken. However, it is clear that the teaching content of a Masters Course - in order to remain of the highest academic quality – needs to be flexible and responsive to developments in the field. Consortia are therefore invited to carry out such refinements on a regular basis and to report them to the Agency in the progress report they have to submit annually.

Similarly, changes in mobility arrangements, linguistic aspects, facilities offered to third-country participants or similar aspects of the Course must be reported to the Agency in the annual progress report. However, consortia should be very careful to check that such changes are not in conflict with the basic requirements for Masters Courses as outlined in the Call for Proposals. In such a case, the Agency would not accept the proposed changes.

As regards a change in the setup of the consortium, this is a substantial change which needs specific approval from the Agency through an official amendment procedure. When requesting the amendment, the consortium must submit a new and full description of the Masters Course and the role of each partner within the consortium, as a change in the consortium will logically result in a change of the content and the mobility arrangements of the Masters Course. This description will be assessed against the eligibility, selection and quality criteria used at application stage, if necessary with the help of external academic experts. The Agency does not encourage these kinds of changes.

96. Do the partners of an Erasmus Mundus Masters consortium have to sign contracts with each other? Are there any contract models?

The partners of a consortium are free to decide whether or not they consider it necessary to conclude contracts with each other. The Agency does not prescribe such contractual relations and therefore does not provide models for such contracts. However, the Agency encourages the consortia to have clear and sound co-operation mechanisms in place.

97. Which kind of contract do the Erasmus Mundus Masters consortia have to conclude with third-country students and scholars?

Erasmus Mundus Masters consortia are free to define and establish their own contractual relations with third-country students and scholars, as long as these comply with the features of the scholarship scheme as described in the Call for Proposals. However, the Agency encourages the consortia to enter into a well-defined relationship with selected students and scholars.