



ERASMUS MUNDUS JOINT MASTER DEGREES

WHAT ARE THE AIMS OF AN ERASMUS MUNDUS JOINT MASTER DEGREE?

Erasmus Mundus Joint Master Degrees (EMJMD) aim to:

- foster quality improvements, innovation, excellence and internationalisation in higher education institutions (HEI);
- increase the quality and the attractiveness of the European Higher Education Area (EHEA) and supporting the EU's external action in the higher education field, by offering full degree scholarships to the best Master students worldwide;
- improve the level of competences and skills of Master graduates, and in particular the relevance of the Joint Masters for the labour market, through an increased involvement of employers.

In this regard, EMJMDs are expected to contribute to the objectives of the Europe 2020 Strategy and of the Education and Training strategic framework 2020 (ET2020), including the corresponding benchmarks established in those policies.

EMJMDs are invited to actively address the challenges of structural reforms relating to quality assurance and qualifications frameworks in the EHEA as included in the Yerevan communiqué⁸⁵, the so-called European Approach for Quality Assurance of Joint Programmes, adopted by the Conference of Ministers responsible for higher education of the EHEA/Bologna Process, and thereby contribute to promoting the transparency and mutual trust in higher education in the EHEA.

EMJMDs will continue and strengthen the successful experience initiated with the Erasmus Mundus Master Courses (EMMCs) in raising the attractiveness of the EHEA worldwide and demonstrating the excellence and high level of integration of the joint study programmes delivered by European HEIs.

This Action also supports EU external actions, objectives and priorities in the higher education field in their various aspects.

WHAT IS AN ERASMUS MUNDUS JOINT MASTER DEGREE?

An EMJMD is a high-level integrated international study programme of 60, 90 or 120 ECTS credits, delivered by an international consortium of HEIs 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. Their specificity lies in the high degree of jointness/integration⁸⁶ and the excellent academic content and methodology they offer. There is no limitation in terms of discipline. The list of joint programmes funded under the Erasmus+ programme can be found on the Executive Agency website.

All participating HEIs established in a Programme Country must be Master degree-awarding institutions and the corresponding EMJMD Master degree(s) - covering the entire study programme of the EMJMD, must be duly accredited (where applicable by the competent national authorities) in the countries where these HEIs are established. The successful completion of the joint EMJMD Master programme must lead to the award of either a joint degree (i.e. one single diploma issued on behalf of at least two HEIs from different Programme Countries and duly accredited in these countries) or multiple degrees (i.e. at least two diplomas issued by two higher education institutions from different Programme Countries duly accredited in these countries). If national legislation allows, joint degrees are encouraged, as they represent a full integration of the learning and teaching process. Besides the degree-awarding HEIs from Programme Countries, other partner HEIs from Partner Countries can be involved in the award of joint or multiple degrees.

EMJMD proposals at application stage must present fully developed joint study programmes, ready to run and to be advertised worldwide immediately after their selection. In this context, the EMJMD selection process will be very selective with the aim of supporting only the very best proposals.

In return, selected EMJMDs will receive high levels of funding for three intakes of students to allow them to increase their worldwide visibility and reinforce their sustainability prospects.

The sections below describe the nature, selection and funding conditions of newly selected EMJMDs, as well as the conditions applicable to already selected EMMC which implement student intakes in the context of their on-going framework partnership agreements concluded under the Erasmus Mundus Programme.

⁸⁵ Adopted by the European Education Ministers during the Yerevan Ministerial Conference on 14-15 May 2015. More information on the adopted policy measures: <http://bologna-yerevan2015.ehea.info/pages/view/documents>

⁸⁶ EMJMDs are expected to have set up a jointly designed and fully integrated academic curriculum with common implementation procedures, e.g. joint student application, selection, admission and examination rules, as well as with shared quality assurance mechanisms.

WHICH ACTIVITIES ARE SUPPORTED UNDER THIS ACTION?

This Action will support the following activities:

- the delivery of an EMJMD programme corresponding to 60, 90 or 120 ECTS credits, organised through an international consortium of HEIs including the participation of invited scholars (guest lecturers) for teaching, training and/or research purposes;
- the award of scholarships to excellent students worldwide for their participation in one of these EMJMD programmes.

WHAT IS THE ROLE OF ORGANISATIONS PARTICIPATING IN AN ERASMUS MUNDUS JOINT MASTER DEGREE?

EMJMD programmes are delivered by an international consortium of HEIs and where relevant other types of organisations (enterprises, public bodies, research organisations, etc.) contributing to the implementation of the EMJMD.

The EMJMD consortium is composed of the:

- Applicant/coordinator: a HEI established in a Programme Country that submits the project proposal on behalf of all the partners. When the EMJMD is granted, the applicant/coordinator will become the main EU grant beneficiary and will sign a multi-beneficiary grant agreement on behalf of the EMJMD consortium. Its coordinating role stands for the following duties:
 - represents and acts on behalf of the group of participating organisations vis-à-vis the European Commission;
 - bears the financial and legal responsibility for the proper operational, administrative and financial implementation of the entire project;
 - coordinates the EMJMD in cooperation with all other project partners.
- Partners: degree-awarding HEIs recognised as such by the relevant authorities of the Programme or Partner Country in which they are established and any private or public organisation that contributes actively to the preparation, implementation and evaluation of the EMJMD. Each partner must sign a mandate by which the signatory grants power of attorney to the coordinator to act in its name and on its behalf during the implementation of the project.
- Associated partners (optional): additionally the EMJMD study programme may also benefit from the involvement of associated partners. These organisations contribute indirectly to the implementation of specific tasks/activities and/or support the dissemination and sustainability of the EMJMD. Such contribution may for example take the form of knowledge and skills transfer, the provision of complementary courses or backing possibilities for secondment or placement. For contractual management issues, “associated partners” are not considered as part of the EMJMD consortium because they have a more limited role in the implementation of the EMJMD, as their expertise is called upon on an ad-hoc basis.

The necessary institutional commitment of all the organisations participating in the EMJMD consortium must be ensured prior to the enrolment of the first EMJMD students in order to guarantee solid institutional embedding and backing. The EMJMD Consortium Agreement (see guidelines and models available on the Executive Agency website) will be a key instrument for this purpose and will have to be signed by all partner institutions prior to the launching of the first scholarship application and selection procedure. This EMJMD Consortium Agreement will have to cover as precisely as possible all academic, operational, administrative and financial aspects related to the implementation of the EMJMD and the management of the EMJMD scholarships.

WHAT ARE THE CRITERIA USED TO ASSESS AN ERASMUS MUNDUS JOINT MASTER DEGREE?

Listed below are the formal criteria that an EMJMD must respect in order to be eligible for an Erasmus+ grant:



ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

Eligible participating organisations	<p>A participating organisation can be any public or private organisation, established in a Programme Country or in a Partner Country that contributes directly and actively to the delivery of the EMJMD.</p> <p>For example, such organisation can be:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ a higher education institution (HEI); ▪ a public or private, a small, medium or large enterprise (including social enterprises); ▪ a public body at local, regional or national level; ▪ a non-profit organisation, association, NGO; ▪ a research institute. <p>HEIs established in a Programme Country must hold a valid Erasmus Charter for Higher Education (ECHE). An ECHE is not required for participating Partner Country HEIs.</p> <p>HEIs established in a Programme Country must be able to demonstrate at application stage the accreditation at national level of each degree-awarding Master programme on the basis of which the EMJMD programme is composed. For novel joint Master programmes that have not yet graduated students, the accreditation by the competent national authorities is required at application stage.</p>
Who can apply?	<p>A HEI established in a Programme Country. The HEI applies on behalf of the EMJMD consortium. Branches of Partner Country HEIs established in a Programme Country or branches of Programme Country HEIs established in a Partner Country are not eligible to apply.</p>
Number and profile of participating organisations	<p>An EMJMD is transnational and involves partner HEIs from at least three different Programme Countries.</p> <p>HEIs from Programme Countries must be in a position to physically host EMJMD students and deliver at least the minimum number of ECTS credits for the study period spent in their institution.</p> <p>All partner organisations from Programme or Partner Countries must be identified at the time of applying for a grant.</p>
Eligible participants	<p>Students at Master level, staff of the participating organisations, invited scholars (/guest lecturers) from Programme and Partner Countries.</p> <p>Students will apply for a scholarship directly to the EMJMD consortium of their choice and go through a competitive selection process organised by the consortium HEIs.</p> <p>The selection, recruitment and monitoring of individual scholarship holders fall under the responsibility of the EMJMD consortium.</p>
Number of participants	<p>The EMJMD grant will finance a maximum of 20 student scholarship holders (i.e. a maximum of 60 student scholarships for the three intakes) and at least 4 invited scholars/guest lecturers per intake, engaged in the EMJMD activities for at least 8 weeks in total⁸⁷.</p> <p>The scholars/guest lecturers must be selected in accordance with the consortium's specific selection criteria for scholars and bring concrete added value to the delivery of the EMJMD.</p> <p>In addition, EMJMD consortia can apply for up to 8 additional student scholarships per intake (i.e. maximum 24 scholarships for the three intakes) for one or more priority regions/countries of the world.</p>
Venue(s)	<p>The EMJMD study period must take place in at least two of the Programme Countries represented in the consortium (i.e. at least two mobility periods for all students). Additional study periods (e. g. research, placement, thesis preparation) can take place in other participating organisations from Programme or Partner countries, under the condition that the activities concerned are implemented under the direct supervision of one of the consortium partner HEIs.</p>

⁸⁷ These indicative figures apply only to newly selected EMJMDs. On-going Erasmus Mundus Master Courses may be offered a reduced number of scholarships.

Duration of project	Depending on the duration of the EMJMD (1 to 2 years) and whether the consortium chooses to undertake a preparatory year, the consortium will receive a grant agreement for a minimum of 3 and a maximum of 5 years to finance 3 consecutive student intakes.
Duration of activity	Optional preparatory year: 1 academic year. Implementation of the EMJMD programme: 3 consecutive intakes of 1 to 2 academic years (60/90/120 ECTS credits).
Where to apply?	To the Education, Audiovisual and Culture Executive Agency, located in Brussels.
When to apply?	Applicants have to submit their grant application by 16 February at 12:00 (midday Brussels time) for projects starting between 1 August and 31 October of the same year.
How to apply?	Please see Part C of this Guide for details on how to apply.

Applicant organisations will also be assessed against **exclusion** and **selection criteria**. For more information please consult Part C of this Guide.

ADDITIONAL ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA FOR STUDENT SCHOLARSHIPS

Duration of activity	The student scholarship is awarded exclusively for a full-time enrolment in one of the Master courses and will cover the entire duration of the EMJMD study programme.
Eligible participants	Students at Master level who 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. Students who have already obtained a EMJMD scholarship or an Erasmus Mundus Master Course/Joint Doctorate scholarship are not eligible to apply for an additional scholarship under the EMJMD action. EMJMD scholarship holders cannot benefit from another EU funded scholarship scheme to follow the same EMJMD course and this for the entire period of the course. A minimum of 75 % of EMJMD scholarships will be earmarked for candidates from Partner Countries.
Learning outcomes	The successful completion of the EMJMD programme must lead to the award of either a joint degree (i.e. one single degree certificate issued on behalf of at least two higher education institutions from different Programme Countries and duly accredited in these countries) or multiple degrees (i.e. at least two degree certificates issued by two higher education institutions from different Programme Countries and duly accredited in these countries). Students will have to acquire the entirety of ECTS credits covered by the EMJMD (60, 90 or 120). Moreover, for each of their mandatory study period in at least two Programme Countries, they will have to acquire at least 20 ECTS credits (for study programmes of 60 ECTS credits) or 30 ECTS credits (for study programmes of 90 or 120 ECTS credits). Mobility periods cannot be replaced by virtual mobility (distance learning), which implies physical presence of the students is required during the entire Master programme. In addition, they cannot take place in institutions outside the EMJMD consortium (i.e. partners and/or associated partners).