ERASMUS MUNDUS JOINT MASTERS SCHOLARSHIPS

A Complete Guide

What is Erasmus Mundus Scholarship?

The Erasmus Mundus Scholarship is a prestigious and fully funded program that provides students from around the world with the opportunity to pursue joint master's degrees at multiple European universities. The scholarship is part of the Erasmus+ initiative, which promotes education, training, youth and sport in Europe.

Here are some key features of the Erasmus Mundus Scholarship:

1. Joint Degrees: Students often study at two or more universities in different countries, providing a multicultural academic experience. Each program is offered by a consortium of universities and graduates receive a joint or multiple degrees.

2. Funding Coverage: The scholarship typically covers all major expenses, including:

   a) Tuition fees
   b) Travel and relocation costs
   c) Monthly living allowance (around 1400 Euros/month)
   d) Health Insurance

3. Other features include:

   - **No** Age limit
   - **Study gap accepted**
   - **Low CGPA accepted**
   - IELTS/TOFL **exemption** (in many programs) although it is recommended to take IELTS/TOFL exam
   - **Free** application submission
   - **Traveling all across Europe** by Schengen visa

In most cases, you should submit your application between October and January for courses starting the following academic year.

Document Requirements

The basic documents requirement while applying for any of the Erasmus programs is the same. But very rarely some programs can also ask for some very basic additional documents. But generally, only these documents are required:

1. Europass CV
2. Letter of Motivation/SOP
3. English Language Certificate (IELTS, TOEFL etc.)
4. Two Letters of Recommendation
5. Bachelors Transcript (6th, 7th Semester transcript work if you have not yet graduated)

The Erasmus Mundus application can be pretty extensive so don't fill the whole application in one go. Take your time and complete the application with ease and with full dedication.

Note: You should keep in mind that as a rule, "IELTS is required must for Erasmus" and only the English proficiency certificate from your university is not enough. There are some Erasmus programs that

accept the English proficiency certificate while applying, but even these programs are most probably going to ask you for IELTS when you join the program. So better to take the exam first.

Searching for your relevant Erasmus Program

Erasmus offers Masters programs related to almost every field of education whether it is technical or non-technical. You can find Masters degree program related to all kinds of engineering, health sciences, law, public policy, linguistics, arts, literature, sports and maybe even religious studies.

So, the very first step of your application process is to find all the Masters programs offered by Erasmus that are relevant to your area of study. For this you will have to go to the Erasmus Course Catalog website for which the link is given below:

https://www.eacea.ec.europa.eu/scholarships/erasmus-mundus-catalogue_en

On this website, you can search for key words related to your field and it will show you all the Masters programs related to your field.

For example, if you are a student who is interested in Artificial Intelligence, you will try the words like "machine learning", "artificial intelligence", "computer science" etc. while searching and it will show you programs relevant to these subject areas.

After searching for the programs here, you will need to go to the websites of these programs to apply for these programs and to check their requirements.

Note: Be thorough in your search of programs, because it might happen in many cases that it is not explicitly written in the name of the program that they are teaching a specific study field, but they might be offering specialty in your desired field. To illustrate this, please find the following two examples.

1. There is a program by the name of EMSSE (European Master in Sustainable Systems Engineering). There is nowhere written in the name that you can also study AI in this program. But when you check the outline of this program on their website, you notice that they are offering a proper specialization in AI in this program. So, it is very easy for a person applying to programs related to AI to miss out on this program.
2. The program EMAI (Erasmus Mundus Masters in Artificial Intelligence) also offers specializations in Data Science and Cybersecurity which you realize when you check the course outline on the program website. So, a person interested in Cybersecurity might miss out on this program just because he/she didn't check the program outline.

So, the advice here is to thoroughly research the available programs and apply to as many relevant ones as possible to maximize your chances of selection.

Note: If you are applying to multiple programs, it's recommended that you tailor each of your documents to align more closely with the specific requirements and focus of each program.

Acing the IELTS Exam

IELTS exam has four parts:

1. Listening
2. Reading
3. Writing
4. Speaking IELTS Scoring System

IELTS Scoring System

IELTS scoring system is based on band scores ranging from 1 to 9, with each band corresponding to a specific level of English proficiency. With 1 being the lowest and 9 being the highest. You get an individual score in each of the sections of the exam. The overall score is the average of the four sections (Listening, Reading, Writing, and Speaking), each scored individually on the same 1-9 scale. The final result is rounded to the nearest half or whole band score.

Erasmus Mundus IELTS Score Requirement

IELTS score requirement for the Erasmus Mundus Scholarship programs typically varies depending on the specific program and universities involved. However, a minimum score of 6.5 overall, with no less than 6.0 in each section (Listening, Reading, Writing, Speaking), is often required for most programs.

Some more competitive or specialized programs may require a higher score, such as 7.0 or above, particularly for fields like law, health sciences or certain technical disciplines.

For your relevant programs, it's a good idea to confirm the exact requirement by checking the specific program guidelines on their website.

Resume/CV

Another important aspect of your application is your resume. Most Erasmus Mundus programs require you to write the resume in Europass format. You can find the Europass website link down below:

https://europass.europa.eu/en/create-europass-cv

On the Europass website, you'll be prompted to choose a template and add relevant sections to your CV. It's important to note that some Erasmus programs specify a maximum length for the CV, so be mindful of this. Below are the most critical sections to include:

1. **Educational Background:** Focus on your bachelor's degree by highlighting relevant courses you've completed. There's no need to include details about your high school (matriculation or FSc), as it's not relevant to your master's application and only takes up valuable space.
2. **Work Experience:** List your relevant work experience in reverse chronological order. For each role, use bullet points to outline your responsibilities and contributions, making sure to highlight how your work added value.
3. **Projects:** This is arguably the most crucial section, as it reflects your skills and knowledge in the relevant field. List your most relevant projects that align with the program you're applying for. Just like with work experience, describe the main objectives and your accomplishments in bullet points.

While these are the most important sections, you can also include additional information such as skills, IELTS scores, languages, research publications (if applicable), and other achievements that support your application.

Letter of Motivation/SOP

Arguably the most critical part of your entire application—aside from your CGPA, of course—is your Letter of Motivation, also known as the Statement of Purpose (SOP). This document is far more than just a formal requirement; it serves as a window into your goals, aspirations and personality. Unlike transcripts or recommendation letters, SOP gives you the unique opportunity to directly communicate with the selection committee, showcasing not only your qualifications but also your passion and commitment to the program.

A well-crafted SOP can set you apart from other applicants, even those with similar academic backgrounds. It is where you should devote the most time and attention. Drafting multiple versions is crucial to ensure you strike the right balance between depth and clarity. Your SOP should provide a detailed overview of your academic journey, relevant experiences and professional ambitions without overwhelming the reader with excessive detail. Overloading it with too much information can detract from its effectiveness, making it less engaging and harder to follow. In fact, many programs have a limit on the number of pages you can write in your statement of purpose so make sure to check that and write accordingly.

While there are several ways to structure a Statement of Purpose (SOP), the following approach to writing SOP may be used as a sample, but it's crucial to customize it to reflect your own experiences and aspirations. Sample SOP is divided into four key sections:

Introduction and Academic Background

Start by briefly introducing yourself and providing an overview of your academic journey, highlighting any key achievements or experiences that have shaped your interest in the field.

Research and Work Experience

In this section, detail your relevant research and professional experiences, emphasizing how they have prepared you for the challenges of the program. Focus on the skills and knowledge you've gained and how these experiences have shaped your academic and professional development.

Professional Goals (Both Short-Term and Long-Term)

Clearly articulate your career aspirations, outlining both your immediate objectives after completing the program and your longer-term vision. Make sure to explain how your goals align with your chosen field and how your background has led you to pursue these ambitions.

Why This Program?

Conclude by explaining how the specific program will help you achieve your professional goals. Discuss why you are drawn to this particular course or institution and what makes it the ideal fit for your academic and career plans.

It's also crucial to tailor your SOP specifically to the program you're applying for. This means thoroughly researching the program, including the unique facilities they offer, the research groups in both the host and partner countries, and any industry partnerships associated with the program. By understanding these details, you can thoughtfully incorporate them into your SOP to demonstrate how the program's strengths align with your goals.

For example, you can highlight specific research groups whose work aligns with your interests, or mention facilities that will enhance your academic development. Additionally, if the program has strong industry connections, explaining how these partnerships can support your professional growth will further strengthen your application. Including this level of detail shows that you've not only researched the program in depth but also that you have a clear plan for leveraging its resources to achieve your short- and long-term goals.

Letters of Recommendation

Obtaining recommendation letters from university professors is a vital component of the application process. Most Erasmus Mundus programs require a minimum of two recommendation letters from professors who have taught you courses related to the field of study for the program. Therefore, it's advisable to identify the most relevant professors early on and inform them about your request for a recommendation.

When selecting professors, it's also important to consider their research profile. You can do this by looking up their profiles on Google Scholar and checking their h-index score. A higher h-index typically reflects a stronger research background. Once you've chosen your professors, approach them and discuss your plans. It's best to inform them at least 2 to 3 weeks before the application deadline, as professors often have busy schedules and may delay writing the recommendations.

To make things easier for them, you can provide a draft of the letter. This way, the professor only needs to review and upload the letter you've provided through the submission portal.

Once you submit your program application, an email will be sent to the professors' email addresses requesting the recommendation. The professors will need to open the link in the email, which will direct them to a portal where they can upload the letter of recommendation. Once uploaded, you'll receive a notification via email or through your application portal confirming that the recommendation has been submitted.