



INTERNATIONAL SCHOLARSHIP FORUM (ISF)

We are moving... 



ISF Google Drive |



+2348162942400 |



@forum_isf |



@ForumISF

TRANSCRIPT OF LECTURE:

Step-by-Step process Guide to Applying and Securing the prestigious Erasmus Mundus Joint Master Degrees Scholarships (EMJMD)

LECTURER 1» SCHOLAR ORIOWO TEMITOPE

TRANSMISSION CREW» **Scholars: Halogen, Arawu, Falade, Afeez, Kenny, Monsur, Oyelami, Etubi and Bankole**

OPEYEMI (Erasmus Mundus Scholar studying Animal Breeding and Genetics at the Wageningen University and Research, Netherlands)

Moderator: **Scholar Onyeka**

LECTURE AGENDA

1. Introduction to the Erasmus Mundus Joint Master Degrees
2. How to apply
3. Basic requirements
4. Other remarks
5. Questions & Answers Session

INTRODUCTION TO THE ERASMUS MUNDUS JOINT MASTER DEGREES SCHOLARSHIP

- 1) The European Union has various ways of intervening in world affairs. Such as empowerment, donation of relief materials, election observations and other forms of diplomatically improving the world.
- 2) To aid education, the EMJMD scholarship is simply a way of contributing their own quota of the world's education.
- 3) The European Union is made up of about 28 countries, meaning the study will have to be in any of these countries.

In summary, EMJMD scholarship is funded by the European Union and it's a life changing opportunity.

HOW TO APPLY

I will be addressing this based on my experience with 3 different courses that I applied for. Most times, the procedures are similar just few modifications make it different.

Generally, every course/program will take you through at least 2 to at most 4 different universities in different European countries. The program spans for minimum of 12 months and maximum of 24 months depending on the course of one's choice.

Instance, I'm studying a 2-year course. Here is the breakdown, 5 months in the first country, 2 weeks in the second country and 5 months in the third country and that marks the end of the first year. More so, where I will spend the second year depends on the country where my research supervisor is located. This is why it is called a Joint Masters Degree. In the end, I will be receiving a Joint Masters Degree and a single degree from the coordinating university. However, this might be different for other courses but the idea is generally the same.

The coordinating university is usually the first university you will arrive when you get to Europe. The date of application for each program differs but most times its between August and January. You can find out from this link https://eacea.ec.europa.eu/erasmus-plus/library/scholarships-catalogue_en. The idea is for applicants to search for 3 courses related to their first degree and apply for it. **You cannot apply for more than 3 courses/programs.** Please, also note that its possible you will not find a course directly related to your first degree. This is why you need to surf through courses of your choice to know the academic requirements before you begin your application.

BASIC REQUIREMENTS

- ❑ **Academic Transcripts:** Except stated otherwise, you can use your student transcript but using the official one is better if you can get it.
- ❑ **Degree Certificate:** You will need this but should you not have it ready, attestation can suffice also depending on program. However, you can always mail the program coordinator for clarification.
- ❑ **Evidence of English Proficiency:** This also depends on the course but most courses waive English Language Tests for Nigerians. However, some courses are strict with it. So, it is advised to check for your requirements prior to sending applications.

Though, I did not write English test.

- ❑ **GRE:** I'm not sure they ask for it in any of the courses but if you are asked to upload any other supporting documents and you have a good GRE score. I'm not sure it's bad to include it.
- ❑ **Recommendations:** While some courses ask you to upload recommendation letter, others would ask you to drop the details of your referees. The link would be sent to your referees to do the needful. Please follow the guidelines, if stated, while dealing with this aspect.

Note: it is better you address your letter to the program coordinator. However, if you are applying for two or three and you know your referees won't have time to be editing the addresses, you can use "to whom it may concern" and generalize the content.

- ❑ **International Passport:** Compulsory except stated otherwise. Some courses accept National ID at this application stage. But then, it is advisable to get the passport. It's a motivation itself.
- ❑ **Certificate of Residence:** This is a letter written by your employer, institution, Local Government, a law court, attesting to the fact that you are living in the particular address you are claiming.

This part is very important because the allocation of the scholarship is on **slots**. There are specific slots for each region of the world. They want to know you are really staying where you have put forward because that's the slot you will be considered for.

LECTURER 2» **Scholar Busari Ibrahim Olayode**

(Erasmus Mundus Scholar studying Water and Coastal Management

at the University of Bologna, Italy; University of Algarve, Portugal; and University of Cadiz, Spain)

Motivation Letter / Possible responses from an Erasmus application

A very well written motivation letter can give your application a much-needed kick because almost 80 percent of people applying alongside you have competitive CGPAs. I always advise people to read a lot before picking up a pen to write a letter of motivation (LOM) because you cannot reproduce information you have not taken in and processed.

Every Erasmus course has its own distinctive instructions as regards writing LOMs so it is of great importance to stick to the requirements and guidelines provided by your program. Everyone wants to hurry, rush in and write a letter without adequate information about the course and what it entails. On this note, I recommend reading the details of any program properly before, knowing its contents and structure before writing your LOM as this gives you a peek into what they actually want. Basically, your first draft should contain everything you have in mind then editing begins. That way, your creativity comes to fore automatically.

Another thing I have noticed that may sound a bit controversial – the person reviewing your LOM is not a “know-it-all”, a review is just for another pair of eyes to look at it from an angle your own eyes could not see from. However, if you are convinced what you have written is good enough and your reviewer advise you remove it, kindly follow your instincts but you should also be ready to challenge and explain some parts of your LOM to your reviewer he/she misinterpreted. The key word is confidence and the ability to defend whatever it is you have written. In all, your LOM should be easy to read but should also show that you have a working knowledge of the field you are applying for.

I would like to mention that acceptance into the program doesn't always mean you will be funded or you have won the scholarship. The first possible response is one that says you have been accepted into the program that **you have gotten the scholarship**. The second possible response is one that would say, you are on a **reserve list**, however, there is usually a rank for this and your full acceptance into the scholarship program is dependent on someone else rejecting the scholarship (this happens a lot) because usually most programs get outstanding applications but there is a limit to the number they can accept. The third possible response – your credentials qualify you for acceptance into this program but you would have to seek alternative means of funding. I have seen some Asians and Europeans go through this route that is, they are sponsored by other bodies apart from the EU. The last possible response is that your application was not deemed sufficient enough for acceptance into the program, with or without scholarship.

OTHER REMARKS

Lecturer 1 did not mention the juicy details of the scholarship, you get monthly stipend of 1000 Euros, an annual contribution of 3000 Euros to travel and a one-time installation fee of 1000 Euros. Then, there is the pre-departure orientation in Abuja where you would be hosted by the EU Ambassador to Nigeria and the Ambassador of all European countries to Nigeria to exchange ideas, learn, get advice from past and present scholars. Travel and accommodation to Abuja for this event will be fully covered by the EU. The tough part of this scholarship, however, is that unlike some other scholarships where your tickets would be booked, visa processing, documents legislation, flight ticket to Europe and other logistics would have you be covered by you at first. Moreover, I can assure you, once you resume for your program, your first outright payment of 5000 Euros will offset these bills.

GENERIC QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

- Q. *What is the meaning of ECTS?*
- A. ECTS basically means the European Credit Transfer and accumulation System and it is similar to what we call Units in Nigeria, a 2 years master degree would see you accumulate 120 ECTS, and a 1 year would see you accumulate 90 ECTS. For conversion from Nigerian from Nigeria credits to ECTS, this depends on how many contact hours your undergraduate university dedicates for 1 unit, then you will convert to the ECTS scale of between 25-30 contact hours for 1 ECTS. In all, ECTS are calculated based on the number of hours you have learnt a course. 1ECTS is usually between 25-30 hours. However, this calculation may vary from University to University.
- Q. *What is the format for addressing the program coordinator in recommendation letter?*
- A. The Program Coordinator,
Water and Coastal Management.
- Q. *What's the impact of CGPA in winning Erasmus and any advantage in having work experience?*
- A. It all depends on how well you package your application but then a first-class with good package has an edge over a lower class. Yes, as long as its related to the field of study.
- Q. *Any age limits?
How about discrimination of any sort even with 10 masters?*
- A. I do not think there is age limit, some old scholars we met at Abuja even got the scholarships when they were already married with kids so age is not a barrier. No discrimination, the only impediment is that you should not have lived in the Europe for a stipulated number of years and not have received any previous sort of funding from the European Union.
- Q. *What in your opinion gave you an edge?
What advice will you give to someone that really desire this scholarship?*
- A. Experience, I was on reserve list previous year. Understand what the program really entails and play by their rules.
- Q. *I have a M.Sc degree in Physics already but want to change my field, can I still apply? If yes, do I have to include it in my LOM?
Is letter of residence equivalent to certificate of local government origin?*
- A. The Erasmus course you want to apply for will state the academic requirements. If you meet the requirements, feel free to change. No, it's not.

- Q. *Please elaborate further on the Certificate of residency?*
- A. It is one of the easiest documents to get actually, you can get an affidavit from the high court or you can get a letter from your current employer or even from your local government. The three most Important pieces of information that should be on this letter are your passport number, current full address and how long you have stayed in that address.
- Q. *What is the minimum CGPA to apply for this scholarship?*
- A. At least 70%, you can then convert to your own scale, either on a scale of 5 or 8 point. However, the requirements may differ from program to program
- Q. *I noticed you did not mention anything about CV, what is the expectation of the admission committee in this regard?*
- A. The accepted CV is the EUROPASS and that is very easy to do online, just google Europass, edit and download.
- Q. *Some people said Erasmus is a scholarship for excellence, I want to ask; should the CV and motivation letter be void of leadership and volunteer works?*
- A. To be very honest, 90 percent of my course mates had first class degrees. However, even with relatively lower grades, an outstanding LOM and a great CV would definitely give you a good chance but at the very least, you need to have at least a GPA of 70 percent to be considered at all.
- Q. *What's the word limit for the LOM?*
- A. This varies with program but maximum is 1000 words. However, if you are not given a word limit use your discretion and be rational.

