The European Commission offers new financial opportunities to European students at masters level to participate in Erasmus Mundus Joint Masters Courses

The Erasmus Mundus Programme started in 2004 with the objective “to enhance the quality of European higher education by fostering cooperation with third countries in order to improve the development of human resources and to promote dialogue and understanding between peoples and cultures.”

During its first phase (2004-2008), it has supported more than 100 Erasmus Mundus Joint Masters Courses designed and implemented by consortia of European universities, and has awarded more than 6000 masters students scholarships and 1000 scholars scholarships for the participation of top-class students and outstanding scholars from non-European countries in these joint courses.

As from the second phase of the programme (2009-2013) and more concretely as from the next academic year (2010/2011), the access to Erasmus Mundus masters scholarships has been opened to European students. For the next academic year approximately 900 Erasmus Mundus masters scholarships will be offered to European students.

The objective of this joint communication from the European Commission Directorate-General for Education and Culture and the Executive Agency in charge of the Erasmus Mundus Programme implementation, is to invite European universities to actively promote this new scholarship scheme among their eligible student population.

Detailed information on the Erasmus Mundus programme, the scholarship amounts and the relevant eligibility rules are available in the Erasmus Mundus 2009-2013 programme Guide. If the Masters course involves partners from third countries, it is possible for European students to study part of their Masters in this third-country institution (depending on the course structure and study track chosen): in these cases, a contribution to travel costs will be included within the scholarship.

Please note that Erasmus Mundus student scholarships are awarded exclusively for the student's participation in Erasmus Mundus Masters Courses. The list of the 116 Joint Masters can be found at: http://eacea.ec.europa.eu/erasmus_mundus/results_compendia/selected_projects_action_1_master_courses_en.php

Interested students must apply directly to the consortium that manages the relevant masters course. The joint programmes' websites provide all necessary information about entry requirements, application procedures and submission deadline. Candidate students should note that the scholarship application deadline varies from in accordance to the course and will most probably fall in April or mid-May at the latest1.

Specific questions on the Erasmus Mundus Programme and its scholarship scheme can be addressed to eacea-erasmus-mundus@ec.europa.eu.

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1 European students can also benefit from LLP ERASMUS grants to fund part of their studies in an Erasmus Mundus masters course. Specific information can be obtained from your respective LLP National Agency: http://ec.europa.eu/education/lifelong-learning-programme/doc1208_en.htm.