



NEWSLETTER

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EDITORIAL

Within the framework of its policies to change Higher Education, Europe has developed programmes and measures that seek to strengthen its international position as a reference space in the area of higher education and excellence area on research.

The student mobility programme Erasmus is a case of success that surpassed the academic plan and has been acting as a decisive tool for strengthening the European cohesion and identity. Until 2009, 2 million European students participated in mobility programmes and it is expected that this number may grow to 3 million by the year 2012. Recently, in April 2009, the Ministers of Higher Education of European Union countries (Leuven Communiqué) - in what constitutes a very ambitious challenge - set as goal for mobility in Europe that, by 2020, at least 20% of all young people in the EU, i.e. 1 in 5, should have a mobility experience in a foreign country within or outside the European space. Accordingly, it was also established the "Green Paper. Promoting the learning mobility of Young People" together with the initiative "Youth on the move" from the President of the European Commission. After establishing a consensus on the importance of mobility, the different political and social actors within and outside the universities have started the debate on ways to achieve it and the measures to promote it.

Also the USA, traditionally a host country, aim to strengthen the mobility of their students in experiences outside the country. The USA have now about 18 million HE students, of which 3% are international students. However, only 1.3% of American HE students undertake periods of studies abroad, 90% of which are undergraduate (Hassafa, 2009). In this context, the "Simon-Lincoln Initiative" has as goal that 1 million North-American students may have an experience of studying abroad by the year 2015 (Grothus, 2009).

In Latin American countries, while some programmes and specific measures are being structured, the main strategies of internationalization (Theiler, 2005; Laus, Morosini, 2005; Sanchez, 2005; Gacel-Ávila, 2005) consist on the increasing participation in networks and international partnerships; on the creation of joint or double degree programmes with foreign universities; on the development of common projects with foreign research centers and the increasing participation of students, academic staff and researchers in mobility programmes. It is, therefore, necessary to set goals for mobility and develop programmes to support these goals. We will soon return to this subject.

António Marques
MUNDUS 17 Project Coordinator



Representatives of Latin American partner institutions in the technical meeting at U.Porto

NEWS

Porto welcomes Erasmus Mundus partners in Latin America

A meeting of representatives of the international relations offices of Brazilian, Paraguayan and Uruguayan universities comprising the MUNDUS 17 project took place in the U.Porto from 1st to the 5th of March. This technical meeting aimed at discussing the procedures for implementation of projects in areas such as applications, scholarships and actions for welcoming exchange students. Over five days, participants were also able to get to know the work developed by the International Offices of U.Porto, meet the representatives of faculties and attend the welcoming session to the international mobility students who will study in Porto this semester.

At the end of an intensive week of work, the satisfaction was dominant among the group. "We are better prepared to facilitate and promote the mobility of our students," stated Pascoal Torres Muniz, Vice-Rector of the Federal University of Acre (Brazil). A view shared by María Salvo Payssé, Universidad de la República (Uruguay): "For us, who are starting to work with the mobility programmes, this was an illustrative week of training, in close contact with the work that the U. Porto develops on the ground."

In a meeting where Benjamin Kopelman, Coordinator of International Affairs at the Federal University of Sao Paulo, expressed the hope that "the cooperation between universities in Latin America" is strengthened, there were also many complements to the policies adopted by the U. Porto at the level of international cooperation. While Pascal Torres Muniz stressed the "excellent reception" that the U. Porto gives to the foreign students, María Salvo Payssé highlighted "how the University is open to society and tied with companies and institutions involved in scientific research".

On the last day of the meeting, there was still opportunity for two meetings with the vice-rectors of U.Porto, Maria de Lurdes Correia Fernandes and António Marques. In the first one, participants were acquainted with the changes in European education system brought by the Bologna Process, whereas in the second meeting António Marques highlighted the strategic role that internationalization takes on the University.

Places available for mobility – 2nd Call

The application period for the MUNDUS 17 project is open for PhD students and post-doctoral researchers (TG1 and TG3 Brazil), undergraduates and masters (TG3 in Paraguay) and master and PhD students and postdoctoral researchers (TG1 and TG3 in Uruguay) who wish to undertake a period of mobility in one consortium partner institutions.

The details of the application process are available on the official website of the consortium (<http://mundus17.up.pt>), where are also available information about the project.

The eligible fields of study are: Agricultural Sciences, Education, Teacher Training, Engineering, Technology, Medical Sciences, Natural Sciences and Social Sciences.

The deadline is **31st of March**, using the European Central Time as reference.

PLACES 2nd CALL

EUROPE

Types of mobility	Places	Months	Monthly Allowance
Doctorate	5	6	1.500€
Post-Doctorate	4	6	1.800€

LATIN AMERICA

BRAZIL - TARGET GROUP 1

Types of mobility	Places	Months	Places	Months	Places	Months	Monthly Allowance
Doctorate	5	6	5	10	1	34	1.500€
Post-Doctorate			2	10			1.800€

BRAZIL - TARGET GROUP 3

Types of mobility	Places	Months	Monthly Allowance
Doctorate	2	34	1.500€

PARAGUAY - TARGET GROUP 3

Types of mobility	Places	Months	Monthly Allowance
Undergraduate	1	6	1.000€
Master	1	10	1.000€

URUGUAY - TARGET GROUP 1

Types of mobility	Places	Months	Places	Months	Places	Months	Monthly Allowance
Master			2	20			1.000€
Doctorate					2	34	1.500€
Post-Doctorate	1	6	1	10			1.800€

URUGUAY - TARGET GROUP 3

Types of mobility	Places	Months	Places	Months	Monthly Allowance
Master	1	20			1.000€
Doctorate			1	34	1.500€

MUNDUS 17 BEHIND THE SCENES



How would you classify the receptivity and impact of the MUNDUS 17 Project in the academic community of your University? Erasmus Mundus is a key issue at the University of Valladolid. This project gives us the possibility to cooperate with institutions from Brazil, Uruguay and Paraguay in a well-structured framework and with a solid financial support from the European Commission. It is a valuable instrument to reach the goals of the UVA in terms of internationalization.

With which of the Latin American partner institutions did your University already had established cooperation before the implementation of this project? We had already established cooperation with the Federal University of Sao Paulo and the Federal University of Ceara, Brazil and the Universidad de la República in Uruguay. The University of Valladolid holds the Secretariat of the Grupo Tordesillas, which is a University Association for institutions from Spain, Portugal and Brazil with which synergies have been created for sustainable cooperation with the Brazilian institutions of the project.

Do you consider that the activities developed within the scope of the project have contributed to deepen the already existing cooperation with the partner HEIs in Brazil, Paraguay and Uruguay? Certainly, we are currently in the process of receiving grantees: 4 undergraduate students and 2 postgraduates have already arrived and we are expecting more scholarship holders. Some of them are university professors, which will allow discussions to be carried out with them to explore further cooperation. At the moment, we are in touch with some of the project partners and we hope to develop future projects.

Mar Fernández Sáinz
University of Valladolid
International Relations Office
MUNDUS 17 Project Coordinator

In what way do you consider this project has contributed to the establishment of new links of cooperation? The project enables us to contact with partners with which we did not have contacts before and to have a deep knowledge of the institution through the project contact person and the incoming grantees at different levels.

Do you consider that this project could be the base for the development of joint supervision of doctoral thesis (sandwich PhD mobility with duration of 10 months or more)? Co-tutelled thesis is the main added value of the project, in which we are extremely interested. We already have experience in implementing co-tutelles from other Erasmus Mundus projects with Latin America which we coordinate.

To what extent has the implementation of the activities within the scope of this project contributed to the better organization of the internal structures of the international office of your institution? UVA has created a new structure, under the Erasmus Mundus programmes, within the International Relations Office in order to establish direct and constant communication with other university services such as Graduate Studies Service and Payments Service.

Do you consider it would be possible to continue the implementation of some cooperation activities with partner institutions of the consortium even without the financing granted by the Erasmus Mundus Programme? What specific activities?

The project enables direct contact between academics - crucial for the sustainability of the project - that identify common areas of interest in research and education for applying for financing in the framework of national calls: Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Education and Ministry of Research. The UVA also offers grants for Master studies for third countries nationals with priority to Brazil and India.

MUNDUS17 IN THE FIRST PERSON

I arrived in Barcelona a few weeks ago but the experience that I have lived so far has been unparalleled. My mobility period began two weeks before the start of the academic year to conduct a course in Catalan and I recommend to arrive in advance to the host city to be able to quietly look for a place to live and get to travel around the city area, that in the case of Barcelona, has a lot to discover. Since my arrival, the experience has been incredible! Reaching a new town, with its history, its people and customs in a far country from another continent allows me to constantly experience different impressions and new things all the time; not only I'm able to know new places but also to know myself, while living an everyday life different than that I'm used to and meet and make friends from all over the world with their different languages and customs. As for the University and classes, it is fascinating to experience a method of teaching and assessment different from that of Uruguay, more dynamic and representing a bigger challenge. So far, my experience has been unique and has exceeded all expectations. I expect to continue to live new things, meet new people and places and at the same time cope with the academic challenge of a method of study to which I am not accustomed and to overcome the difficulties in all aspects, always thanking this great opportunity that was given to me.



Name: Maria Emilia Bazzano
Undergraduate student
Home institution: Universidade de la República
Host institution: Universidade de Barcelona

GETTING TO KNOW...

Justus Liebig University



JLU Giessen, founded in 1607, is a modern university with an international spirit and a sense of tradition. It provides the full range of subjects of a traditional university and emphasises the life sciences and cultural studies. The University is dedicated to excellent research and teaching. It bears the name of one of its most famous scientists: Justus Liebig, who became professor of chemistry at the University in the 19th century, and who taught for almost 30 years in Giessen. A unique range of subjects and international cooperation programmes in the areas of research, teaching, and study testify to JLU's competitiveness on both national and international levels.

Recently, JLU has been remarkably successful in the context of the German

“Excellence Initiative”. The programme promotes top-class university research and aims at establishing internationally visible research beacons in Germany. Justus Liebig University achieved an impressive result in this nationwide contest: the International Graduate Centre for the Study of Culture and the Research Cluster Cardio-Pulmonary System are funded with budgets of about 25 million Euros initially over five years.

JLU's unique profile in the Life Sciences and its highly successful graduate programmes in the humanities shape the University's future: The International Giessen Graduate School for the Life Sciences provides an interdisciplinary, concisely structured graduate programme for all life science disciplines at JLU. It integrates the fields of Human Medicine, Veterinary Medicine, Psychology, Biology, Chemistry, Nutrition and Agriculture. Giessen, city with 75.000 inhabitants and 30.000 students, lies in the heart of Hesse and is surrounded by the romantic Lahn valley and rolling tree-topped hills. The city has the highest concentration of students in Germany, therefore, offers a broad range of cultural programs.

Whether you like water skiing on the nearby lakes, paddling or rowing on the Lahn River, roaming the nature reserves and recreational areas in the Vogelsberg and Wetterau, visiting medieval castles and villages, or whether you prefer the cinema, theatre, and museums - Giessen and environs have it all.



AGENDA

JANUARY/MARCH

Starting of the first EBW II mobility flows

2ND SEMESTER IN EUROPE

Starting in January/February/March

Ending in June/July/August

1ST SEMESTER IN BRAZIL

Starting in Fevereiro/Março/Abril

Ending in Julho/Agosto/Setembro

FEBRUARY/MARCH

Welcoming sessions with the scholarship holders in each host institution

15 FEBRUARY UNTIL 31 MARCH

2nd call

EVALUATION PROCESS

1 TO 12 APRIL

Validation by home institutions

13 TO 23 APRIL

Selection by host institutions

26 TO 30 APRIL

Analysis by the Scientific Committee

3 TO 7 MAY

Confirmation by partners

14 MAY

Notification to the scholarship holders on the selection results

14 MAY

Starting of the preparation for mobility

CONTACT DETAILS

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