

Dear MER+ EMJMD applicant,

I am pleased to inform you that the on line application system for 2019-2021 applicants will be open along this week, as soon as possible. In addition, please find below an advance of the information that will be uploaded to the MER+ EMJMD new website: merplus.eu.

Additional information as well as valuable information on the past development of the preceding MER EMMC programme can be found now at merconsortium.eu.

Remember that the deadline for Erasmus+ Student Scholarships applications is March 15th 2019.

I look forward to welcoming you as MER+ EMJMD students.

Best regards



Ionan Marigómez

MER+ EMJMD Intl Coord

& MER Consortium JPB Chair

Erasmus Mundus Joint Master Degree in Marine EnviRonment (ME+ EMJMD 2018-2022)* merplus.eu

INFO+ in the MER Consortium website: merconsortium.eu

* Successor of the former MER EMMC 2013-2019 (European MSc in Marine Environment & Resources)

NOTE: The MER Consortium Secretariat wishes to apologise for multiple submission of this message to some recipients; together with those who request information about this call we also include last year address books to secure that as many interested potential applicants as possible are duly informed.

TOTAL MESSAGE: 4 PAGES

VERY IMPORTANT FOR NEW MER MSc APPLICANTS 2019-2021

ERASMUS + OFFERS SCHOLARSHIPS FOR THE BEST STUDENTS (18) OF THE MER+ EMJMD PROGRAMME INCLUDING UP TO 49000€ FOR 2 YEARS PER INDIVIDUAL SCHOLARSHIP TO COVER PARTICIPATION, INSTALLATION AND MOBILITY, AND SUBSISTENCE COSTS.

Additional scholarships (6) will be available for MER+ EMJMD applicants from the following geographical regions (the MER Consortium Joint Programme Board encourages candidates from these countries to apply):

- **ENI South - Region 3** (Algeria, Egypt, Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, Palestine, Syria, Tunisia)
- **Latin America - Region 8 LMIC** (Bolivia, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua, Paraguay)
- **Latin America - Region 8 BM** (Brazil, Mexico)
- **Gulf Countries - Region 12** (Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates)
- **African, Caribbean, Pacific - Region 11** (Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Benin, Botswana, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Cape Verde, Central African Republic, Chad, Comoros, Congo, Congo – Democratic Republic of the, Cook Islands, Djibouti, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Fiji, Gabon, Gambia, Ghana, Grenada, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, Ivory Coast, Jamaica, Kenya, Kiribati, Lesotho, Liberia, Madagascar, Malawi, Mali, Marshall Islands, Mauritania, Mauritius, Micronesia- Federated States of, Mozambique, Namibia, Nauru, Niger, Nigeria, Niue, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Rwanda, Saint Kitts And Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent And The Grenadines, Samoa, Sao Tome and Principe, Senegal, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Solomon Islands, Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan, Suriname, Swaziland, Timor Leste - Democratic Republic of, Tanzania, Togo, Tonga, Trinidad and Tobago, Tuvalu, Uganda, Vanuatu, Zambia, Zimbabwe)

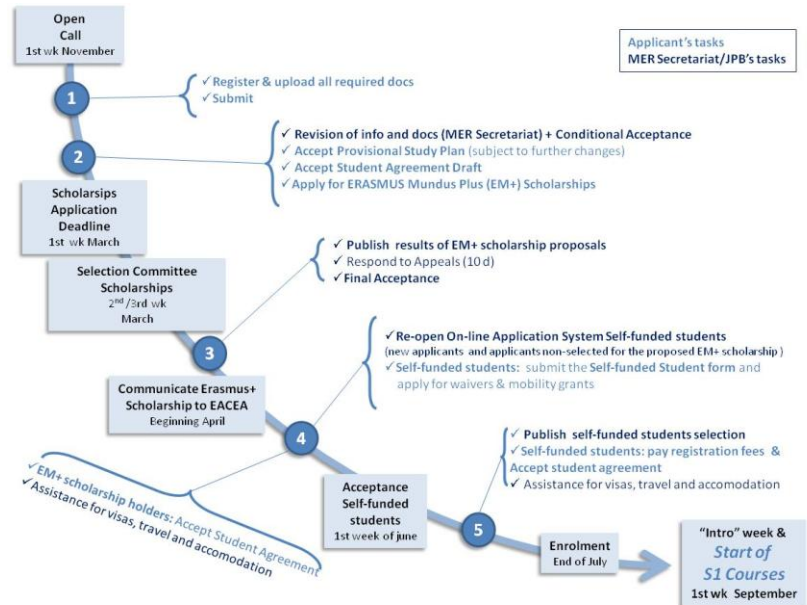
Timeline: Application process

Open Call: Early (1st week) December MER+ EMJMD Application Phase 1 (potential Erasmus+ scholarship holders)

- Register
- Upload docs & Info ⁽¹⁾
- Invite referees to submit references
- Submit

Application Deadline: March 15th EM+ Application

- **Revision of info and docs (MER Consortium Secretariat) + Conditional Acceptance**
- Accept Proposed Study Plan (subject to further changes) ⁽²⁾
- Accept Student Agreement Draft
- Reply to MER Secretariat's queries
- **Apply for ERASMUS Mundus Plus (EM+) Scholarships**
- Submission of References by referees ⁽³⁾



Selection Committee: Late (3rd-4th week) March (Preliminary Selection) Consultation to EACEA (4th wk March) Open MER+ EMJMD Application Phase 2 (only self-funded students)

- **Publish (late March) preliminary results of EM+ scholarship proposals** ⁽⁴⁾
- Respond to Appeals
- **Re-open (late March) the On-line Application System for Self-funded students** (new applicants and applicants non-selected for the proposed EM+ scholarship)
- **New applicants:** steps 1+2 (deadline 2nd week June)
- **All self-funded students:** submit the **Self-funded Student form** and apply for MCG waivers, mobility grants and UPV/EHU mobility grants
- Reply to MER Secretariat's queries (accommodation procedures, ...)

Erasmus+ Scholarship Final Decision: April 15th Final Acceptance and Enrolments

- **Publish EM+ scholarship selection and Final Acceptance** ⁽⁵⁾
- **EM+ scholarship holders:**
 - Accept Provisional Student Agreement (may be subjected to minor changes and updates)
 - Reply to MER Secretariat's queries
- **Self-funded students: pay registration fees** ⁽⁵⁾
- Original BSc Diploma (and legalized copy) and Proof of Proficiency in English are require at this step
- Assistance for visas, travel and accommodation

Regular enrolment deadline: July 15th

- ⁽¹⁾ **English proficiency and pathways restrictions.** For [Language requirements this is the relevant link](#). If you do not comply with these requirement but you have other solid proofs of English proficiency (e.g. having studied the BSc in English, ...) you might be eligible only for pathway A2 (less restrictive language conditions); the evaluation committee will decide.
- ⁽²⁾ Only used by the Selection Committee to make each applicant's profile.
- ⁽³⁾ Only references received before March 15th can be used for scoring for EM+ scholarship selection (these can be uploaded online or sent by email to MER Secretariat).
- ⁽⁴⁾ This is not definitive until the EACEA confirms the decision made by MER Consortium JPB (April 15th at the latest).
- ⁽⁵⁾ This is definitive, as some selected candidates will resign, movements from the reserve list can take place at this step and new EM+ scholarship offers can be done.
- ⁽⁶⁾ **Final acceptance to Self-funded students** will be approved only upon receiving the Self-Funded Student Form, the Provisional Student Agreement (SAD) and the Payment according to the SAD. Assistance for accommodation can be only ensured for early applicants (see web site for more details).

Application

Applicants are required to complete the **on-line application** procedure, providing their personal data and the following compulsory documents and forms:

- 1) Copy^{1,2} (pdf) of the official **Transcript of Records** of all courses taken to achieve the BSc degree.
- 2) Copy^{1,2} (pdf) of the **BSc Degree Diploma**, or equivalent suitable to be eligible for the MER+ EMJMD Programme
- 3) Copy^{1,2} (pdf) of the **Secondary School Degree**, or equivalent required to access University studies at the applicant's home country.
- 4) **Curriculum Vitae** (pdf) in Europass format or equivalent
- 5) **Motivation Letter** (pdf), explaining the applicant's personal statement and motivation to participate in the MER+ EMJMD Programme
- 6) **Two Reference Forms** or Recommendation Letters submitted by academic/professional staff (on-line application procedure)³
- 7) Complete the **Proposed Study Plan Form** (on-line), indicating the teaching modules of preference, research topics of interest and additional information ⁴
- 8) Copy² (pdf) of your **Passport** or national identity card, as proof of applicant's nationality
- 9) Copy² (pdf) of a **Resident Official Document** that verifies which the applicant's place of residence at the time of application⁵
- 10) Signed "**Erasmus+ Scholarship Mandatory Declaration**" form, where applicants declare they comply with Erasmus+ eligibility requirements (e.g., 12 month rule, etc.)
- 11) **Proof of Proficiency in English** (see [Language Policy](#))
- 12) Photograph (passport type)
- 13) Signed "**Self-Funded Student Declaration**" form; only to be uploaded by applicants without Erasmus+ Scholarship before they can be definitively admitted as self-funded students (can be uploaded after the submission deadline; e.g. once the Scholarship Selection Results have been published)
- 14) **Supplementary Information** can be provided at the applicant's convenience, uploaded altogether as **one single pdf or zip file**

¹ Sworn translation into English (or any official European Language) is required to be eligible.

² A copy is enough to apply for admission. The Transcript may be incomplete at the time of application but must be complete by the time of final enrolment. The BSc degree may be uploaded later after the submission deadline but always before definitive admittance and enrolment. Further on, **originals or their certified copies** will be required to proceed with final registration at the universities; you must keep these documents with you all along the progression of the MER+ Programme.

³ The applicant must proceed to contact the referees through the on-line application; then the referees will upload the Reference Form/Recommendation Letter, which will be notified to the applicant. In the case a referee is not responsive, it will be the applicant's responsibility to contact a new one; in any case, **only the applicant is responsible to obtain the two required Reference Forms (or Recommendation Letters) uploaded onto the system within the deadline.**

⁴ at time of application this is only tentative to depict applicant's academic profile and will be fully open to changes before definitive admittance)

⁵ The place of residence should be verified on the basis of the provision of the documents listed in the **PRADO website**. For example: (a) a residence certificate issued in accordance with the candidate's municipality normal registration rules; or (b) a certificate from the candidate's place of work, study or training issued by the employer or institution in question. These documents must have been **issued within 12 months before the submission deadline**

Once the application is ready for submission, **please do not forget the last step (submit)**; a submission confirmation will be sent to you by e-mail.

- ✓ Please note that the main selection criteria are study and academic merits (degree, transcript, curriculum vitae, experience, relevant data), motivation and well-thought out study programme (motivation letter, intrinsic coherence of the proposed study plan and research topic themselves and with the applicants profile and background - merits, letter, supplementary information), recommendation letters (individualised, informative, concise, targeted on the MER MSc programme, supportive), and chances of success in the Programme (e.g., possible pursuit of a PhD programme, or integration in an industry research unit in the home country may also be considered; integrity/elaboration/maturity of the application as a whole).
- ✓ Selection is highly competitive. Even excellent candidates can be underscored if some of the documents/data are missing or faint or if the application is not properly frameworked. Uploading incomplete or unclear documents (e.g., transcript) will lead to underrating. It is highly recommended to examine carefully the MER MSc webpage, especially the MSc Thesis and Partnership sections, in order to prepare the Motivation Letter as well as to propose realistic and coherent Research topics and a Study Plan in accordance.
- ✓ Offers will be made only to those Applicants that satisfy the **requirements for entry**, as set out above, for whom the supplemental information is deemed satisfactory according to the JPB.
- ✓ By submitting you recognise that the MER Consortium is allowed to use your image (e.g. photographs taken within the framework of the MER MSc academic activities) for public information about and promotion of the Master as well as for related academic outreaches (leaflets, posters, guidelines, reports, webpage, etc.)

Application deadline is March 15th each year for Erasmus+ Scholarship candidates. Important for self-funded Partner Country applicants who require conditional pre-acceptance letters supporting their applications for other scholarships (e.g., National) and for visas: please note that for , these letters can be only secured for those who applied before this deadline. A firm offer will be made only on completion of the general application procedure.

The deadline is extended to June 13th for self-funded applicants (without Erasmus+ Scholarship). Applications after this deadline might be considered by the MER JPB but the Secretariat and the International offices of the Partner Universities cannot ensure any support regarding travel, accommodation and other services.