

Univerza v Ljubljani



CALL FOR APPLICATIONS FOR LONG-TERM PHYSICAL/BLENDED STUDY MOBILITY FOR THE PURPOSE OF TRAINEESHIP UNDER THE ERASMUS+ PROGRAMME in the 2022/2023 academic year

1. NAME AND REGISTERED OFFICE OF THE ENTITY PUBLISHING THE CALL FOR APPLICATIONS

The entity publishing the call for applications is the University of Ljubljana, Kongresni trg 12, 1000 Ljubljana, Slovenia (hereinafter: the UL).

2. PURPOSE AND OBJECTIVE OF THE CALL FOR APPLICATIONS

Erasmus+ is an EU programme that supports international cooperation in education, training, youth and sport. Its purpose is to raise the quality of education and training, thereby enhancing social cohesion and the EU's economic competitiveness. Erasmus+ strives to allow as many individuals as possible to take part in the programme, especially those from disadvantaged backgrounds, and highlights inclusion, environmental protection (Green Erasmus+) and the digital transition as its key topics and activities.

This call for applications concerns the key action KA1 131: learning mobility of individuals for traineeship purposes.

The programme enables students to receive, during the course of their studies or within 12 months after completing their studies, practical training at a company or a similar organisation in one of the countries participating in Erasmus+.

The period of physical mobility abroad may last from two to a maximum of 12 months in each academic cycle. That period can be combined with virtual mobility up to a maximum of 12 months, whereby the virtual portion of the mobility is not funded through Erasmus+ and does not count towards the Erasmus+ quota of 12 months.

Students who have completed some of their academic requirements abroad by taking part in the Lifelong Learning, Erasmus+, Erasmus Mundus and Erasmus+ International Credit Mobility programmes by 2022/2023, but have not taken the entire period of 12 months abroad, may also apply to the call. The total period of the studies and the practical training, both already completed and applied for, may not exceed 12 months per study cycle, with the exception of integrated programmes where student mobility and practical training together may not take longer than 24 months.

The objectives of such mobility are as follows:

- improving learning competencies,
- increasing employability and employment opportunities,
- increasing initiative and entrepreneurship,
- increasing self-confidence and self-esteem,
- improving language skills,
- increasing inter-cultural awareness,
- more active participation in society,
- better knowledge of EU projects and EU values,

- increasing motivation for further education (formal and informal) and post-mobility training. The ERASMUS+ traineeship abroad shall be substantively related to the subject of study. This is guaranteed by the student's supervisor or the Erasmus+ co-ordinator at the student's home faculty and the employer, who enter into an Erasmus+ Learning Agreement for Traineeship.

The minimum traineeship workload amounts to 25 hours per week.

The minimum number of credits a UL student must acquire during the traineeship is not specified and shall not be a condition for traineeship approval. The assignment of credits to be recognised at the home institution shall be decided on by the student's home faculty and then confirmed in the Erasmus+ Learning Agreement for Traineeship.

The Erasmus+ participating countries include the EU member states, Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway, North Macedonia, Serbia and Turkey.

Students may not take part in the mobility programme in the country of the sending university, in the country of their permanent residence or in the country of which they are citizens. The student must reside in the city of the hosting university for the entire duration of the Erasmus+ study abroad. Terminations and early completions of mobility shall be pre-approved by the UL Central Office of International Relations.

UL students who are also employed may apply for the programme only if their employer does not cover the costs they incur during traineeship based on an issued travel order.

The period of eligibility within this call for applications shall be from 1 June 2022 to 30 September 2023.

<u>The University of Ljubljana will be accepting applications while the funds are available or no later</u> than 1 July 2023.

3. TERMS AND CONDITIONS FOR APPLICANTS AND CONTENT AND COMPLETION OF THE APPLICATION FORM

3.1 Terms and conditions for applicants

Applications may be submitted by UL students who have an active student status at their UL home faculty during the entire traineeship abroad, with the exception of graduates who submit their applications in their last year (before the programme completion date) and undertake traineeship after completing their studies, but no later than within one year after completing their (undergraduate or master's) programme or by the end of the eligible period – i.e., by 30 September 2023. The study programme completion date is the date of the final thesis defence or the last exam (depending on the member institution), and not the last date on which the student still holds a student status.

The condition for the application shall be an already concluded Erasmus+ Learning Agreement for Traineeship signed by the student, the employer and the person in charge at the member faculty (e.g., the Erasmus+ co-ordinator).

Before and after the mobility programme, all selected Erasmus+ students, with the exception of native speakers, shall take **an online language test** via the **OLS** web portal for the main language used in the exchange. If the result of the online test for the main language of the exchange prior to

departure on the mobility was C2, the student will not be required to take the online test of the main language of the exchange at the end of the mobility.

No student with outstanding financial obligations arising from an Erasmus or Erasmus+ programme may apply to the call.

3.2 Search for companies and organisations

Organisations hosting the traineeship may include the following:

- public or private, small, medium-sized or large enterprises (including social companies, and local, regional and national public authorities),
- social partners or other representatives from the economic sphere, including the Chamber of Commerce and Industry, small business/professional associations and trade unions,
- research institutes/educational centres,
- non-profit organisations and associations and NGOs,
- bodies providing vocational guidance, expert consulting and IT services.

The following types of organisations shall not be eligible to act as hosting organisations:

 EU institutions and other EU bodies, including specialised agencies. A more extensive list of such bodies is

available at: http://europa.eu/about-eu/institutions-bodies/index_en.htm,

o organisations conducting EU programmes (to prevent double financing).

4. GRANT

The selected Erasmus+ programme students shall not be automatically entitled to an Erasmus+ grant. They shall apply for the grant and any additional allowances online, via the UL's VIS portal.

The Erasmus+ grant shall be paid to the student before the mobility programme begins.

The day on which the student must be present at an institution/employer abroad, i.e., the first working day, shall be deemed the first mobility day. The day on which the student completes their work at the organisation/employer abroad shall be considered the last mobility day.

The purpose of the Erasmus+ grant is to <u>co-finance</u> traineeship abroad, not to cover the expenses in full. The students' rights, obligations and responsibilities concerning the awarding of grants will be specified in detail in the Grant Agreement, which the students shall enter into with the UL before leaving for their traineeship abroad.

The number of months approved for funding per student under this call shall be limited to a maximum of 12.

The actual number of months approved to be funded per student depends on the amount of funds the UL has at its disposal. If the funding proves insufficient to cover all activities applied for, the UL will cut the funding period for student mobility for traineeship purposes to less than 12 months, depending on the funds available. For the same reason, the UL may also limit the number of applications approved to one student within this call for applications. Extension of mobility is not envisaged within this call for applications.

During the 2022 project year, the Erasmus+ traineeship grant amounts (by country of mobility) are as follows:

Group 1:	Denmark, Finland, Ireland, Iceland, Luxembourg,	EUR
	Liechtenstein, Norway, Sweden, Austria, Belgium,	750/month
Erasmus+ programme	Cyprus, France, Greece, Italy, Malta, Germany, the	

countries with a higher and medium cost of living	Netherlands, Portugal, Spain	
Group 2: Erasmus+ programme countries with a low cost of living	Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Estonia, Croatia, Latvia, Lithuania, Hungary, North Macedonia, Poland, Romania, Slovakia, Serbia, Turkey	EUR 690/month

The monthly amount includes a traineeship allowance of EUR 150/month. All Erasmus+ traineeship participants shall be eligible for this allowance (applies even with other allowances).

- 4.1. In addition to the basic Erasmus+ grant, UL students selected in this call for applications may also apply for an **Erasmus+ supplementary grant** if they meet the following conditions:
 - I am a citizen of the Republic of Slovenia with residence in the Republic of Slovenia or
 - I am a citizen of another EU member state who has lived in the Republic of Slovenia for five years continuously and immediately before leaving for the exchange, as part of which I claim the grant or
 - □ I am a citizen of a third country who has acquired long-term resident status and
 - □ prior to reaching the age of 27 I enrolled for the first time in a state-approved first- or secondcycle higher vocational or higher education programme which is offered in Slovenia by the applicant for the purpose of study or traineeship presented by the applicant,
 - □ I do not simultaneously receive any of the scholarships for study visits from other sources in Slovenia or from abroad, except the Erasmus grant,
 - □ I am not employed and do not carry out independent registered activity in Slovenia or abroad,
- □ I am not a company manager or a director of a private institution,
- □ I am not registered as unemployed at the Employment Service of Slovenia or any competent institution abroad,
- □ I meet the conditions for the Erasmus mobility within the study period as defined by CMEPIUS,
- □ I will take part in the Erasmus mobility programme,
- □ I will have the requirements completed abroad evaluated (recognised) by the educational institution at which I am enrolled in Slovenia as part of the educational programme at that institution,
- I did not receive, for the same period of Erasmus mobility, any scholarship within the public call for applications for scholarships for individual student mobility abroad in the 2020 academic year in the framework of Erasmus (294th public call),
- $\hfill\square$ \hfill no other applicant has claimed funds on my behalf within this call for applications,
- □ I am familiar with the fact that, pursuant to the Scholarship Act (ZŠtip-1), students without a student status (graduates) and 3rd cycle students are not eligible for funds available from the Call for Applications by the Public Scholarship, Development, Disability and Maintenance Fund of the Republic of Slovenia, and I do not fall into either of these two categories.

During the 2021 project year, the Erasmus+ supplementary grant amounted to <u>€67.76/month</u>. The amount of the Erasmus+ supplementary grant for the 2022 project is yet to be announced.

- 4.2. In addition to the basic Erasmus+ grant, students from disadvantaged backgrounds selected in the call will also receive an additional social inclusion allowance. This allowance will amount to <u>€250/month</u>. To be eligible for the allowance the students must meet the following conditions:
 - they are receiving a government scholarship or

- one of the children or parents in their family has social, health-related and financial special needs, which can be proved with an official decision issued by the relevant authority,
- they themselves have such needs, which they can prove with an official decision (determining they require a special escort or academic adjustments, that they are disabled, etc.),
- they come from a single-parent or foster family or
- Slovenia is offering them international protection or
- they are members of the Roma community.
- 4.3. As part of this call, the **green travel top-up** in the amount of €50 (a lump sum) will be awarded to students who travel to **and** from their host country by bus, train, boat and/or any other form of group transport (e.g., GoOpti). The top-up will be paid to students after their mobility ends and they submit the corresponding proof. Students may also receive up to four additional travel days subsidised if the proof they submit shows that they actually needed additional days to complete their green trip.

4.4. Students with special needs who are confirmed for the Erasmus+ exchange, will be able to apply for additional funds within the call for applications, which they should receive by email in the summer of 2022.

Persons with special needs include individuals who require the provision of programmes with additional specialist assistance or adaptations with regard to the nature of their specific needs.

Students with special needs are blind, partially sighted or visually impaired students, deaf and hearing impaired students, students with speech and language disorders, students with reduced mobility, students with a long-term health condition, students with autistic disorders and students with emotional and behavioural disorders.

Examples of additional costs for students with special needs include additional travel expenses, adapted local transportation, additional costs due to adapted accommodation, additional costs due to assistance, costs of health services, costs of special teaching aids, etc.

5. HOW TO APPLY AND DEADLINE FOR APPLICATIONS

Students who want to participate in a traineeship programme abroad as Erasmus+ students should apply at their home faculty <u>at least one month before the mobility starts</u>. A student may only submit an application for the period of mobility for which they can attest upon applying that they have a student status for the entire duration of the mobility, which shall be verified upon submitting the application to the call by the co-ordinator at the home faculty. An exception to this shall be students who are to attend the mobility as young graduates; the only condition for them is that they shall submit their application and attachments required before they complete the studies (i.e., the date of the last exam or the date of their final thesis defence rather than the date by which the student holds the student status). The student shall decide already upon applying whether they will carry out their traineeship as a student with a status for the entire period of the mobility or as a young graduate (performing the traineeship within 12 months after completing studies and no later than 30 September 2023). This status may not be changed during the mobility.

The application shall contain:

- 1. **an application form for the Erasmus+ traineeship (in online or physical form)**, which the student shall complete in line with the instructions provided by their home faculty,
- 2. the originally confirmed (signed and stamped) Erasmus+ Learning Agreement for Traineeship,
- 3. a motivational letter (which can be written in Slovene) that contains the following information:
 - how the work the student is to undertake within their traineeship abroad relates to their field of study at the home faculty;
 - how the professional traineeship abroad will contribute to their further education and/or employability;
 - a description of the hosting institution/company, along with a description of the job/department (field of work, number of employees, year of foundation, etc.).

The student's home faculty shall forward the information on the selected candidates on a weekly basis in the prescribed Excel table to the UL Central Office of International Relations via the UL SharePoint. The UL Central Office of International Relations will inform the student of their application to the call being approved and will provide instructions on how to submit the online application to the VIS portal for the Erasmus+ grant and for the online language preparation course. Application approval shall only apply for the implementation of traineeship at an employer and for the term confirmed in the Erasmus+ Learning Agreement for Traineeship, which the student shall enclose upon applying to the call. The student shall submit a complete VIS online application for the Erasmus+ grant for traineeship at least 10 working days before the start of the mobility, which shall constitute a condition for the Erasmus+ grant approval. After submitting their VIS online application for the Erasmus+ grant, the student shall receive at their email address the Erasmus+ Grant Agreement, which they shall return to the UL Central Office of International Relations in two signed copies at least five working days before the beginning of the mobility. After receiving the signed Erasmus+ Grant Agreement, the UL shall pay out the first instalment (80%) of the Erasmus+ grant. The remainder of the grant shall be paid out after the mobility is completed and final documentation is submitted via the VIS online application for the Erasmus+ grant.

In accordance with the rules set out for the Erasmus+ programme, the UL Central Office of International Relations shall ensure the quality of the mobility, and shall thus be entitled to reject an application if it assesses that the mobility planned does not meet the qualitative conditions for mobility. The Commission for International and University Cooperation shall be competent to handle any complaints.

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More information is available from the Erasmus+ contact persons at the UL faculties:

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Faculty of Health Sciences	Natalija Plankl	natalija.plankl@zf.uni-lj.si

6. APPEAL

Applicants may appeal to the competent committee at a member faculty within eight days of having their application rejected. The competent committee will issue a decision on the appeal. An appeal must be filed in writing, explaining in detail the reasons for lodging it. The application conditions may not constitute the subject of the applicants' complaint.

7. CALL DOCUMENTS

The documentation related to the call for applications is available at: <u>https://www.uni-lj.si/mednarodno_sodelovanje_in_izmenjave/erasmus+_mobilnost_za_prakso/</u>.

A guide for applicants: <u>https://ec.europa.eu/programmes/erasmus-plus/resources/programme-guide_en.</u>

Any additional specific information will be provided by individual UL faculties on their respective websites.

8. SUBSEQUENT CHANGES TO THE CALL FOR APPLICATIONS OR ITS TERMS AND CONDITIONS

As the entity publishing this call for applications, the University of Ljubljana reserves the right to amend the funding terms in the event of changes to the financing conditions or force majeure. It may change the rules and conditions for participating in the call at any time. The University will post any changes and updates on the following website:

https://www.uni-lj.si/mednarodno_sodelovanje_in_izmenjave/erasmus+_mobilnost_za_prakso/.

9. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

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Ljubljana, 4 April 2022

Bibi Ovaska ERASMUS+ KA 131 Institutional Coordinator