

Selection scholarships for exchange OUTSIDE the Erasmus area

Erasmus+ area = 27 EU Member States + North Macedonia, Norway, Liechtenstein, Iceland, Serbia and Turkey

Academic year 2023-2024 Information for Ghent University students

Introduction

These guidelines give information about:

- The range of scholarship possibilities for an exchange outside the Erasmus+ zone. ¹
- How to apply for such a scholarship.
- Conditions for a scholarship and how the competitive selection process works.

Some points of attention:

- The United Kingdom doesn't belong to the Erasmus+ zone. Scholarships for an exchange to the United Kingdom are therefore part of this selection process.
- Through this call you can't apply for a scholarship for an exchange to Switzerland as it has its own scholarship program.
- The VLIR-UOS travel allowances for internship and research to Africa, Latin-America and Asia are also part of this selection mechanism.

Mobility duration and scholarship

- The exchange concerns your study, internship or research as part of a master's dissertation and needs to be acknowledged and validated in the curriculum.
- **Study:** as a student, you take 30 ECTS for one semester or 60 ECTS for a whole academic year. The exchange starts after September 1 unless the guest institution requires the student to attend earlier because of the academic calendar or any other possible reason. In that case, an exception can be approved if a motivation is presented. The exchange concerns the academic year 2023-2024 and ends before the next academic year (2024-2025) starts.
- **Traineeship/research for Master's dissertation:** the scholarship application concerns a stay abroad as part of a course recognized in your curriculum in the academic year 2023-2024. For example:
 - If you stay abroad (internship/research) during the **summer period, July-August 2023**, and if your stay is part of a course in your curriculum during the **academic year 2023-2024**, then you need to hand in a portfolio in **March 2023**.
 - If you stay abroad (internship/research) during the **summer period, July-August 2024**, and if your stay is part of a course in your curriculum during the **academic year 2024-2025**, then you need to hand in a portfolio in **March 2024**.

Which scholarships can you receive?

¹ Erasmus+ area = 27 EU Member States + North Macedonia, Norway, Liechtenstein, Iceland, Serbia and Turkey.

General principal.

You have a bigger chance to receive a high scholarship when:

- your socio-economic need is higher
- more relevant evidence is added to your portfolio
- you made a sound financial plan
- your academic motivation is worked out in detail

A potential scholarship can be a travel allowance (Category 1) or a travel allowance AND a monthly allowance for (maximum) the length of your stay (Category 2). An application for a scholarship is automatically for Category 1 and Category 2. Receiving a Category 1 or a Category 2 scholarship depends on the selection results. A student can only receive one scholarship per academic year.

CATEGORY 1: Travel allowance

- A travel allowance depending on the distance between the sending institution and the receiving institution. The travel allowances per country are known already and can be consulted [here](#).
- If your stay concerns study or research as part of a master's dissertation your faculty needs to have a bilateral framework agreement ('BIRAK'), more specifically a Cooperation Agreement, with the partnering institution/organisation abroad. You can address your 'Faculty Committee for Internationalisation (FCI)' for an overview of the Cooperation Agreements or you can consult the following link: <http://www.ugent.be/student/nl/studeren/tijdens/bestemmingen.htm>. This is not necessary in the scope of an internship.
- The exchange lasts 1 month as a minimum (minimum 5 ECTS) and 12 months as a maximum.
- The number of available scholarships in Category 1: around **100**.
- The VLIR-UOS travel grants for internship and research are part of this category. These are scholarships for an internship or research in a **country in the Global South** (Africa, Asia, Latin-America). Extra requirements for these are:
 - The stay is **part of an acknowledged part of the study programme**, like an internship or a master's dissertation, for which you can obtain a number of credits. Your stay must be relevant in the scope of development cooperation. On site, you cooperate with a local organisation (university, high school, hospital, local government, local association, etc).
 - You must follow a **mandatory preparation moment** before your departure and add proof of this to your file. Ghent University offers in collaboration with UCOS - University Center for Development Cooperation - several preparation days on different dates. Of course you do not have to wait for the selection result to already register and/or participate. Registrations are open: [Info and registration](#).
 - Your study at Ghent University cannot be part of a European exchange programme, nor financed by a European scholarship or grant
 - Students of all nationalities can apply for a scholarship. You can't apply for a scholarship if you go on an exchange to an institution/internship at your country of origin.
 - You have never received a VLIR-UOS travel grant before.
 - The exchange should take 28 continuous days at least.
 - The VLIR-UOS Travel Grant can only be applied for if you go to one of the following countries:

Africa		Asia	Latin-America
Benin	Morocco	Bangladesh	Bolivia
Burkina Faso	Mozambique	Cambodia	Brazil
Burundi	Niger	Philippines	Colombia
DR Congo	Rwanda	India	Cuba
Ethiopia	Senegal	Indonesia	Ecuador
Ghana	Tanzania	Palestina Territory	Haïti
Guinee	Uganda	Sri Lanka	Nicaragua
Cameroon	Zambia	Vietnam	Peru
Kenya	Zimbabwe		Suriname
Madagascar	South-Africa		

- The number of available scholarships in Category 1: around **200**.

CATEGORY 2: Travel allowance + monthly allowance

- On top of the travel allowance, a monthly allowance of € 700 is added in category 2. An extra monthly top-up of € 200 can possibly be added (for some scholarship programmes) for students who receive a study grant from the Flemish Government, students with a disability acknowledged by the Flemish Agency for Disabled Persons (Vlaams Agentschap voor Personen met een Handicap, VAPH), or students with a working student status (indicated in your portfolio).
- If your stay concerns study or research as part of a master's dissertation your faculty needs to have a bilateral framework agreement ('BIRAK'), more specifically a Cooperation Agreement, with the partnering institution/organisation abroad. You can address your 'Faculty Committee for Internationalisation (FCI)' for an overview of the Cooperation Agreements or you can consult the following link: <http://www.ugent.be/student/nl/studeren/tijdens/bestemmingen.htm>. This is not necessary in the scope of an internship.
- In case of study you take up at least 30 ECTS for 1 semester or 60 ECTS for a full academic year. In case of research or an internship the exchange takes 1 month as a minimum (5 ECTS).
- You receive the monthly allowance for 1 month to 4 months maximum, depending on your actual stay. You are allowed to go on an exchange programme for a longer period, but you will only be financed for a maximum of 4 months. It's therefore very important to fill in the dates of your actual stay as correct as possible.
- Number of available scholarships in CATEGORY 2: **around 80**

Conditions

- All study areas are taken into consideration.
- You don't pay tuition fee in the receiving institution/company/organisation.
- If your stay concerns study or research as part of a master's dissertation your faculty needs to have a bilateral framework agreement ('BIRAK'), more specifically a Cooperation Agreement, with the partnering institution/organisation abroad. You can address your 'Faculty Committee for Internationalisation (FCI)' for an overview of the Cooperation Agreements or you can consult the following link: <http://www.ugent.be/student/nl/studeren/tijdens/bestemmingen.htm>.
- A bilateral framework agreement ('BIRAK') is not necessary in the scope of an internship.
- A bilateral framework agreement ('BIRAK') is not necessary is also not necessary if you go to a country of the VLIR-UOS country list for internship or research as part of a master's dissertation.
- Your faculty decides which destination you can go to and also which period you can stay abroad during your study. For more information, contact your FCI.
- Parallel to your scholarship application (financing), you also need to enter an exchange application in Oasis (destination)². If you submit an application for a scholarship for exchange outside the Erasmus area, you have to tick 'Own resources' in the OASIS application in the option 'funding'.

Selection criteria

- The evaluation and selection will be executed by an independent jury. Two aspects will be of the utmost importance:
 1. The (academic) motivation for your stay abroad at the chosen institution/organisation.
 2. The extent to which you, as a student, need the scholarship in order to finance your stay abroad (based on a financial plan).
- During the selection, priority will be given to students from 'underrepresented groups'. The following categories are included:
 - Students who receive a Flemish study grant (confirmed by AHOVOKS)³;
 - Students with a disability (acknowledged by VAPH)⁴
 - Students who have a 'working student' status. The student has to be an employee or has to be looking for a job. His training has to be part of the process that has been suggested by the Public Employment Service to find a job. The student cannot yet have a master degree or a second-cycle degree.⁵

² How? See: <https://www.ugent.be/student/nl/studeren/naar-buitenland/procedure.htm>

³ The information registered by the Ministry of Education and Development's data warehouse is considered to be correct.

⁴ The information registered by the Ministry of Education and Development's data warehouse is considered to be correct.

⁵ The information registered by the Ministry of Education and Development's data warehouse is considered to be correct.

Important! If you do not belong to one of the above mentioned categories, do not hesitate to submit an application all the same. The selection committee uses a waterfall system: the largest scholarships go to students who need them most from a socio-economic point of view. However, if financial support is somewhat less necessary for you, you still have a chance for receiving a smaller scholarship such as a travel allowance. **We recommend you to submit an application all the same!**

- You can submit only one dossier, for one destination.
- The deadline is Thursday March 2, 2023, at 12:00 (Brussels Time) at the latest.
- The selection results will be published on Friday May 12, 2023 at the latest. You will be notified.
- Take into account that the partner institution/host organisation needs to accept a UGent-candidate, this remains a power of decision from the partner institution/host organisation. So your selection is final when the host institution accepts.
- Safety situation at your destination: sometimes for some countries travel restrictions apply or the general safety situation is uncertain. It's possible that you're granted a scholarship but that you will not be able to leave to your host country. For most destinations there are no problems but you will only receive admission to leave for an exchange if certain conditions are fulfilled: for instance positive travel advice from the Belgian authorities or no restrictive measures that seriously impede daily life in your host country. Receiving a scholarship is conditional and does not guarantee you will be given the green light to leave. We advise you not to incur any expenses for transport, accommodation, etc. prior to formal admission.

Portfolio : your application

Your portfolio is **in English** and contains the following elements:

1. **Academic motivation**
Why do you choose this particular institution/organisation, in that particular country?
2. **Preparation**
Explain how you plan to prepare your experience abroad from an administrative point of view (e.g. visa, insurance, passport, language skills). You do the same concerning health risks (e.g. vaccinations, information via the Institution of Tropical Medicine/Instituut voor Tropische Geneeskunde, possibly your own medical background: www.itg.be) and safety (see Travel Advice from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs: www.diplomatie.be).
3. **Financial plan**
Explain how you plan to finance your stay abroad (marked in euro's). How much do you think your stay abroad will cost (accommodation, meals, transportation, costs of living in the area, etc)? What income can you count on (support parents, holiday job and/or job during the academic year, savings, etc)?
4. **Socio-economic motivation**
Why do you need the scholarship the most from a **socio-economic point of view**? Here, you can also quote other personal reasons such as family situation, social circumstances, if you want to.
5. If you are going on an exchange for an internship or research that is part of your master's dissertation to a country on the VLIR-UOS list, we require some extra information (goals, activities, added value): you'll tick of 'Request VLIR-UOS' in your application file and you fill in two extra (VLIR-UOS) questions, in English, or in French if the mother tongue of the chosen destination is French. **You are obliged to answer the two extra questions if you are eligible for a VLIR-UOS scholarship.**
 - a) What are the goals of your assignment with respect to your studies and what will you do to achieve these goals? Specify what activities you are planning to do and what your function will be.
 - b) How do you think conducting your assignment in the South can be an added value? Explain it on different levels e.g. to your educational career, professional career, personal development, institution in the South.
 - c) **An invitation letter from the local promoter**, more specifically a letter of consent in which he/she confirms that he/she will be responsible for the local support. In the exceptional case that you cannot deliver the invitation letter from the local promoter in time, you must report this to travelgrants@UGent.be with appropriate motivation.
6. **Supporting documents**

If applicable, the necessary **supporting documents**. You can provide these documents in Dutch. Possible supporting documents can be:

- Evidence of disability, acknowledged by the Flemish Agency for Disabled Persons (Vlaams Agentschap voor Personen met een Handicap (VAPH));
- Evidence of study grant from the Flemish Community;
- Tax bill from your parent(s) or evidence of independent student with a minimum wage;
- Evidence of work process;
- Proof that you are part of a family with modified social circumstances which are not taken into account by the law on grants from the Flemish government;
- Pay slip of holiday job and/or job during academic year;
- Other

7. Learning Agreement

Your (provisional) **Learning Agreement**, signed on the UGent-side. If a learning agreement isn't added, your application will be declared inadmissible.

To be found:

- 'Learning Agreement for studies' (study):
 - 1- Create an exchange application in OASIS (oasis.ugent.be > 2023-2024 > exchange > new application);
 - 2- In the application tab 'Exchange curriculum', you enter the planned components of the training;
 - 3- In the application tab 'Documents', you can print the Learning Agreement, sign it and have it signed (if it isn't signed electronically) and add it to the attachments of your portfolio.
- 'Learning Agreement for traineeships' (internship):
See www.ugent.be/student/nl/studeren/naar-buitenland/la.htm > 'Other Exchanges' > fill it in, print it, sign it yourself, have it signed and add it to the attachments of your portfolio.
- 'Master's dissertation agreement' (Master's dissertation):
See www.ugent.be/student/nl/studeren/naar-buitenland/la.htm > 'Other Exchanges' > fill it in, print it, sign it yourself, have it signed and add it to the attachments of your portfolio.
Attention: at the question 'curriculum', don't just mention your study programme, but also for how many credits of your master's dissertation you'll stay at the host institution.

Attention!

- Incomplete files are NOT acceptable and will NOT be read. Don't forget the following things:
 - An exchange application in Oasis, and this application was selected by your faculty.
 - A (provisional) 'Learning Agreement for studies/for traineeship' or 'Master's dissertation agreement'.
- Fill in your period of stay as truthful as possible.
- You may be contacted during or after the selection process in order to provide additional information or to upload your details in an application tool of the authorities that issues the scholarship. It is also important to save the required documents during the selection process, until the publication of the selection results.

Way of submitting

You enter your details and portfolio via an online tool that was especially developed for this purpose:

<https://sharepoint.ugent.be/sites/nonerasmusgrants>

The tool is user friendly and self-explanatory. We give you some tips all the same:

- Select 'submit new application';
- You fill in all the fields under the different tabs;
- Make sure the name of the host institution is the same as in your exchange application in OASIS;
- If you tick 'VLIR-UOS' (you check the guidelines to see whether you are entitled to this), you enter extra information;
- Make sure you add all the mandatory (and permissive) attachments;
- If you click on 'save', you can always complete your portfolio via 'My application';
- When your portfolio is complete, you click on 'submit'. After this, you cannot change anything anymore. You do not receive a confirmation e-mail afterwards, but in 'My Application', you will see 'Yes' in the column 'Submitted'.
- In case you submitted (by accident) more dossiers, the last submitted dossier will be considered.

- Keep these guidelines always at hand when you create your portfolio. You can also find them via the SharePoint link. The guidelines include the relevant background information of the required details.

Timing

The deadline is Thursday March 2, 2023, at 12:00 (Brussels Time), at the latest.

Attention: This deadline will be applied strictly. Dossiers that are submitted later than 12:00, dossiers that are complete but were not submitted or incomplete dossiers will NOT be accepted and will NOT be read.

Communication of the selection results: May 12, 2023.

Allocation of the scholarships

Your scholarship application will be assessed by an independent panel of experts at UGent-level. Your application will not be assessed by a member of your faculty. Whether you will receive an allowance and the size of the scholarship will depend on the quality of your application file, the evidence of your financial need and the total amount of applications. It is possible we will receive more applications than available grants. Applications of low quality will not be eligible for funding.

Practical tips

- Are you aware of the instructions and guidelines?
- Make sure your file is correct and complete, and submitted on time (use the 'submit' button):
 - Did you complete the required information in the provided tool?
 - Be aware of the deadline to submit the file!
 - Incomplete dossiers, dossiers that are submitted too late and dossiers that are complete but were not submitted will not be considered.
 - Take into account that the readers do not know your personal and academic objectives and that they need to get a very clear picture of your aimed foreign experience.
- Take care of your application file:
 - Make sure your file is as specific as possible.
 - Add as many relevant evidence as possible.
 - Focus on the quality of your file: language, contents, etc.

Second call for scholarship applications: Autumn 2023

If you are – for academic reasons (for example trainee post unknown, subject Master's dissertation unknown) – not capable to hand in a dossier during this selection call (with deadline March 2, 2023), you will be able to submit an application file during a second call, in Autumn 2023 (application deadline will be communicated later). The scholarships during the Autumn call will be limited to some travel allowances (without monthly allowance). So it is to your own advantage to submit an application file during the current call (if possible for academic reasons).

Contact

Every student who is interested in a scholarship for a foreign stay outside the Erasmus area can contact his/her FCI in order to prepare the stay abroad. A list of FCI's can be found on: <http://www.ugent.be/nl/univgent/waarvoor-staat-ugent/internationalisering/fci.htm>

For additional general information, please contact the International Relations Office: International@ugent.be.