



Erasmus+ for higher education in Bhutan

What is Erasmus+ ?

Erasmus+ is the European Union (EU) programme for education, training, youth and sport for the period 2021-27. Erasmus+ funds academic mobility and cooperation projects that involve partners from 27 EU Member States and six associated countries* on the one hand (Erasmus+33), and from non-associated countries throughout the world on the other. Erasmus+ supports activities that are closely matched with the common priorities for cooperation policy with third countries and regions. These factsheets look at the extent of an individual country's involvement in this international dimension of Erasmus+ since the programme started in 2021, and compares its involvement in the 2014-2020 phase.

*These six countries are Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway, North Macedonia, Serbia and Türkiye.

International credit mobility (ICM)

Since 1987, HE students and staff have moved between European universities in the Erasmus programme. Since 2015, Erasmus+ has also allowed short-term mobility to Erasmus+33 countries from other parts of the world for students and for academic and administrative staff. This allows **students** to study in a foreign university for 2 - 12 months and obtain credits which are then recognised at the sending institution as part of their degree. The mobility can be from 5-30 days, if part of blended mobility (a combination of physical mobility with a virtual component). Traineeships are also possible. **Staff** mobility can be for 5-60 days.

There are distinct budgets for different regions of the world - some 9% is dedicated to mobility with Asian countries. The global budget is divided between the Erasmus+33 countries. Institutions from these countries make up bilateral partnerships with universities from Asian countries and apply on behalf of their partners. The first selection of projects in the 2021-27 phase was made in 2022. The figures below represent the mobility planned by projects selected each year.

	2021-27	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2014-20
Instances of university participation from Bhutan			49	45					
Students and staff moving to Erasmus+33	227		124	103					587
Students and staff moving to Bhutan	104		63	41					348
Percentage of mobility in region			5	3					2.8

Erasmus Mundus Joint Masters

Erasmus Mundus Joint Masters (EMJMs) award EU-funded scholarships to Master students worldwide. The programmes last from one to two years during which students study in at least two different Erasmus+33 countries, and obtain a joint, double, or multiple degree. Institutions from partner countries can also be part of the consortia that deliver these programmes (though this is not obligatory). They can take part as full degree-awarding partners - or as associated partners, where they participate in the programme in some kind of other capacity. Erasmus Mundus Design Measures (EMDMs), introduced in 2021, are preparatory projects to bring a joint programme to the point where it is ready to operate as an accredited joint degree programme, and apply to EMJM.

Bhutan in Erasmus Mundus projects	2021-27	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2014-20
Total EMJMs selected in call	91	27	30	34					239
Total EMJM proposals received in call	219	68	58	93					652
Proposals received involving Bhutan	1	0	1	0					5
Selected EMJMs involving Bhutan	1	0	1	0					5
Coordinators/partners from Bhutan in EMJMs	0	0	0	0					0
Associated partners from Bhutan in EMJMs	1	0	1	0					4
Total EM Design Measures selected	160	40	62	58					na
EMDMs selected involving Bhutan	0	0	0	0					na
Beneficiaries from Bhutan in EMDMs	0	0	0	0					na

Each EMJM receives EU funding to award a certain number of scholarships to students worldwide, covering tuition, travel, and a living allowance. Additional scholarships are also available for students from specific regions. Students can find the programmes on the Erasmus Mundus joint masters catalogue (see links), and apply directly to the programme coordinator. It is also possible to pursue EM Masters without a scholarship.

	2021-27	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2014-20
EM scholarship winners from Bhutan	12	3	6	3					14
<i>From global budget</i>	8	2	6	0					11
<i>From additional regional budget</i>	4	1	0	3					3
<i>Scholarships worldwide</i>	8 494	2 599	3 012	2883					11 851
EM programmes offering scholarships		141	157	146					348

Capacity-building for Higher Education

Erasmus+ Capacity Building in Higher Education action (CBHE) projects, which last from two to three years, are aimed at modernising and reforming higher education institutions, developing new curricula, improving governance, and building relationships between higher education and enterprises. They can also tackle policy topics and issues, preparing the ground for higher education reform, in cooperation with national authorities. Around 20% of the annual global budget for CBHE projects is earmarked for Asian countries. The first selection of projects in the 2021-27 phase was made in 2022.

	2021-27	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2014-2020
Bhutan in CBHE projects									
CBHE proposals received in call	1 410		620	790					4 830
CBHE projects selected in call	305		145	160					908
CBHE proposals received involving Bhutan	5		2	3					27
CBHE projects selected involving Bhutan	3		1	2					15
CBHE projects coordinated by Bhutan	1		0	1					2
Instances of participation from Bhutan in selected projects	4		1	3					20

Capacity building projects can be addressed to a group of countries or a single country. They can also be cross-regional, including institutions from different partner regions.

Jean Monnet Activities

Jean Monnet activities (JMA) aim to develop EU studies worldwide. Since 1989 they have been supporting Modules, Chairs, and Centres of Excellence to promote excellence in teaching and research on the European integration process at **higher education level**. The programme also supports policy debate with the academic world through networks and a number of associations in the domain of EU studies.

	2021-27	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2014-2020
Bhutan in Jean Monnet									
JMA higher education proposals received in call	2 582	782	780	1020					7 107
JMA higher education projects selected in call	952	251	356	345					1 650
Proposals received from Bhutan	0	0	0	0					0
Projects selected involving Bhutan	0	0	0	0					0
Networks involving partners from Bhutan	0	0	0	0					0

More information:

Erasmus+ website: http://ec.europa.eu/programmes/erasmus-plus/node_en

Erasmus+ projects & results: <http://ec.europa.eu/programmes/erasmus-plus/projects/>

Erasmus+ funding opportunities: http://eacea.ec.europa.eu/erasmus-plus/funding_en

Erasmus Mundus programme catalogue: https://eacea.ec.europa.eu/erasmus-plus/library/scholarships-catalogue_en

Reflects situation following 2023 selections