

APPLICANT GUIDE FOR MASTER STUDENTS

What are the main steps in preparing an application for A4U Erasmus+ grant?



1. Read the call

Read the Call carefully, and ensure you meet the eligibility requisites. B1 level of English is equivalent to score 42-71 in TOEFL iBT (after October 2016) and score 4,0-5,0 in IELTS. A table of equivalences of B1 level to other English certificates is available on <http://alliance4universities.eu/wp-content/uploads/2017/12/Tabla-de-equivalencia-de-niveles-en-idiomos-para-la-convocatoria-2017.pdf>.

2. Decide on the host university for your mobility

Applicants should check the course offer on the host university website, or use factsheets, published on <http://alliance4universities.eu/en/mobility-scholarships/>, for course offer as well as a snapshot of host universities, information on the academic calendar, available services and contact persons at the International Office. Get an initial idea of courses that you might take during mobility, making sure they are relevant to your subject area. Discuss the chosen courses with your academic tutor/International Office at your home university bearing in mind that the chosen courses will have to be recognized at your home university upon return.

Course offer at A4U universities can be checked on:

UAB: All Master courses: <https://www.uab.cat/web/study/graduate-1345666803994.html>

Master courses taught in English: <https://www.uab.cat/web/study/graduate/master-s-degrees-and-graduate-diplomas-in-english-1345671925069.html>

In case of any course-related questions, please visit the section of the webpage for International Students / Mobilitat Internacional and feel free to ask the International Mobility Office of the Faculty your questions. Their contact details are usually provided on the page.

UAM: https://uam.es/CentroEstudiosPosgrado/Listado-de-M%C3%A1steres-Oficiales/1446755975574.htm?language=es_ES&nodepath=Listado%20de%20M%C3%A1steres%20Oficiales&pid=1446755975574

UC3M Master courses <https://www.uc3m.es/postgraduate/programs>

3. Obtain two Transcripts of Records: one for Bachelor studies and another for the Master courses you have already taken.

The Transcripts of Records should indicate all the courses that were taken and evaluated.

4. Obtain a letter of support.

Obtain a letter of support from the International Office or your academic department at your home university. The letter should indicate the average mark for each of your transcript of records and confirm that your level of English language is at least B2. The International Office at your sending university might want to make sure that you are suitable candidate for mobility and have an internal pre-selection procedure for applicants.

5. Get your Learning Agreement signed

Familiarise yourself with the Learning Agreement available on <http://alliance4universities.eu/en/mobility-scholarships/>. Fill in the necessary information on p.1 of the Learning Agreement, get the “Commitment” table signed by the responsible academic at your sending institution, and sign it yourself. Scanned signatures are accepted. It is not necessary to fill in the rest of the Learning Agreement at the application stage.

The International Office at your home university may provide help filling in and getting the Learning Agreement signed. In case of any doubts on how to fill in the form, check the footnotes in the relevant fields.

6. Get a recommendation letter

Identify a referee who can provide a recommendation letter for you in Spanish or in English. It can be your academic tutor or another member of academic staff who can comment on your skills, personal attributes and suitability for mobility. The referee should know you well enough to be able to write positively about you and they should also know you relatively recently to be able to comment on your present development. There is no pre-defined format for the recommendation letter but the referee might want to address questions like:

1. How long and in what capacity have you known the applicant?
2. What are the strengths of the applicant?

3. How will the applicant benefit from a stay abroad?

Ask the referee to send the recommendation letter directly to A4U at coordinacion@a-4u.eu with “Recommendation letter” in the subject line, before the application deadline.

7. Write your motivation letter

Write a motivation statement in Spanish or in English outlining why you would like to go on mobility, and justifying your choice of host institution. There is no pre-defined format for the motivation letter.

8. Submit your application

Fill in the application form on <http://alliance4universities.eu/en/mobility-scholarships/>, and attach two Transcripts of Records (one for Bachelor studies and the other for Master courses already taken), the letter of support, the signed Learning Agreement, and the motivation letter. Make sure your referee sends the recommendation letter before the submission deadline. It is highly recommended you submit the application well in advance of the deadline so that we can check that it is complete and that you can make corrections if necessary.

It is possible to apply for two destinations, in which case the applicant should submit two separate applications. Transcripts of Records, letter of support and recommendation letter can be the same in both applications. Learning agreement and motivation letter should each be specific to the receiving institution.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS:

- **How do I choose courses to take at the receiving university, and who signs the learning agreement?**

It is the student who checks the courses available and chooses those that are relevant to his/her study programme at home university. This choice has to be validated by an academic responsible for mobility/international relations at the faculty/department, or head of your academic programme (e.g. Director of Bachelor Studies). In any case this person, usually an academic, has to have the authority to recognize credits obtained at the host university upon student's return to home university and it is him/her that signs the learning agreement. It can also be signed by the International Office provided they have the agreement of the academic in charge of recognition.

- **Is there a minimum or maximum credit requirement?**

While there is no a minimum or maximum number of ECTS that you have to take during mobility, the general rule is that your work load should be comparable to full-time work load at your home university, taking into account that you will studying in a different country, environment, possible in a different language. So check with your home university that your planned work load is comparable to that you would do at home.

Important: courses that you take abroad must be recognized by the home university and become part of your transcript of records.

- **Should I leave the ECTS field blank if the course catalogue does not specify the ECTS?**

No, get in touch with the International Office or the academic department that delivers the programme at receiving university to clarify it.

- **Can students take courses outside the field of study/faculty? E.g. students majoring in psychology might want to take courses on leadership.**

As a general rule, students should choose the majority of their courses from the same department/area of studies in which they are enrolled at their home universities. The host university will advise you on the possibility and specifics of taking courses from other departments, but please make sure first that your sending university will recognize courses that are outside your main field of study.

- **What happens if I fail to pass courses taken during mobility?**

This is a rare occurrence to start with, since the vast majority of students try their best to pass their chosen courses. If it does happen, A4U won't apply any penalties, and you will not be asked to reimburse the grant. It is up to the home institution to take any action if necessary.