

Tips for academic staff who consider hosting an Erasmus+ PhD student

When deciding if to host a PhD student who applies for an Erasmus+ mobility, you might like to consider the following:

- Student's expenses will be mostly covered by Erasmus+ grant, which includes a monthly allowance for accommodation and subsistence and a travel allowance, and the student is responsible for covering health insurance expenses. Your department will not need to provide any funds during his/her stay.
- The stay, usually 3-5 months long, can be for either study or research. If the stay is for research, which is most often the case, the student will engage in activities to help him/her advance in the research thesis, such as data collection, writing, archive work, lab or field work etc, depending on the nature of the research. Research will be done on a full-time basis.
- If the stay is for study (a much less common scenario), the student will take courses, which must be credited by your department. The studies will be on a full-time basis. The Learning Agreement signed before the mobility should include these courses to be taken by the student. The student would only need the usual mark and she/he would be responsible for recognition in his/her home institution.

Why host a PhD student:

- It is a way to bring diversity and fresh ideas into your research environment.
- It is an opportunity to internationalise your research group at zero cost in emerging countries and universities called to play a leading research role in the upcoming years.
- It is a way to broaden your expertise and access your research field in a different country without leaving your desk.
- Erasmus+ program works both ways. This might be the beginning of other forms of cooperation such as applying for an Erasmus+ mobility grant yourself, sending your doctoral students on exchange, joint projects etc. In the grant application, you, your colleagues or your students may mention the experience of hosting the doctoral stay to motivate the need to continue, update, or reinforce the existing collaboration between research groups and to apply for the corresponding Erasmus+ grant. Mutual visits often yield greater impact and produce a more long-lasting effect on cooperation.

What can the student expect from you:

- To agree a work plan and goals to be achieved at the beginning of the stay.
- To have regular meetings with you in order to be guided in the research, to have his/her progress monitored and to address any questions that might arise.
- To facilitate workspace at the department.
- To sign off a short report on activities undertaken during the mobility that the student will submit to you at the end of the stay. This report forms part of the recognition process of the student's visit by his/her home university.

How can you help the student to make the most of the stay:

- By introducing him/her to other doctoral students and academic staff at your or other departments who might share the same research interests. This will help the student to feel integrated and to network for future projects. You might want to pair the incoming student with one of PhD students at the department before the arrival so that the student can receive peer support and practical advice when it comes to arriving to Spain and easing into the university life. Such help is greatly appreciated by the incoming student and is an enriching experience for the home student. You might also want to inform the departmental international Mobility Coordinator that you will be hosting an Erasmus+ student.
- By encouraging the student to present his/her research at a departmental/group seminar in order to get exposure and have an opportunity to test ideas in a different environment.
- By facilitating student's participation in talks, conferences, or workshops relevant to his/her research that might take place at the university or nearby institutions during the stay.