

ERASMUS+ INTERNATIONAL CREDIT MOBILITY PROGRAMME

CALL FOR APPLICATIONS FOR INCOMING AND OUTGOING STUDENT MOBILITIES BETWEEN A4U UNIVERSITIES AND PARTNER UNIVERSITIES IN SUB- SAHARAN AFRICA AND IRAN DURING 2023-2024 AND 2024-2025 ACADEMIC YEARS

1. Purpose of the Call

Alliance of 4 Universities (A4U) is a strategic partnership of four Spanish public universities: Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona, Universidad Autónoma de Madrid, Universidad Carlos III de Madrid, and Universitat Pompeu Fabra in Barcelona. One of the objectives of A4U internationalization strategy is to promote mobility with leading universities in non-European countries.

A4U has been awarded funds under Erasmus+ International Credit Mobility Programme, which enables students from A4U universities and partner universities to undertake a mobility stay.

The main objectives of the mobilities are:

- To offer research and study development opportunities to students at participating universities, helping them achieve sustained improvements in their knowledge and research skills.
- To help mobility participants improve their professional, social and inter-cultural skills, as well as employability, and to promote cross-cultural exchange and dialogue.
- To forge lasting links between A4U universities and its partner universities, enhancing their transnational academic cooperation.

Mobilities announced in this call should be carried out in 2023-2024 and 2024-2025 academic years during the period of academic activity based on the academic calendar of the host university. All mobilities should end by 31 July 2025.

2. Participating higher education institutions and available funding

SUB-SAHARIAN AFRICA

Higher Education Institutions participating in the exchange

| | |
|--|---|
| SPAIN | SOUTH AFRICA |
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona 2. Universidad Autónoma de Madrid 3. Universidad Carlos III de Madrid 4. Universitat Pompeu Fabra, Barcelona | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. University of Pretoria 2. University of the Witwatersrand 3. Stellenbosch University 4. University of Cape Town 5. University of Western Cape 6. University of the Free State |
| | NAMIBIA |
| | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. University of Namibia 2. Namibia University of Science and Technology |

| | |
|------------------------------|---------------------|
| FIRMADO POR | FECHA FIRMA |
| MARUGAN CRUZ CAROLINA | 25-06-2023 23:26:47 |
| Sello de tiempo TS@ - @firma | 25-06-2023 23:26:52 |



| | |
|--|--|
| | <p style="text-align: center;">BOTSWANA</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> University of Botswana Botswana International University of Science and Technology <p style="text-align: center;">KENIA</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> University of Nairobi Kenyatta University <p style="text-align: center;">ETHIOPIA</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Addis Ababa University Wolaita Sodo University <p style="text-align: center;">IVORY COAST</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Ecole Nationale Supérieure de Statistique et d'Economie Appliquée |
|--|--|

Available grants: 3

1 grant for incoming or outgoing mobility with South Africa, and 2 grants for incoming or outgoing mobility with Namibia, Botswana, Kenya, Ethiopia and Ivory Coast.

| From | To | Level | Number of grants | Duration of stay | Grant amount | | |
|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|------------------|------------------|--------------|--------|---------------|
| | | | | | Subsistence | Travel | Total grant |
| South Africa | Spain | Bachelor, Master and PhD | 1 | 2-5 months | €850/month | €1.500 | €3.200-€5.750 |
| Spain | South Africa | PhD | | | €700/month | | €2.900-€5.000 |
| Namibia, Botswana, Kenya | Spain | Master and PhD | 2 | | €850/month | €820 | €2.520-€5.070 |
| Spain | Namibia, Botswana, Kenya | PhD | | | €700/month | | €2.220-€4.320 |
| Ethiopia, Ivory Coast | Spain | PhD | | | €850/month | | €2.520-€5.070 |
| Spain | Ivory Coast | PhD | | | €700/month | | €2.220-€4.320 |
| Top-up grants for participants from disadvantaged backgrounds are available. | | | | | | | |

IRAN

Higher Education Institutions participating in the exchange

| SPAIN | IRAN |
|--|---|
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona Universidad Autónoma de Madrid Universidad Carlos III de Madrid Universitat Pompeu Fabra, Barcelona | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> University of Tehran Allameh Tabataba'i University Amirkabir University of Technology Isfahan University of Technology |

| | |
|------------------------------|---------------------|
| FIRMADO POR | FECHA FIRMA |
| MARUGAN CRUZ CAROLINA | 25-06-2023 23:26:47 |
| Sello de tiempo TS@ - @firma | 25-06-2023 23:26:52 |



Available grants: 1 grant for incoming or outgoing mobility to Iran.

| From | To | Level | Number of grants | Duration of stay | Grant amount | | |
|--|-------|-------|------------------|------------------|--------------|--------|-------------------|
| | | | | | Subsistence | Travel | Total grant |
| Iran | Spain | PhD | 1 | 2-5 months | €850/month | €820 | €2.520- €5.070 |
| Spain | Iran | PhD | | | €700/month | €820 | €2.220- €4.320 |
| 1 top-up grant for participants from disadvantaged backgrounds is available. | | | | | | | |

3. General conditions

The call is open to all subject areas. Applicants must check that their request matches the offer available at the host university.

The mobility grant consists of a travel allowance and a monthly subsistence allowance according to the flat rates determined by the Erasmus+ Programme (see table above). The grant should be regarded as a **contribution** towards the costs of mobility rather than covering 100% of the involved costs¹.

Selected participants will need to advance their own funds when organizing their stay, such as visa, insurance, flights and accommodation, since the mobility grant will be paid only once their stay begins (see procedures for grants payment in section 9). It is highly advisable to make bookings (flights, accommodation etc.) on conditions that allow reimbursement in case of cancellation of travel.

The mobility period can be from a minimum of 2 months to a maximum of 5 months.

During mobility, Bachelor and Master students are expected to follow the chosen courses and take exams as required. The credit workload at the receiving institution should be comparable to a full-time credit workload at home institution.

PhD students should engage in research towards their doctoral thesis. It is possible for PhD students to continue their mobility in online mode once the onsite stay is over. That is, once the student is back to the country of residence, s/he may continue to be supervised by the host supervisor for an agreed period of time. Such mobilities will be considered as blended. Online extensions of PhD students' onsite stays will not be financed because there will not be any travel and subsistence costs involved.

An **Interinstitutional Agreement** between the home and the host universities must be signed before the start of the mobility.

¹ As a guideline, the average monthly living expenses in Madrid or Barcelona are 400-600€ for a shared flat (student residence can be even more expensive) and €250-300 for food.

| | |
|------------------------------|---------------------|
| FIRMADO POR | FECHA FIRMA |
| MARUGAN CRUZ CAROLINA | 25-06-2023 23:26:47 |
| Sello de tiempo TS@ - @firma | 25-06-2023 23:26:52 |



4. Eligibility requisites

To be admitted to the selection process, applicants must meet the following requirements:

- To be enrolled for a recognized Bachelor, Master or doctoral degree at their sending institution at the time of application and during the mobility.
- To have at least B2 level in the language in which planned mobility activities will be conducted.
- To take responsibility for carrying out the mobility in 2023-2024 or in 2024-2025 during the period of academic activity based on the academic calendar of the host university. All mobilities should end by 31 July 2025.
- To submit all the required documents by the application deadline.

Lower priority will be given to applicants who already received an Erasmus+ KA107 grant for the same study cycle. Mobility awarded under this call will count towards the maximum of 12 months allowed per study cycle.

4. Timeline

| | |
|--|--|
| Call opens | Upon publication on A4U website |
| Call closes | 8 September |
| Publication of provisionally admitted applications | 20 September |
| Cure period: candidates can remedy their applications in case of any clerical errors or incomplete documentation | 21-30 September |
| Publication of final list of admitted applications | 5 October |
| Publication of selection results | 20 October 2023 |

A4U universities will be closed from 31 July to 1 September 2023 for summer holidays.

6. Inclusion

Candidates from disadvantaged backgrounds, with special needs or disabilities are encouraged to apply. They may receive additional funding in order to cover costs directly related to their participation in the mobility.

| Eligible costs and applicable rules | Amount |
|---|-----------------|
| Participants from disadvantaged backgrounds are eligible for additional funding if they meet one of the following criteria: | Top-up grant of |

| | |
|------------------------------|---------------------|
| FIRMADO POR | FECHA FIRMA |
| MARUGAN CRUZ CAROLINA | 25-06-2023 23:26:47 |
| Sello de tiempo TS@ - @firma | 25-06-2023 23:26:52 |



| | |
|---|---------------------------------------|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recipient of state aid for studies or a fee waiver, • Having a refugee status, subsidiary protection or having applied for international protection in the sending country, • Having a certified disability equal to or greater than 33 per cent, <p>To be duly documented by the applicant and confirmed by the sending institution.</p> <p>Applicants that come from an officially recognised disadvantaged socio-economic background in the sending country (e.g. low income, risk of social exclusion, vulnerable families etc.), might also be eligible for a top-up grant. They should indicate their disadvantaged status on the online application form, and attach the official documentation certifying it.</p> <p>The number of top-up grants reserved for disadvantaged participants from each geographical region is indicated in the Annex.</p> | 250€ per month |
| <p>Participants with special needs or disabilities, whose additional costs cannot be covered through the above top-up grant, can apply to have 100% of their additional costs covered. Such additional costs can be for special accommodation, transportation, preparatory visits and expenses of accompanying persons.</p> <p>Eligible applicants:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • must have a certified disability equal to or greater than 33 per cent, or • have duly accredited physical, mental or health related conditions, such as serious or chronic illnesses, which prevent participation in mobility. <p>The request for the additional costs must be presented by the applicant, and have the support of the sending institution. Additional funding will be subject to approval by the Spanish National Agency.</p> | Real cost (or 100% of eligible costs) |

7. Application process

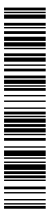
The call and the application form will be published on A4U website <http://alliance4universities.eu/en/mobility-scholarships/>. All partner universities websites will refer to it by publishing an announcement.

Applicants must complete an online application form and attach the following documentation:

| | |
|--|---|
| <p>Bachelor and Master students</p> | <p>1. Transcript of academic records. In case of Master students, transcripts of records should be submitted: one for the completed Bachelor degree and the other for the Master degree, in which they are enrolled.</p> <p>2. Nomination letter provided by the sending university, which should indicate the average mark for the applicant's transcript of records (in case of Master students, for two transcripts of records), and confirm that the applicant's level of language is minimum B2.</p> |
|--|---|

| | |
|------------------------------|---------------------|
| FIRMADO POR | FECHA FIRMA |
| MARUGAN CRUZ CAROLINA | 25-06-2023 23:26:47 |
| Sello de tiempo TS@ - @firma | 25-06-2023 23:26:52 |





| | |
|--|--|
| | <p>3. Learning Agreement signed by the applicant and the sending institution. Applicants should complete ONLY the 1st page of the Learning Agreement. Scanned signatures are accepted.</p> <p>4. Motivation letter.</p> <p>5. Recommendation letter, which should NOT be attached to the online application form but instead sent directly by an academic referee to coordinacion@a-4u.eu with “Recommendation letter” in subject field by the application deadline.</p> <p>6. Official documentation that certifies the disadvantaged background, if applying for a top-up grant for disadvantaged participants.</p> |
| <p style="text-align: center;">PhD students</p> | <p>1. CV</p> <p>2. Learning Agreement signed by the applicant, the thesis supervisor at the home university and the host academic at the receiving university. Applicants should complete ONLY the first 2 pages of the Learning Agreement. Scanned signatures are accepted. Students applying for Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona should also provide the invitation letter by the host academic.</p> <p>3. Recommendation letter, which should not be attached to the online application form but instead sent directly by the referee to coordinacion@a-4u.eu with “Recommendation letter” in the subject field by the application deadline.</p> <p>4. Official documentation that certifies the disadvantaged background, if applying for a top-up grant for disadvantaged participants.</p> |

Students can apply for a maximum of two destinations, in which case two separate applications should be submitted. Transcript of records, nomination letter and recommendation letter can be the same in both applications. Learning agreement and motivation letter should each be specific to the receiving institution.

International Offices of the participating institutions may assist applicants in the application process. For contact details of A4U universities, check Section 12 of this Call. Contact details of

non-European partner universities can be found in the factsheets available on A4U website <http://alliance4universities.eu/en/mobility-scholarships/>.

8. Evaluation criteria and selection

Grants will be awarded on a competitive basis, based on the evaluation of applications by A4U Selection Committee consisting of the Directors of International Relations and Vice-rectors for International Relations of A4U universities, with the support of A4U International Project Manager.

| | |
|------------------------------|---------------------|
| FIRMADO POR | FECHA FIRMA |
| MARUGAN CRUZ CAROLINA | 25-06-2023 23:26:47 |
| Sello de tiempo TS@ - @firma | 25-06-2023 23:26:52 |

Evaluation criteria:

| | |
|-------------------------------------|---|
| Bachelor and Master students | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Academic qualifications of the candidate based on the transcript of records (60% of the total score). Candidate's profile based on the recommendation (20% of the total score) and motivation letters (20% of the total score). |
| PhD students | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Quality of the research proposal in the learning agreement, matching with the research areas at the host university and expected impact of the research stay, Academic qualifications and research experience according to CV, Recommendation letter, Motivation according to the statement in the learning agreement. |

If two or more applications are of similar quality, the decision will be guided by:

- seeking gender balance,
- seeking a balanced distribution of grants among A4U universities.

If there is competition for top-up grants, the selection will be based on the criteria specified above.

The mobility of participants with special needs or disabilities will be conditional on the capacity of the host university to receive them.

The Selection Committee reserves the right to re-distribute grants:

- across STUDENT and STAFF categories and IN and OUT flows within the same country,
- across different countries within the same region.
-

If there are more applicants than grants available, reserve candidates will be placed on a waiting list and called upon if a grant becomes available.

More grants may be generated or extensions granted if funds are available.

Selection results will be published on A4U website <http://alliance4universities.eu/en/mobility-scholarships/> and will be announced to the beneficiaries and partner universities by e-mail.

9. Grant payment procedure

The grant is calculated according to the real arrival and departure dates reported by the host institution, taking into consideration its academic calendars.

Students going from non-European countries to Spain: upon their arrival to Spain, the student needs to open a Spanish bank account, where their grant will be paid via a bank transfer. The first instalment of 70% of the total grant will be paid once the student has reported their arrival to the

7

| | |
|------------------------------|---------------------|
| FIRMADO POR | FECHA FIRMA |
| MARUGAN CRUZ CAROLINA | 25-06-2023 23:26:47 |
| Sello de tiempo TS@ - @firma | 25-06-2023 23:26:52 |



receiving institution and submitted the Grant Agreement. If it is impossible for the student to open a bank account, the grant can be paid by cheque. The second instalment of 30% of the total grant will be paid at the end of the mobility when the student has received a certificate of attendance from the host university and has completed an online EU survey.

Students going from Spain to non-European countries: the procedure is as above, with the only difference that the grant will be paid into the participant's bank account in Spain.

10. Rights of the beneficiary

- To receive the grant according to the fixed rates set out in the Erasmus+ Programme guidelines and proportionate to the duration of mobility.
- To benefit from the tuition fee waiver as a student, notwithstanding other fees for the use of certain services or activities that might be applicable.
- To receive information and advice on the application procedure from home university, as well as pre-departure and on-site guidance from the host university.
- To have the study period abroad recognized by their home university.
- For disadvantaged participants that receive top-up funding: to receive a pre-financing of the grant so that the costs that they need to cover upfront are reduced.

11. Obligations of the beneficiary

- To carry out the mobility according to the study proposal and committed dates during 2023-2024 or 2024-2025 academic year, and ending by 31 July 2025.
- To be in possession of an adequate medical insurance throughout the mobility period according to Erasmus+ programme rules. All participants must be insured against the risks linked to their participation in mobility activities. The insurance must cover:
 - medical expenses and accidents, including permanent or temporary incapacity,
 - death, including repatriation,
 - third party liability.

The cost of the insurance will be covered by the participants themselves. A4U recommends OnCampus HealthCare insurance, but participants are free to choose a different product as long as it meets the requirements above.

- To obtain the visa for the stay in the receiving country and bear the costs of obtaining the visa.
- To book flights and accommodation in the country of destination. For this, beneficiaries need to advance their own funds since the mobility grant will be paid only once their stay begins.
- To take Online Language Training before starting their mobility.
- To participate, if requested, in sharing their mobility experience.
- To complete the required procedures and fill in the necessary documents as per Erasmus+ Programme before, during and after the mobility period, meeting the deadlines established by A4U. Before mobility: signature of the Learning Agreement and the Grant Agreement. After mobility: submission of the Certificate of Attendance and online EU survey.
- Any other obligation inherent to the Erasmus+ Programme and the internal regulations of the home and host institutions.

12. Information

Should any doubt arise over the interpretation of this Call, the Selection Committee will decide on the case and interpret it in the light of Erasmus+ Programme Guidelines.

| FIRMADO POR | FECHA FIRMA |
|------------------------------|---------------------|
| MARUGAN CRUZ CAROLINA | 25-06-2023 23:26:47 |
| Sello de tiempo TS@ - @firma | 25-06-2023 23:26:52 |



A4U International Project Manager will be in charge of the general coordination and management of this Call and will be the initial point of contact for applicants and beneficiaries.

Dr Olga Belova
A4U International Project Manager
coordinacion@a-4u.eu
+34 935 422 079

International Relations Services at A4U universities will provide support to incoming and outgoing applicants at the application stage and during mobility.

Mobility Office at Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona (UAB):
erasmus.ka107@uab.cat / +34 93 586 8256

Mobility Office at Universidad Autónoma de Madrid (UAM):
erasmus.ka107.em@uam.es / +34 91 497 2935

Mobility Office at Universidad Carlos III de Madrid (UC3M):
erasmuska171@uc3m.es / +34 91 624 8658

International Relations Office at Universidad Pompeu Fabra (UPF):
oma.incoming@upf.edu / +34 935 42 2504

Any additional information on this call will be published on A4U website
<http://alliance4universities.eu/en/mobility-scholarships/>

Prof. Carolina Marugán Cruz
Vice-Rector for Internationalisation, Universidad Carlos III de Madrid,
on behalf of Alianza 4 Universidades Selection Committee

| FIRMADO POR | FECHA FIRMA |
|------------------------------|---------------------|
| MARUGAN CRUZ CAROLINA | 25-06-2023 23:26:47 |
| Sello de tiempo TS@ - @firma | 25-06-2023 23:26:52 |