

EU cooperation with Asia-Pacific countries through Erasmus+

What is Erasmus+ ?

Erasmus+ is the European Union (EU) programme for education, training, youth and sport for the period 2014-2020. Erasmus+ funds academic and youth mobility and cooperation projects that involve partners from "Programme Countries" and "Partner Countries" throughout the world. In 2020, there were 34 Programme Countries, comprising the 27 EU Member States plus seven other European countries. Partner Countries are located all over the world, and a wide number of opportunities are open to industrialised countries from the Asia-Pacific region. For the Erasmus+ programme this means Australia, Brunei, Hong Kong, Japan, Macao, New Zealand, Singapore, South Korea and Taiwan.

This factsheet looks at the way these countries have been involved in Erasmus+ from 2014-2020: these opportunities are set to continue on the new Erasmus+ programme, 2021-2027.

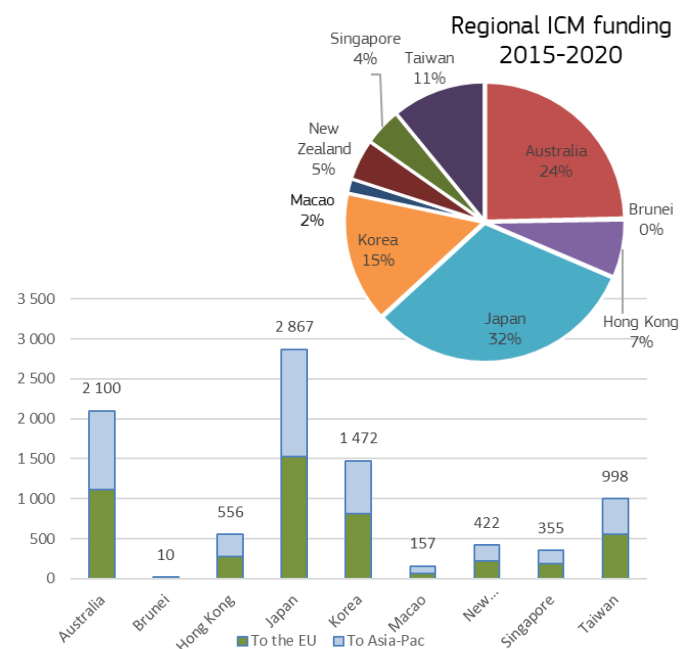
International credit mobility

For over 30 years, students and staff have moved between European universities in the Erasmus programme. Since 2015, Erasmus+ also allows short-term mobility between Europe and other parts of the world for students, researchers, and staff (known as International Credit Mobility or ICM). This two-way mobility allows students to study in a foreign university for 3-12 months (2-12 months in case of traineeships) and obtain credits which are then recognised at the sending institution as part of their degree. A grant for staff mobility is also possible for 5-60 days.

There are distinct budgets for different regions of the world that are divided between all 34 Programme Countries. Programme-Country institutions make up bilateral partnerships with universities from the Asia-Pacific region and apply on behalf of their partners.

The budget for industrialised Asia-Pacific countries makes up **around 5% of the entire international mobility budget** and so far has funded 2 500 projects for bilateral partnerships that organise **mobility for almost 9 000 students, researchers, and staff**.

Erasmus+ student and staff mobility between Europe and Asia-Pacific countries: 2 500 projects, some 9 000 people moving, 2015-2020



In the three annual selections of project from 2015 to 2018, the **University of Melbourne**, Australia, had agreements with universities in Vienna and Salzburg (Austria), Prague (Czechia), Munich (Germany), Rome, Trento (Italy), Reykjavik (Iceland), Twente (Netherlands), Ghent and Louvain-la-Neuve (Belgium) Wroclaw (Poland), Lisbon (Portugal) and Birmingham (UK). Overall Melbourne sent 75 individuals to Europe and hosted 40 in Australia.

As part of its 2016 ICM project, the **Universitat Politècnica de Catalunya** in Barcelona, Spain, had agreements with HEIs in three Asia-Pacific countries. 19 individuals visit UPC from the Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology RMIT (Australia), Nagaoka University of Technology and Tokyo Geijyutsu Daigaku (Japan) and Hanyang University (Republic of Korea). In turn, UPC sends 17 people to these HEIs and to Keio University and the Kyoto Institute of Technology (Japan).

Erasmus Mundus Joint Master Degrees

Erasmus Mundus Joint Master Degrees (EMJMDs) award full-degree scholarships to Master students from around the world covering tuition, travel, and a living allowance. The programmes last from one to two years during which students study in at least two different European countries. Upon graduation, they are awarded a joint or double degree, or multiple degrees.

Students look for the available programmes in the EMJMD Catalogue and apply directly to the programme coordinator: https://eacea.ec.europa.eu/erasmus-plus/library/emjmd-catalogue_en

Institutions from countries in the Asia-Pacific region can also be part of the consortia that deliver these programmes, as full partners, which means they officially award degrees, or as associated partners, where they participate in the programme in

some kind of capacity, but do not award the actual joint degree. In 2019 a pilot call was held to select three EU-Japan joint master programmes, with funding and participation from Japan and Europe.

Asia-Pacific partners

From 2014 to 2020, there have been **18 cases of institutions from Asia-Pacific countries taking part in EMJMDs as full partners**. Japan provided seven, including two cases from Osaka University, while Australian universities were partner on four occasions, twice each by the University of Technology Sydney and Macquarie University. **A further 148 have played an associate role, involved in 73 of the 251 selected EMJMDs.**

Erasmus Mundus and
Asia-Pacific,
2014-2020

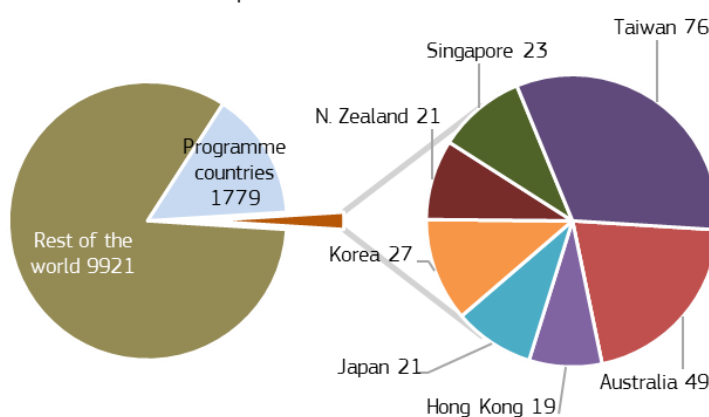


236 scholarships
for Master students



18 full partners
from Asia-Pacific

EMJMD Scholarships Asia-Pacific 2014-2020



EUROQUAE+

This joint master programme builds on European experience of implementing strict EU standards for water management, and the key role that IT has played in the process of improving and managing water resources and infrastructure.

The programme takes a much wider view by working closely with institutions from a range of Partner Countries, sharing business models and teaching on hydroinformatics. These partners from Singapore, Republic of Korea, China, Argentina, Brazil, Mexico, India and Switzerland join the Programme-Country institutions from the UK, Poland, Spain and Germany, under the coordination of the Université de Nice Sophia Antipolis (France).

Jean Monnet Activities

Jean Monnet (JM) activities aim to develop EU studies worldwide. For over 25 years 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. Out of a total of **1 862 successful applications to Jean Monnet between 2014 and 2020, 125 are from countries in the Asia-Pacific**, including projects managed by institutions from 8 countries. They include 21 JM Chairs, 24 JM Modules, 21 Centres of Excellence, 16 Networks, 49 JM Projects and 8 Associations. See some [examples](#).

Jean Monnet Centre of Excellence - Kyushu

This project run by the National University Corporation Kyushu University in Fukuoka, Japan contributes to the promotion of European Studies, especially at post graduate level and integrates the EU Diploma Programmes entirely into the regular curriculum of the University. Training and outreach involving local officials, industrial and commercial stakeholders contribute to a bigger impact and dissemination, as well as strong synergies.

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 Students and Alumni Association: www.em-a.eu

Study in Europe: <http://ec.europa.eu/education/study-in-europe/>