

**MERIT**  
**Master of Science in Research on**  
**Information and Communication Technologies**

**Duration:** 2 years

**Course description:**

MERIT is a multitrack research-oriented master program based on a flexible curriculum that covers a wide area of knowledge in the field of Information and Communication Technologies. The institutions participating in the consortium, located in Spain, Belgium, Germany, Italy and Sweden belong to the CLUSTER (Consortium Linking Universities of Science and Technology for Education and Research <http://www.cluster.org>).

The Master Course covers Information and Communication Technologies in a broad sense, including fundamentals such as electromagnetism, signal processing, and information theory, and applications such as communications, remote sensing and image and voice processing. The language of instruction is English and the program includes local language courses up to 6 ECTS per academic year.

The master is organized in three 15-week semesters in which students take courses followed by a fourth semester devoted to the completion of the Master Thesis, which is an original research work in the specialization field selected by the student. During the first three semesters the student registers a total of 90 ECTS in courses. The Master Thesis corresponds to an effort of 30 ECTS, which means that by the end of the second year the student completes 120 ECTS. The student mobility is organized on a yearly basis so that the student spends the first academic year in one institution and the second year in a different one. The student registers 60 ECTS in each institution, which are fully recognized by its counterpart so that, after successfully completing 120 ECTS, the student is awarded with the degree of the two institutions where he or she has carried out the academic and research activities.

The program is research oriented, and thus concentrates on the development of research skills. Graduates of the Course may want to pursue careers in a research institution by completing a Ph.D. degree, joining industrial R&D departments or perhaps starting a technology spin-off company. Therefore, strong emphasis is placed during the Master Course on the student's personal work programme, which is focused on developing research skills. Admission is subject to the approval of the MERIT Academic Committee and is restricted to 50 students. All students should have completed a Bachelor's degree in Electrical or Telecommunication Engineering or related field. Admission criteria include but are not limited to the applicant's capacity and motivation, recommendations and English language skills. Each admitted student is assigned a specialization track, a compatible mobility plan and an advisor. The student to professor ratio is less than one.

**Website:** <http://www.meritmaster.org/>

**Partners:**

TECHNICAL UNIVERSITY OF CATALONIA, Spain (Co-ordinating institution)  
ROYAL INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY, Sweden  
TECHNICAL UNIVERSITY OF TURIN, Italy  
CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY OF LOUVAIN, Belgium  
KARLSRUHE INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY, Germany

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**Maximum grant:**

583 200 € (30 000 € consortium + 553 200 € scholarships), 2010  
465 800 € (30 000 € consortium + 435 800 € scholarships), 2011  
490 800 € (30 000 € consortium + 460 800 € scholarships), 2012  
451 400 € (30 000 € consortium + 421 400 € scholarships), 2013