

TROPIMUNDO
Erasmus Mundus Masters Course in Tropical Biodiversity and Ecosystems

Duration: 24 months

Course description:

The Erasmus Mundus Masters Course in Tropical Biodiversity and Ecosystems (TROPIMUNDO) is the 1st MSc program (2 yrs, 120 ECTS) that integrates the knowledge and skills related to four adjacent interlinked tropical ecosystems under threat (tropical rainforests and woodlands, mangrove forests, seagrass beds and coral reefs), and needed to understand, protect and manage tropical biodiversity in an era characterised by an international biodiversity crisis with imminent risks of extinction of species due to global warming and anthropogenic impacts such as habitat destruction and changes in land use.

TROPIMUNDO is unique in incorporating a 2nd semester (with theoretical courses and a large field course) under the tropics in Peru (Universidad Científica del Perú), Cameroon (Université de Dschang) or Australia (University of Queensland). Together with the 5 European partners in Belgium (Université Libre de Bruxelles, Vrije Universiteit Brussel), France (Université Pierre et Marie Curie, Muséum National d'Histoire Naturelle) and Italy (Università degli Studi di Firenze) they integrate long-standing scientific education and research expertise on the aforementioned tropical ecosystems and experience in designing and teaching in international MSc programs. The 1st semester primarily aims at teaching basic courses in Europe, whereas the 3rd one focuses on specialised courses at one of the European partners. The 4th and last semester is dedicated to the thesis, which will be jointly supervised by 3 or 4 partners. Graduates obtain a joint or multiple degree. TROPIMUNDO's learning outcomes stretch far beyond academic knowledge and insight, but also aim at demonstrating enhanced capabilities in effective analysis and communication, independence, creativity and assertiveness, critical judgement, and ethical and social understanding. TROPIMUNDO maximises the radiation of European languages by offering a content and language integrated learning program (French + English), and it is delivered in a society that is French, English, Dutch, Italian or Spanish-speaking, which is valorised using buddy programs and Tandem Learning. This aims at improving the student's language capabilities for which all facilities are provided by all partners.

TROPIMUNDO management will be handled by a multi-level and shared responsibility involving 4 decision bodies (Steering, Selection, Internal Evaluation and External Evaluation), and 1 main execution structure (Coordination Office), all operating with equal commitment by the partners. A series of Associated Partners, including scientific institutes, governmental and non-governmental organisations responsible for conservation or management of tropical ecosystems and their biodiversity, and public authorities, agreed to advertise the program, to provide or to communicate existing placements, jobs, internships or thesis perspectives and scholarships, and to assist in evaluating the program. This links TROPIMUNDO to the real world.

Website: <http://www.tropimundo.eu>

Partners:

UNIVERSITÉ LIBRE DE BRUXELLES, Belgium (Co-ordinating Institution)
UNIVERSITY OF QUEENSLAND, Australia
VRIJE UNIVERSITEIT BRUSSEL, Belgium
UNIVERSITÉ DE DSCHANG, Cameroon
MUSÉUM NATIONAL D'HISTOIRE NATURELLE, France
UNIVERSITÉ PIERRE ET MARIE CURIE, France
UNIVERSITÀ DEGLI STUDI DI FIRENZE, Italy
UNIVERSIDAD CIENTÍFICA DEL PERÚ, Peru

Contact:

Farid DAHDOUH-GUEBAS
Biologie des Organismes / Sciences
Av. F.D. Roosevelt 50 / CPI 169, 50
B - 1050 Brussels
Email: fdahdouh@ulb.ac.be

Maximum grant:

787 200 € (30 000 € consortium + 757 200 € scholarships), 2013