



ERASMUS+ PROGRAMME ERASMUS MUNDUS JOINT MASTER DEGREES JOINT CALL EU-JAPAN 2019 (EAC/A03/2018)

Partnership between Erasmus Mundus and the Inter-University Exchange Project (IUEP) of the Japanese Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (MEXT)

Frequently Asked Questions

(Latest update: March 2019)

The following "questions and answers" on aspects related to the action "*Erasmus Mundus Joint Master Degrees Joint Call EU Japan*" (EMJMD-IUEP) are published as a source of information for applicants intending to submit a project proposal.

Please note that the primary sources of information remain the [call for proposals 2019 \(EAC/A03/2018\)](#), the [Erasmus+ Programme Guide](#) (especially Part B, Key Action 1: "*Erasmus Mundus Joint Master Degrees*", including the Annex I on EMJMD). These information sources constitute your first reference to guide you through your EMJMD application; they can be consulted along with further instructions for completing the Application Package in the EMJMD call section at the Agency website: http://eacea.ec.europa.eu/erasmus-plus/funding_en

The Erasmus+ Programme Guide specifies key terms, explains the nature and functioning of EMJMD, presents the funding scheme, and outlines the application/selection procedures in the context of this action. Most of the answers to questions which may arise for EMJMD applicants can be obtained from a close reading of the Programme Guide, for instance:

- the eligibility criteria (e.g. is my organisation eligible, what is the minimum consortium size, etc.);
- the Award Criteria that applicants need to address in their proposal;
- the way EMJMD scholarships are allocated.

If you have specific queries where you consider that further explanations and/or clarifications by the Agency are needed for a more complete understanding of the EMJMD rules, then you can send an email to the following mailbox and you will receive an answer as soon as possible from our staff:

EACEA-EPLUS-EMJMD@ec.europa.eu

Abbreviations:

EACEA: Education, Audiovisual and Culture Executive Agency

EMJMD: Erasmus Mundus Joint Master Degrees

HEI: Higher Education Institution

JSPS: Japanese Society for the Promotion of Science

MEXT: Japanese Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology



A) Questions on general and institutional matters

Q1 : The successful completion of the joint master programme must lead to the award of either a joint or multiple degrees. Does this condition apply also to programmes co-funded by the EU-MEXT?

Q2 : Is it compulsory to deliver joint degrees?

Answer:

According to the Erasmus+ Programme Guide, the successful completion of the joint master programme must lead to the award of either a joint or multiple degrees. For consortia co-funded by the EU and MEXT, the joint or multiple degree(s) must be issued by at least two degree-awarding HEIs, one from a Programme Country and one from Japan. Further information and clarifications on this point are provided in the dedicated funding section of the [FACEA website](#).

Q3 : Will consortia applying for the EU-MEXT funding be able to benefit from a preparatory year?

Answer:

Yes, the possibility to undertake a preparatory year is also available for the EU-MEXT partnerships.

Q4 : How will the mobility of an EU-MEXT partnership be structured? Must all the scholarship holders be hosted by the Japanese partner HEI?

Answer:

In the framework of an EU-MEXT partnership one of the two mandatory student mobility periods must take place in Japan while the other in a Programme Country HEI represented in the consortium.

Q5 : What is the amount that the Japanese partner should apply for? What is the total sum of EMJMD scholarships funded by the Japanese Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (MEXT)?

Q6 : Is there balance between the EU and JP scholarships?

Answer:

The requirements published in the Erasmus + Programme guide concerning the EMJMD-IUEP projects imply reciprocity in the funding mechanism. It is therefore expected that the co-financing of each project will be balanced and that the number of scholarships requested by applicants to the two funding institutions will match. In any case the EU grant requested cannot be higher than 50% of the total EMJMD-IUEP budget. The EU grant will follow the already existing EMJMD funding principles (management lump sum, participation costs, subsistence costs etc.). The Japanese coordinating HEI partner of the consortium will liaise with the Japanese authorities for the MEXT side of the funding. Applicants should finalise their grant requests taking into account the expected reciprocity in the funding mechanism.

Q7 : Will the application have to be submitted in EN and JP? Both times, or only when submitting in Japan?

Answer:

The application submitted to the Executive Agency for the EU-funding must be submitted in one of the three EU working languages (EN, FR, DE). The same proposal must also be submitted to the Japan Society for the Promotion of Science (JSPS), together with the application package documents required for the MEXT funding. For additional information about the Japanese application and funding procedures, please see the MEXT/JSPS funding webpage: http://www.mext.go.jp/a_menu/koutou/kaikaku/sekaitenkai/1413413.htm



Q8 : Can one of the degree-awarding partners offer only credits?

Answer:

At least three HEIs established in a Programme Country and at least one HEI established in Japan must be involved as partners in the EMJMD consortia co-funded by the EU and MEXT and must be Master degree-awarding institutions. Any HEI involved as partner must be able to deliver the credits corresponding to the study period carried out in their institutions. The minimum condition for mobility and corresponding credits is 20 ECTS for one year joint programmes and 30 ECTS for 1,5 and 2 years joint programmes. In terms of degree awarded the minimum condition is to issue a joint or multiple degree(s) by at least two of the Master degree-awarding HEIs involved as partners, one from a Programme Country and one from Japan.

Q9 : Are other Partner Country HEIs eligible? (e.g. from Brazil)

Answer:

Yes. As outlined in the Programme Guide, a participating organisation can be any public or private organisation, with its affiliated entities (if any), established in a Programme Country or in a Partner Country that contributes directly and actively to the delivery of the EMJMD. Partner Country HEIs other than Japanese HEIs may take part and will be funded by the EU.

Q10 : How will JP partners be able to ensure continuity during the last year without MEXT funding?

Q11 : Will different funding periods for JP (5 years) and EU (maximum 6 years) affect running of projects?

Answer:

The arrangements for the MEXT funding must be clarified by the Japanese coordinator directly with the relevant Japanese authorities.

Q12 : Will this Call for proposals be repeated again next year? Are there any plans to develop this type of joint activities with other countries?

Answer:

The EU-MEXT partnership is a pilot action in the framework of the 2019 EMJMD call for proposals. Any further development will be decided in due time, building on its results.

Q13 : Beside joint master, will co-funding made available also for joint doctorate?

Answer:

Regarding the funding at Doctoral level, the opportunities available at the moment are those offered in the framework of the Marie Skłodowska-Curie actions, part of the EU's Horizon 2020 programme for research and innovation. Since 2014 new Doctoral programmes and additional Doctoral fellowships have been available under the Marie Skłodowska-Curie actions. For more information please visit their [website](#).

Q14 : Beside the minimum consortium composition, what is the expected average consortium size?

Answer:

There is not an expected average size of the consortium beyond the minimum required (three HEIs from Programme Countries and one HEI from Japan). The consortium composition should be designed in such a way to guarantee the highest quality of the proposed joint master in all its elements.



Q15 : Should the joint project be developed on the basis of an existing activity or could it be a completely new master programme? What about accreditation in this case?

Answer:

An EU-MEXT funded EMJMD can be built on an existing activity or be a completely new programme. Higher Education institutions that are full partners of the Consortium and established in a Programme Country must be able to demonstrate at application stage that they have fulfilled the external quality assurance requirements of their jurisdiction (e.g. accreditation or evaluation) for the joint programme i.e. the accreditation or evaluation of their degree awarding Master programme on the basis of which the EMJMD-IUEP programme is composed. The same applies also in the case the proposed EMJMD-IUEP study programme is the result of a completely new curriculum that cannot be associated with already existing and accredited national Master programmes.

Q16 : Will the EMJMD-IUEP projects be co-managed and how?

Answer:

The EMJMD-IUEP projects will be co-managed. The minimum eligibility conditions require that the consortium includes at least 3 HEIs from 3 different Erasmus+ Programme Countries and at least 1 HEI from Japan, which should all be master degree-awarding institution. The at least one, obligatory Japanese partner must be designated as the coordinator for the Japanese side in addition to the obligatory Programme country coordinator. A Consortium agreement will be signed between all the partners involved. The distribution of EU-MEXT funded scholarships among the partners and the mobility tracks will depend on previously agreed internal consortium arrangements among the partners.

Q17 : How will the Consortia deal with the differences in the academic calendars between the EU Programme countries and Japanese HEIs?

Answer:

The Programme Guide specifies that the EMJMD-IUEP projects must start between 1 August and 31 October 2019. These dates refer to the official start of the overall project and not to the start of an academic intake. The organisation of the academic intakes and the interaction between the academic calendars will be the subject of internal consortium arrangements established between partners for the benefit of the project. It is therefore up to the Consortium partners to find the way to reconcile the academic calendars offering coherent mobility tracks to the students which must be mutually recognised by the partners.

Q18 : Will the Erasmus Charter for Higher Education (ECHE) requirement apply also to JP?

Answer:

No, only HEIs established in a Programme Country must hold a valid ECHE. An ECHE is not required for participating Partner Country HEIs.

Q19 : Are there any priority academic fields? Can the EMJMD-IUEP be developed in any academic field?

Answer:

There is no restriction in the field of studies chosen by the applicants. Consortia may propose EMJMD-IUEP programmes in any field of studies according to their expertise and specialisation.



B) Questions related to student mobility, scholarships, and EMJMD implementing rules

Q20 : Are there differences in the numbers of scholarships available for the EMJMD grant and for the EU-MEXT partnerships and are additional scholarships for targeted regions available for EU-MEXT programmes?

Q21 : How does division of the 64 scholarships over 4 intakes per project work?

Answer:

The maximum number of scholarships that will be attributed to the *EMJMD* consortia (*EMJMD* standard, EU funding) and to the *EMJMD-Partnership with Japan* consortia (EU-MEXT funding) are not the same. For the latter, a maximum of 32 scholarships will be funded by the EU and 32 by MEXT (i.e. a maximum of 64 in total for four intakes, half funded from the EU budget and half from the Japanese budget). There is no specific methodology to be followed concerning the distribution of the EU-MEXT funded scholarships over the four intakes. As mentioned in the Programme Guide, the consortia that will be co-funded by the EU and MEXT are not eligible to apply for additional scholarships for targeted regions/countries of the world.

Q22 : Will the MEXT scholarships offer the same financial support as the EMJMD scholarships described in the Programme Guide?

Answer:

The Japan side scholarship scheme will differ from the EU one. For example, travel costs for Japanese students are not paid in the scholarships, but rather in the management costs provided to the Japanese HEI member. The max. value of a Japanese monthly scholarship will be of YEN 100.000 corresponding to ~ EUR 794.

At the time of application, in the EU budget form for the “estimated MEXT budget”, applicants should indicate the amount corresponding to project expenses (only management costs but not the scholarships amount) as well as the number of scholarships requested to MEXT. Consequently, the estimated budget of the two sides (EU and Japan) will not necessarily be 50%-50% in the EU budget form. However, it is expected that the sum of the “estimated MEXT budget” and the (theoretical) maximum amount of the total number of scholarships requested to MEXT (e.g. nr. of requested scholarships*duration*max. 100.000 YEN per month) is at least equivalent to the “requested EU budget”.

Q23 : Is the 3-month rule applicable for the students attending a joint programme funded by the EU-MEXT partnership?

Answer:

The 3-month rule does not apply to the partner country scholarship holders of the EMJMDs co-funded by the EU and MEXT.

Q24 : What is the minimum period a student can spend at any university and still be entitled to receive a degree? In addition to taught classes, does thesis work carried out in other partner institutions count?

Answer:

In line with the EMJMD-IUEP academic and mobility requirements, there is a minimum mobility period of 20 ECTS (for one year joint programmes) and 30 ECTS (for 1,5 and 2 years joint programmes) to be spent in at least two HEIs partners of the consortium, one in a Programme country and one in Japan. This requirement has been agreed with the Japanese Ministry of education, culture, sports, science and technology. Consortia will have to design and implement mobility paths which will lead to the award of the joint or multiple master degree by the HEIs where the study periods take place, still in compliance with the applicable national legislations.

Q25 : Will the EMJMD-IUEP programmes have a maximum duration of 2 years (4 semesters) or are longer programmes possible too?

Answer:



The maximum duration of the academic edition of the EMJMD –IUEP is 2 consecutive academic years. The Consortium will receive funding for 4 consecutive intakes (academic editions) of the course. Additional funding can be requested for a 1-year preparatory period. These requirements are defined in the E+ programme guide and outline the mandatory timeframe.

Q26 : Will I have to split the scholarships evenly between EU and JP students each year? Even if there is only one Japanese HEI? What about third country students? Will they be covered by the EU scholarships?

Q27 : Does the fact that the funding scheme is evenly financed by Japan and EU funds means that 50% of the students have to be chosen by the Japanese HEIs (with regard to the amounts of scholarships to be distributed and not to the selection process which will be carried out jointly?)

Q28 : Are there any prerequisites with regard to the nationality of the students that will receive the MEXT scholarships?

Answer:

The distribution of EU-MEXT funded scholarships among the partners and the intakes will depend on internal consortium arrangements. The EU-funded scholarships can be awarded to both Programme and Partner Country students, while stricter requirements are applicable for the Japanese side of the funding and must be clarified with the competent Japanese authorities. For further information on the specific requirements (including nationality) to obtain the MEXT scholarships, please contact the Japan Society for the Promotion of Science (JPPS) at the following address: tenkai-jsps@jsps.go.jp.

Q29 : How should Consortia use the contribution to the consortium management amount? Will the amount be divided among all Consortium partners? Does this mean that the Programme country institutions will receive half of the contribution to the consortium management than any other regular EMJMD?

Answer:

The Programme country partners will be funded via the EMJMD-IUEP EU funding which will cover the preparatory year costs (if applicable), the Consortium management costs for the "EU part" of the partnership and the costs related to the scholarships of the EMJMD EU funded students. This is the standard funding for an EMJMD. As mentioned above the Japanese partner institutions will be funded by the MEXT funding instrument.

Q30 : Are the Japanese HEIs eligible for EU funding through the contribution for participation costs that result from the EMJMD EU funded scholarships? Can these amounts be used to cover the mobility of Japanese teaching staff?

Answer:

The participation costs that are an integral part of the EMJMD scholarship will be paid to the EMJMD-IUEP Consortium and may be used according to the agreements that all partners have reached and documented in the Consortium Agreement. It is expected that Japanese institutions which receive MEXT funding would not receive also a share of the EU-funded participation costs for the very same activity. However, as mentioned above, it will be up to the Consortium to decide how to distribute and use the contributions to the students' participation costs.

Q31 : Can the EU funding contribution to the Consortium management costs be used to cover the mobility of Japanese teaching staff or this should be covered by MEXT funding?

Answer:

Similarly to Q29, the use of the EU Consortium management costs should be agreed by all Consortium partners taking into account the notion of reciprocity within the Partnership and avoiding to finance twice the same activity.

Q32 : Will the co-funding provided by MEXT be used exclusively for Japanese students? How will the grant be allocated in a balanced way to the consortium taking into account that the partners from the Programme countries -in the minimum consortium composition- are more numerous than the partners from Japan?

Answer:



Indeed the co-funding that will be provided by MEXT will benefit directly the Japanese higher education institutions and students. Although at least one Japanese HEI will be partner of the consortium, the EU grant will benefit the Programme country HEIs, as it happens in any other EMJMD project. The allocation of the budget within the consortium is then jointly agreed by the partners composing the partnership, taking into account that the Japanese partner will receive the MEXT funding already. It is to be noted that beyond the minimum partnership composition of three Programme country HEIs and one Japanese HEI, additional partners (from Programme or Partner countries including Japan) can be added.

Q33: *Is the geographical criterion (no more than 3 candidates from the same country/with the same nationality should be awarded an EMJMD scholarship during the same intake) applicable for the students attending a joint programme funded by the EU-MEXT partnership?*

Answer:

This condition does not apply to Japanese students within the consortia co-funded by the EU and MEXT.

Q34: *How many Japanese students can receive a scholarship? What is the targeted balance of EU, Japanese and non-EU or non-Japanese students?*

Answer:

There are no restrictions based on nationality in order to obtain the EU funded scholarship with the exception of the geographical balance rule: maximum three scholarship holders from the same country per category of scholarship. As mentioned in the Programme Guide (Annex I), the geographical criterion will not apply to the Japanese students within the consortia co-funded by the EU and MEXT. The balance between EU and non-EU or Japanese scholarship holders should be discussed internally by the EMJMD-IUEP Consortium and be subject of an internal agreement between the partners. Furthermore, the rule that defines that a minimum of 75% of EMJMD EU-funded scholarships must be earmarked for candidates from Partner countries does not apply to consortia funded by EU and MEXT. Regarding the conditions to obtain the MEXT scholarships, please refer to the Japan Society for the Promotion of Science (JSPS): tenkai-jsps@jsps.go.jp.

Q35: *Will the Japanese coordinators receive funding for the management of the project and the scholarships including the participation costs? Will the Japanese scholarships be paid directly to the students?*

Answer:

As regards the modalities of the Japanese funding, your partners would need to refer to the relevant Japanese authorities. As indicated in the 'Instructions for completing the application package' further information can be obtained by contacting the Japanese Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (MEXT) at: tenkai@mext.go.jp, or the Japan Society for the Promotion of Science (JSPS) at: tenkai-jsps@jsps.go.jp.

Q36: *Is the waiving of tuition fees for the Japanese students attending study periods in Japan with EU scholarships to be settled through the Consortium agreement?*

Answer:

As already mentioned in Q30, the use and distribution of participation costs is decided at Consortium level, according to the agreements that all partners have reached and documented in the Consortium Agreement. However, following the EMJMD standards, the participation costs for the EU-funded students will be covered by the EU grant. It is expected that the EU-funded students will receive a fee waiver for their mandatory mobility in Japan, and that the same will apply to Japanese scholarship holders for their study period in Europe.

Q37: *Can students not registered in one of the Consortium partner institutions apply for a scholarship?*

Answer:



Education, Audiovisual and Culture Executive Agency

Erasmus+: Higher Education – Erasmus Mundus Joint Master Degrees

The EMJMD-IUEP consortium may promote the joint programme internationally in order to attract the best students world-wide. The EU funded scholarships are not available only for the students registered in the partner HEIs at the time of the application. Regarding the conditions applicable to the Japanese students, please refer to the Japan Society for the Promotion of Science (JPPS): tenkai-jsps@jsps.go.jp.

Q38 : *Can a student candidates on both side (Japan/EU) ?*

Answer:

This is something to be agreed at Consortium level. However, for this specific Action; it is expected that Japanese students are funded by the MEXT, while the EU funding will be reserved for programme country students and any other partner country students.