

## CALL FOR APPLICATIONS FOR CO-FINANCING STUDENT AND STAFF MOBILITY FOR ERASMUS+ BLENDED INTENSIVE PROGRAMMES (BIP) IN PROGRAMME COUNTRIES

### BASIC CONDITIONS FOR APPLICATION FOR A BIP

Blended Intensive Programmes (BIPs) are programmes that use innovative learning and teaching methods, including the use of online cooperation. The programmes may include challenge-based learning, where transnational and transdisciplinary teams work together to tackle challenges. BIPs aim to enable new and more flexible forms of student and staff exchanges, combining physical and virtual mobility.

This call is open to **students** and **staff** of the University of Maribor (hereafter: applicants) who have been accepted to a BIP organised by a **partner higher education institution** from **Erasmus+ programme countries**.

**Partner institutions** are those institutions with which an Erasmus+ Inter-Institutional Agreement has been signed. The list of partner institutions is published in the annex to this call for applications.

**Programme (participating) countries** are the European Union Member States, Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway, Turkey, North Macedonia and Serbia.

Participants are required to take part in a **short-term physical mobility abroad** combined with a compulsory **virtual component**, facilitating collaborative online learning exchange and teamwork.

**The physical component must last for a minimum of 5 consecutive days and can last for a maximum of 30 days.**

For the successful completion of the programme, the students will be awarded a minimum of **3 ECTS credits**.

The call is open to applicants who fulfil the following basic conditions of the Erasmus+ programme:

#### 1. Students

- A. The students must have an **active student status** at the home faculty of the University of Maribor for the entire duration of the BIP.
- B. The students **must not exceed the maximum total duration of mobility** (Erasmus+ study and traineeship) during the time of participation in the BIP. Under Erasmus+, students have the possibility of mobility for up to a total of 12 months at each level of study\*, during which they can participate in studies and/or traineeship several times. In one-cycle study programmes students have the possibility to obtain a financial grant for a total of 24 months.<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> In the 12-month period per study cycle – or 24 months for one-cycle study programmes – previous mobilities under Erasmus+ and/or Erasmus Mundus are also included.

- C. **The students may participate in an Erasmus+ Blended Intensive Programme a maximum of two times during their entire study period. This limit includes participations within the project years 2022, 2023, and 2024;**
- D. The students must take part in a BIP in a country which is neither the country of the sending institution nor the country in which the students reside during their studies.
- E. Students who are employed may apply for this call only if their employer will not cover their expenses during the exchange period based on an issued travel order.
- F. Students who have outstanding financial obligations under University of Maribor mobility programmes are not eligible to apply for this call.

## 2. Staff

- A. Staff members must be employed according to the Employment Relationships Act (fixed-term or indefinite period, full-time or part-time) or work at the UM on the basis of a work contract or copyright contract.
- B. If the staff member is simultaneously employed at another higher education institution or higher vocational college, they must submit a certificate from that institution or college stating that they have not received co-financing from another employer for the same mobility.

The UM staff may apply for this call only for participation in BIPs organised for staff training.

The participant and the faculty sending the participant on mobility are responsible for the economic use of resources and the choice of the most economical services for the mobility and for compliance with national legislation.

If the UM teaching staff give lectures at a BIP organised for students, they can apply for mobility co-funding under the terms of the call for staff mobility co-funding published on the UM website: [Erasmus+ Staff Mobility](#). If the staff give a minimum of 8 hours of lectures for students at the host institution (in one week), it is possible to apply for "Staff Mobility for Teaching": STA; if the staff give a minimum of 4 hours of lectures for students (in one week) combined with training in his/her field of work at the host institution, it is possible to apply for a combined mobility "Staff Mobility for Teaching and Training": STA/STT. The applicant's lectures must be listed in the official programme of the BIP organiser.

## APPLICATION PROCEDURE

The applicant must find a BIP (Blended Intensive Programme) on their own and apply for it according to the application procedure prescribed by the BIP organizer. To assist in finding suitable BIPs, their offerings will be regularly updated on the Erasmus+ programme website.

If the applicant is accepted to a BIP, they must submit an application for an Erasmus+ financial grant to the University of Maribor to the email address [bip.erasmus@um.si](mailto:bip.erasmus@um.si):

### 1. Students

- A. **Apply online at <https://aips.um.si/>.** Access to the online application is possible with the University of Maribor digital identity. Select "Study (Študij)" in the top tab, then select "Exchanges (Izmenjave)" in

the side menu. When you apply for a new exchange, you must select the relevant academic year and the type of exchange "Erasmus+ Blended Intensive Programmes (kombinirani intenzivni programi)".

- B. **Statement on Participation in the Erasmus+ Project.**
- C. A confirmed **Learning Agreement**. The host institution usually sends students its own version of the LA or provides instructions for applying through the Online Learning Agreement (OLA). If not, complete the LA available on our website. The LA must be signed by the student, the Erasmus faculty coordinator at the home institution, and the host institution.
- D. **Acceptance Letter**, which the student receives from the host institution after completing all the required documents.
- E. Check which **top-ups** to the Erasmus+ grant you are eligible for and fill in the forms:
  - **Top-up for students with fewer opportunities** (100.00 EUR or 150.00 EUR)
  - **Inclusion support for participants with special needs** (actual costs)

Students participating in mobility through Erasmus+ are required by the rules of the Erasmus+ programme to take the OLS online language assessment before or at the start of the mobility if the mobility lasts more than 14 days. The purpose of this assessment is to enable students to improve their language skills through an online language course and to check the level of progress in their foreign language skills during the mobility. More information and a link to the OLS programme can be found on the [OLS LANGUAGE SUPPORT](#) page.

Students can also check accommodation options, insurance, visa and residence permit conditions with the partner institution.

## 2. Staff

- A. **Mobility Agreement**
- B. **Cost Estimate**
- C. **BIP Statement – Staff**

## SELECTION PROCEDURE FOR STUDENTS

If more students apply for a particular BIP than the host institution can accept, and the latter requests that the UM select students, the UM will conduct a selection procedure based on the following criteria:

1. Relevance of the BIP to the student's current studies – priority will be given to students whose BIP content is directly related to their field of study.
2. Level of study – students in higher levels of study will be given priority over undergraduate students.
3. Year of study – students in higher years will be given priority over those in lower years.
4. Average grade – a higher average grade will be given priority as it indicates consistent academic performance.

## FINANCIAL SUPPORT AND ADDITIONAL FUNDING

Applicants are eligible for the following Erasmus+ grants and top-ups:

- **ERASMUS+ GRANT**

The applicant is not automatically entitled to an Erasmus+ grant, but must apply for one in accordance with this call for applications.

**The Erasmus+ grant only co-finance the costs of living abroad and does not cover the full costs.**

The Erasmus+ grant amounts for participation in a BIP are the following:

## **1. STUDENTS**

### **1. Individual support for students**

Table 1: Daily amounts of the Erasmus+ grant for students

	Duration of the physical activity	Daily amount
For all groups of countries	Up to the 14th day of activity	79,00 EUR
	15th to the 30th day of activity	56,00 EUR

If necessary, individual support can also include two travel days in the case of “non-green” travel and six travel days in the case of green travel.

### **2. Travel support for students**

The participant is entitled to travel support on the basis of their application for an Erasmus+ BIP. The amount of the support depends on the distance to the place of the BIP according to the following table:

Travel distance	Green travel – amount	Non-green travel – amount
From 10 to 99 km	56 EUR per participant	28 EUR per participant
From 100 to 499 km	285 EUR per participant	211 EUR per participant
From 500 to 1 999 km	417 EUR per participant	309 EUR per participant
From 2 000 to 2 999 km	535 EUR per participant	395 EUR per participant
From 3 000 to 3 999 km	785 EUR per participant	580 EUR per participant
From 4 000 to 7 999 km	1188 EUR per participant	1188 EUR per participant
8 000 km or more	1 735 EUR per participant	1 735 EUR per participant

“Travel distance” means the distance between the place of origin and the venue of the activity, and “amount” includes travel support to and from the venue of the activity.

All participants eligible for green travel **are entitled to the Green Travel Amount and, if applicable, to an additional Erasmus financial grant for travel time before and after the traineeship, with a maximum of six travel days.**

**Green travel is defined as travel that uses low-emission means of transport, such as bus, train or vehicle sharing.** Travel distances must be calculated using the distance calculator supported by the European Commission: [https://ec.europa.eu/programmes/erasmus-plus/resources/distance-calculator\\_sl](https://ec.europa.eu/programmes/erasmus-plus/resources/distance-calculator_sl).

**The green travel amount will be paid if more than half (more than 50%) of the journey measured in kilometres with the Erasmus+ distance calculator was defined as green travel.**

All participants who do not meet the conditions for green travel are entitled to the “non-green” travel amount and, if applicable, **to an additional Erasmus financial grant for travel time before and after the traineeship, with a maximum of two travel days.**

## 1. STAFF

### 2.1 Individual support for staff

Table 2: Daily amounts of the Erasmus+ grant for staff

Groups of countries	Daily amount	
	Up to the 14th day of activity	15th to the 30th day of activity
Group 1 – countries with higher living costs Austria, Belgium, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Norway, Sweden	190,00 EUR	133,00 EUR
Group 2 – countries with medium living costs Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Estonia, Greece, Latvia, Malta, Portugal, Slovakia, Spain	170,00 EUR	119,00 EUR
Group 3 – countries with lower living costs Bulgaria, Croatia, Lithuania, Hungary, Poland, Romania, North Macedonia, Serbia, Turkey	148,00 EUR	103,60 EUR

### 1.2. Travel support for staff

Table 3: Travel support by distance for staff

The participant is entitled to travel support on the basis of their application for an Erasmus+ BIP. The amount of the support depends on the distance to the place of the BIP according to the following table:

Travel distance	Green travel – amount	Non-green travel – amount
From 10 to 99 km	56 EUR per participant	28 EUR per participant
From 100 to 499 km	285 EUR per participant	211 EUR per participant
From 500 to 1 999 km	417 EUR per participant	309 EUR per participant
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8 000 km or more	1 735 EUR per participant	1 735 EUR per participant

“Travel distance” means the distance between the place of origin and the venue of the activity, and “amount” includes travel support to and from the venue of the activity.

All participants eligible for green travel **are entitled to the Green Travel Amount and, if applicable, to an additional Erasmus financial grant for travel time before and after the traineeship, with a maximum of six travel days.**

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**The green travel amount will be paid if more than half (more than 50%) of the journey measured in kilometres with the Erasmus+ distance calculator was defined as green travel.**

All participants who do not meet the conditions for green travel are entitled to the “non-green” travel amount and, if applicable, **to an additional Erasmus financial grant for travel time before and after the traineeship, with a maximum of two travel days.**

**DEADLINE for submitting the Erasmus+ grant application:** at least 30 days before the start of the mobility.

- **TOP-UP FOR STUDENTS WITH FEWER OPPORTUNITIES**

Students are eligible for a **one-off** top-up for students with fewer opportunities and **travel support** if they fulfil one of the criteria set out in the attached Call for additional funding for students with fewer opportunities.

The one-off top-up is 100 EUR for a physical mobility activity period of 5–14 days and 150 EUR for the one of 15–30 days.

The student applies for the top-up on the enclosed application form.

- **INCLUSION SUPPORT FOR PARTICIPANTS WITH SPECIAL NEEDS**

Students with special needs who will be awarded an Erasmus+ grant can apply for additional Erasmus+ funding.

Under Erasmus+, participants with special needs are entitled to special consideration not only in determining the conditions for co-financing, but also in providing and offering comprehensive support in the decision to go on mobility, monitoring during mobility and integration upon return. Persons with special needs include individuals who need the implementation of programmes with additional professional support or adaptations based on the nature of their specific special needs.

An Erasmus+ mobility participant with special needs submits the application on the prescribed form together with the required attachments to the International Relations Office of the University of Maribor and does not send it directly to the CMEPIUS National Agency.

**The additional funding for participants with special needs is based on real costs, which must be supported by receipts. 100% of eligible costs actually incurred will be reimbursed.**

**DEADLINE for submitting applications:** 40 days before the start of the mobility of the participant with special needs.

### **OTHER PROVISIONS**

The Erasmus+ partner institution may not charge visiting students for tuition fees, registration fees, exams, library access, use of laboratories, etc.; the student may only be charged small amounts for insurance (basic/essential), membership in a student organisation, small materials (copies, laboratory materials, etc.).

**Coordinator of the call and contact person:**

**Tadeja Tement, Erasmus Coordinator**

**University of Maribor**

**International Cooperation and Mobility Programmes Office**

[bip.erasmus@um.si](mailto:bip.erasmus@um.si)