

# Student toolkit

ACADEMIC YEAR 2023/2024

N.B. the Student toolkit is the subject of changes whenever new regulations come to the force. The affected students will be informed about the changes by email.

The latest version will be available on the <https://www.eu-conexus.eu/en/marine-biotechnology/>

# Student toolkit

Get oriented at the [EU-CONEXUS](#) joint Master programme in Marine Biotechnology [intercampus!](#)

2023/2024

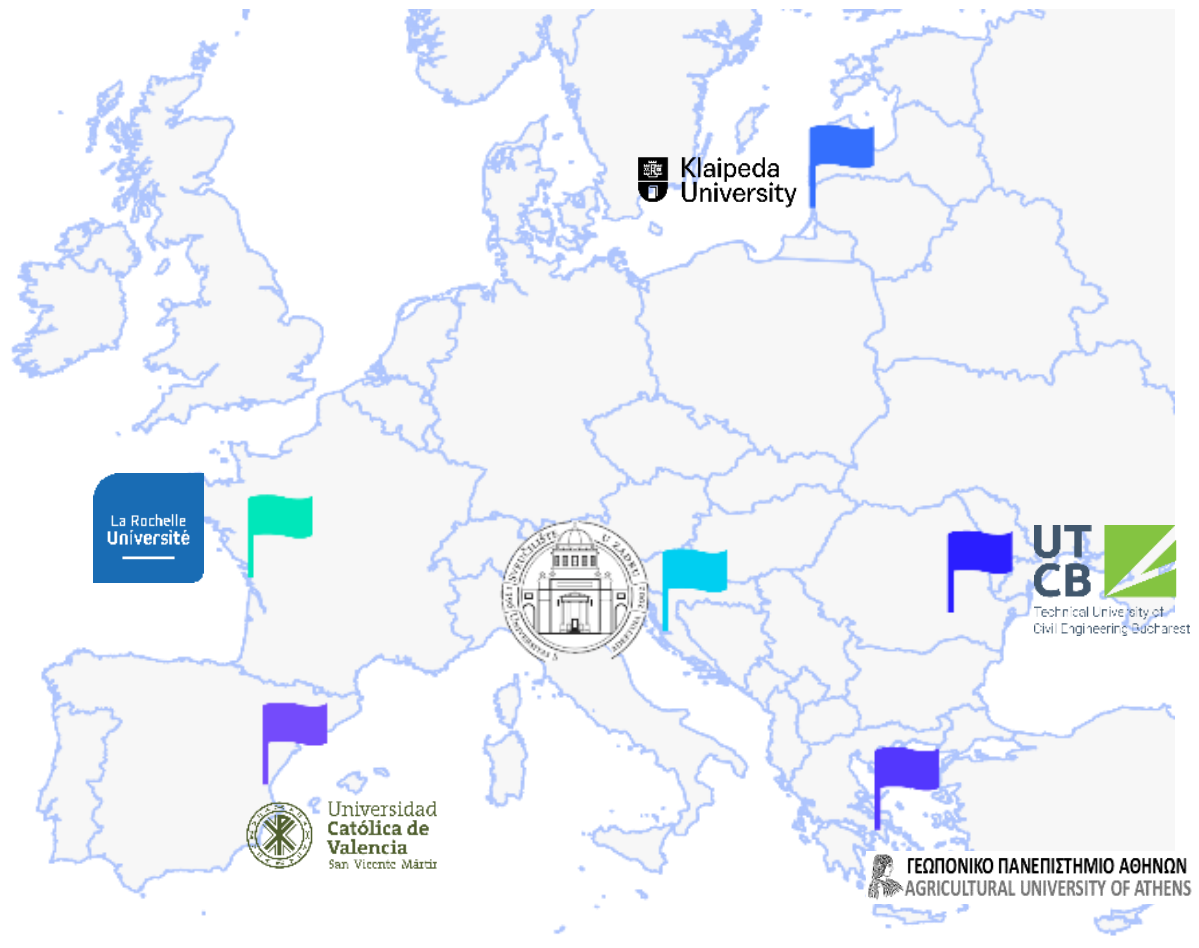


# Welcome to EU-CONEXUS intercampus!

The European University for Smart Urban Coastal Sustainability (EU-CONEXUS) is a transnational European higher education and research institution that covers the smart urban sustainable coastal development from a global point of view.

EU-CONEXUS is formed of 6 European universities, which are located in France, Greece, Romania, Lithuania, Spain and Croatia:

- La Rochelle Université (LRUniv),
- Agricultural University of Athens (AUA),
- Universitatea Tehnică de Construcții București (*in English* Technical University of Civil Engineering Bucharest) (UTCB),
- Klaipėdos Universitetas (*in English* Klaipeda University) (KU),
- Universidad Católica de Valencia (UCV),
- Sveučilište u Zadru (*in English* University of Zadar) (UNIZD).



Together we created the international joint Master's degree programme in Marine Biotechnology.

EU-CONEXUS universities, offering Master programme of Marine Biotechnology, are autonomous universities, acting according to their national and institutional legislation, but nevertheless they are aiming to harmonise the services and procedures to make the international programmes' students to

move within the consortium easier and smoother and enjoy the studies and student life with minimal paperwork. EU-CONEXUS Buddy programme assists each and every student to move between the universities, whether for a semester or for short project.



## **EU-CONEXUS OPENS UP OPPORTUNITIES TO INTERNATIONAL CURRICULA, CAREER AND EXPERIENCE**

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## 1. Programme content and mobility: plan your itinerary.

Title of the programme:	Joint Master programme in Marine Biotechnology (JMPMB)
Official length of the programme:	120 ECTS, 2-year studies
Mode of study:	Full-time studies
Qualification degree:	Master's Degree in Marine Biotechnology (or equivalent according to the national qualification of participating universities/countries)
Field of study (ISCED):	05 Natural sciences, mathematics, and statistics
Tracks:	- Innovative Bioproducts for Future - Blue Biomass - Marine Biorefinery - Aquaculture Biotechnology
Language of studies:	English
Type of diploma	Combination of Joint diploma and double degree
Access to:	third cycle (doctoral) studies and/or labour market

The 120 ECTS joint Master programme consists of

- **Core courses** (54 ECTS) are taught throughout the 1<sup>st</sup> academic year in the areas of Marine Omics, Marine Biodiversity Prospecting, Blue Biotechnology Business & R&D Management and Biochemistry of Marine Natural Products,
- **Internship** (6 ECTS) is carried out at the end of the 2<sup>nd</sup> semester of the 1<sup>st</sup> academic year. The professional practice prepares students in a very practical way for future employment,
- **Optional courses** (taught virtually) of the chosen **track** (specialisation) (16 ECTS),
- Each track is completed with a course called **Academic Research Integration** (14 ECTS),
- **Master Thesis** (30 ECTS).

The student enrolled in the Programme has a mandatory mobility among the universities of the Consortium with a full academic acknowledgement of the credits acquired. During the two years of the Programme, the Student must study in at least two universities of the Consortium, even though we highly recommend choosing a new host university every semester. Students will spend at least two study periods (30 ECTS or equivalent) in two countries which are different from the country of residence of the student at enrolment.

The joint Master programme in Marine Biotechnology is designed to ensure that students (1) get essential training in key subjects related to marine biotechnology, (2) have the opportunity to thematically specialise, (3) can tailor their study programme to their aspirations via individual professional practice (internship), individual research (academic research integration) and thesis work. JMPMB includes a wide range of mobility opportunities but also ensures integration in a group and a network in the best possible circumstances. By using multiple teaching approaches, it offers an open learning environment to a multicultural group of students.

### Syllabi of joint Master programme in Marine Biotechnology

Year 1		Core courses	Semester 1 Mobility 1		UCV -Spain-				
			Genomics, Proteomics and Metabolomics for Marine Biodiversity Prospecting	6 ECTS					
			Marine Microbiome and Metagenomics	6 ECTS					
			Culture Collections and Biobanks	8 ECTS					
			Marine Biodiversity for Marine Natural Products	4 ECTS					
			Blue Biotechnology Business and R&D Management I	6 ECTS					
	Semester 2 Mobility 2		Blue Biotechnology Business and R&D Management II	6 ECTS	LRUniv -France-				
		Marine Natural Products: Classes, Biological Activity and Biosynthesis	6 ECTS						
		Chemical Libraries	6 ECTS						
		Screening of Bioactivity	6 ECTS						
	Mobility 3	Internship	6 ECTS	France or any other country					
					60 ECTS				
Year 2									
	Semester 3 Mobility 4	Track 1 Innovative Bioproducts for Future	Academic Research Integration	14 ECTS	AUA	LRUniv	UCV		
			Advanced Characterisation Methods for Marine Natural Products Identification	4 ECTS					
			Biological Profiling of Marine Natural Products	4 ECTS					
			Optimisation of Marine Natural Products	4 ECTS					
			Marine Natural Products for Health and Wellness and Food	4 ECTS					
		Track 2 Blue Biomass	Academic Research Integration	14 ECTS	AUA	KU	UCV		
			Bioreactor Design and Management	4 ECTS					
			Microorganism Biomass and Metabolite Production	4 ECTS					
			Microalgal Biotechnology	4 ECTS					
			Seaweed Production	4 ECTS					
		Track 3 Marine Biorefinery	Academic Research Integration	14 ECTS	AUA	LRUniv	UCV	UTCB	
			Design of Biorefinery Processes	4 ECTS					
	Marine Biomass Functional Ingredients Extraction		4 ECTS						
	Functionalisation of Marine-derived Biomaterials		4 ECTS						
	Marine Whole-cell Factories		4 ECTS						
	Track 4 Aquaculture Biotechnology	Academic Research Integration	14 ECTS	AUA	KU	UCV	UNIZD		
		Aquaculture Systems and Seafood Processing	4 ECTS						
		Fish Nutrigenomics	4 ECTS						
		Health and Welfare in Aquaculture	4 ECTS						
		Advanced Breeding Programmes	4 ECTS						
Semester 4 Mobility 5	Master Thesis	30 ECTS	AUA	KU	LRUniv	UCV	UNIZD	UTCB	other
					60 ECTS				

Access JMPMB ECTS Course Catalogue for full information on [Annex-7.-SER.-ECTS-Course-Catalogue.pdf](#) ([eu-conexus.eu](http://eu-conexus.eu))

## 2. Contacts of the host university

Joint Master programme of Marine Biotechnology is implemented by six universities, and all of them have an appointed contact person for the programme's students led by Programme Coordinating University (UCV) and the Master programme director and officer.

**EU-CONEXUS Master Officer (EMO)** is the main contact person for the applicants and students throughout the study programme. Feel free to contact him/her for whatever general questions.

EMO will consult and communicate with you, will guide you through the application process and will assist to start the studies at the first university of the JMPMB.

<b>Contacts:</b>	<b>To contact for the questions related to:</b>
<a href="mailto:admission.MB@eu-conexus.eu">admission.MB@eu-conexus.eu</a>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Application process</li> <li>Application documents</li> <li>Admission results</li> <li>Assistance before the arrival</li> </ul>
<a href="mailto:mm.diaz@ucv.es">mm.diaz@ucv.es</a>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>General questions during studies (if it is host university related, contact university's representative)</li> <li>Administrative formalities</li> <li>To stop, change the studies/tracks</li> <li>Suggestions and complaints</li> <li>Students &amp; Alumni networks</li> </ul>



**Before writing an email**, please check our website [Joint Master Programme in Marine Biotechnology - EU-CONEXUS](#) and search in this toolkit for the procedures, documents, deadlines, academic calendar, exams, tips and tricks.

The **Academic Coordinator** is the main person to respond to your academic questions:

<b>Contacts:</b>	<b>To contact for the questions related to:</b>
<a href="mailto:academic.coordinator@eu-conexus.eu">academic.coordinator@eu-conexus.eu</a>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Academic issues</li> <li>Programme orientation</li> <li>Choosing the track/ARI project</li> <li>To stop, change the studies/track</li> <li>Appeals, complaints, suggestions</li> <li>Scholarships</li> </ul>

EU-CONEXUS joint programme universities created a network of support for the students while you are studying or visiting particular (host) university.



University	International tutor	Academic tutor
	<b>To contact for the questions related to:</b> Migration procedures Arrival and departure Integration Events for international students Administrative formalities Buddy programme (and personal mentor)	<b>To contact for the questions at the university related to:</b> Academic regulations Tutoring Timetables, professors, internships Suggestions, complaints about the study part
<b>UCV</b>	Melania Díaz González Email: <a href="mailto:mm.diaz@ucv.es">mm.diaz@ucv.es</a> Office address SU-21020	Jerónimo Chirivella Email: <a href="mailto:jeronimo.chirivella@ucv.es">jeronimo.chirivella@ucv.es</a> Office address: SU-22120
<b>LRUniv</b>	Patricia Leveque Email: <a href="mailto:patricia.leveque@univ-lr.fr">patricia.leveque@univ-lr.fr</a> Office address	Stéphanie Bordenave-Juchereau Email: <a href="mailto:sbordena@univ-lr.fr">sbordena@univ-lr.fr</a> Office address
<b>AUA</b>	Eliza Lazaki Email: <a href="mailto:farmbm@aua.gr">farmbm@aua.gr</a> Office address	Emmanouil Malandrakis Email: <a href="mailto:emalandrak@aua.gr">emalandrak@aua.gr</a> Office address
<b>UTCB</b>	Anca Margineanu Email: <a href="mailto:anca.margineanu@utcb.ro">anca.margineanu@utcb.ro</a> Office address	Florin Baltaretu Email: <a href="mailto:florin.baltaretu@utcb.ro">florin.baltaretu@utcb.ro</a> Office address
<b>KU</b>	Rasa Grigoliene Email: <a href="mailto:rasa.grigoliene@ku.lt">rasa.grigoliene@ku.lt</a> Office address	Evelina Griniene Email <a href="mailto:evelina.griniene@apc.ku.lt">evelina.griniene@apc.ku.lt</a> Office address
<b>UNIZD</b>	Ljerka Morovic Email: <a href="mailto:lmorovic@unizd.hr">lmorovic@unizd.hr</a> Office address	Tomislav Šarić Email: <a href="mailto:tosaric@unizd.hr">tosaric@unizd.hr</a> Office address

### Stay updated!



-<https://www.eu-conexus.eu/en/for-students/studies/> (for the latest updates and information, Student toolkit, maps, etc.)

-<https://www.eu-conexus.eu/en/news-events/> (for EU-Conexus events and news)

-[Facebook](#) , [Instagram](#), [YouTube](#), [Twitter](#) and [LinkedIn](#)

*P.S. closed FB/Whatsapp group will be created for each academic group. At host university you will be added to local communication channels for international students*

# Academic Toolkit

## from Welcome Week

## to Graduation ceremony



### 3. Academic Calendar

Even though you will study in different countries, the JMPMB academic calendar is unified in order to enable smooth your transfer from one university and country to other.

The academic calendar for the next semester is confirmed [Joint Master Programme in Marine Biotechnology - EU-CONEXUS](#)

#### ACADEMIC CALENDAR. INTAKE 2023/2024.

Autumn semester (2023/2024)	
Welcome week (1 <sup>st</sup> year students)	4 Sept – 8 Sept
Welcome day (2 <sup>nd</sup> year students)	4 Sept
Lectures period (1 <sup>st</sup> year students)	11 Sept – 5 Dec
Lectures period (2 <sup>nd</sup> year students)	5 Sept – 5 Dec
Exams period (Exams sessions, examination reviews, and grade results) (1 <sup>st</sup> and 2 <sup>nd</sup> year students)	11 Dec – 22 Dec
<b>Winter holidays</b>	<b>23 Dec – 7 Jan</b>
Complementary exams period (resit of exams, examination reviews, and grade results) (1 <sup>st</sup> year student)	8 Jan – 16 Jan
Complementary exams period (resit of exams, examination reviews, and grade results) (2 <sup>nd</sup> year student)	8 Jan – 12 Jan
Spring semester (2023/2024)	
Welcome day (1 <sup>st</sup> year students)	15 Jan
Lectures period (1 <sup>st</sup> year students)	16 Jan – 5 Apr
Master thesis period (Thesis plan/training/trials/lab work/Sampling/Analysis of samples/writing, revisions by supervisor, and submission) (2 <sup>nd</sup> year students)	15 Jan – 28 Jun
Exams period (Exams sessions, examination reviews, and grade results) (1 <sup>st</sup> year students)	8 Apr – 18 Apr
Internship (1 <sup>st</sup> year students) and report submission to Moodle platform (1 <sup>st</sup> resit)	22 Apr – 28 Jun
Complementary exams period (resit of exams, examination reviews, Internship report submission to Moodle platform (2 <sup>nd</sup> resit), and grade results) (1 <sup>st</sup> year students)	4 – 10 Jul
Master thesis defence (1 <sup>st</sup> resit) (2 <sup>nd</sup> year students)	8 – 10 Jul
Graduation ceremony (2 <sup>nd</sup> year students)	12 Jul
Master thesis resit (2 <sup>nd</sup> year students)	9 – 13 Sep
Master thesis defence (2 <sup>nd</sup> resit)	23 – 25 Sep
<b>Summer holidays (1<sup>st</sup> year students)</b>	<b>10 Jul – 31 Aug</b>

Public holidays depend on the country where Student is studying physically.

*\* If for whatever reasons you will not manage to submit the Master thesis on time or fail Master thesis defence, you will be able to defend them in September of the next academic year. The jury will decide.*

## 4. Studies mobility

In order to complete the JMPMB, there is a mandatory mobility among the universities of the Consortium with a full academic acknowledgement of the credits acquired. During the two years of the Programme, you must spend at least two study periods (30 ECTS or equivalent) in two countries which are different from your country of residence at enrolment.

Therefore, residents of Spain and France are obliged to choose a third different destination for their 3<sup>rd</sup> and/or 4<sup>th</sup> semester (other than Spain/France).

Therefore, the 1<sup>st</sup> semester is conducted at UCV, and the 2<sup>nd</sup> at LRUniv. The internship at the end of the 2<sup>nd</sup> semester may be conducted in France or any country of students' choice. The 3<sup>rd</sup> (Tracks) and 4<sup>th</sup> (Master thesis) semesters are offered by all Partners and are chosen by the students. Specialization track preference is manifested during the admission process and it is binding within the student's agreement. A student who wants to change her/his preference of track, must write a formal letter, in advance, addressed to the Programme Board with comments and justifications about the change. The members of Programme Board will evaluate the letter and will decide to accept or decline the change. During the 3<sup>rd</sup> semester you will be physically in the university where you will perform the Academic Research Integration course of the selected Track, while other courses will be taught virtually. Finally, you may select the university/ company for the Master thesis (4<sup>th</sup> semester) based on the offered Master projects by the six universities, or even associated partners in Ireland, Germany, and Cyprus, or even other universities or based on your own research. The subject(s) of your master thesis must be validated by the track coordinator.

1 semester	2 semester	3 semester				4 semester								
UCV	LRUniv	Internship in France or other country	Track 1	AUA	LRUniv	UCV	AUA	KU	LRUniv	UCV	UNIZD	UTCB	other	
			Track 2	AUA	KU	UCV	AUA	KU	LRUniv	UCV	UNIZD	UTCB	other	
			Track 3	AUA	LRUniv	UCV	UTCB	AUA	KU	LRUniv	UCV	UNIZD	UTCB	other
			Track 4	AUA	KU	UCV	UNIZD	AUA	KU	LRUniv	UCV	UNIZD	UTCB	other

As we said earlier, the movement from one country to another is not included into the fees but we will do everything to help you to find scholarships and, of course, help with the advice.

## 5. Choosing the Track in the 3<sup>rd</sup> semester

The JMPMB has 4 tracks (specialisation) that you can choose and deepen your knowledge:

- Innovative Bioproducts for Future
- Blue Biomass
- Marine Biorefinery
- Aquaculture Biotechnology

The students who choose the specialisation of **Innovative Bioproducts for Future** will focus on the validation of new marine bioproducts, following up all the procedures until the commercialisation of new therapeutic drugs, cosmetic ingredients and food additives. The students will be able to assist companies in the health, cosmetics and agri-food sectors to reach new markets and segments.

The students who choose the specialisation of **Blue Biomass** will focus on the production techniques of new sources of renewable of aquatic biomass. The students will be able to identify the industrial applications of the biomass of the marine organisms.

The students who choose the specialisation of **Marine Biorefinery** will focus on new approaches and developments for the use of marine biogenic feedstocks. The students will be able to maximise the usage of biomass for the manufacturing of new functional products from marine resources.

The students who choose the specialisation of **Aquaculture Biotechnology** will focus on the various uses of Biotechnology to the aquaculture sector. The students will be able to manage advanced breeding programmes, estimate significant diseases of aquatic organisms and assess the causes of the disease, modify the metabolism of molecules in living organisms and support modern research and analytical methods for practical aquaculture development and seafood processing.

In November of the 1<sup>st</sup> semester, we will organise the information seminar where we will present the tracks and **projects** to be carried out in the ‘**Academic Research Integration**’ course in the 3<sup>rd</sup> semester.

You will be able to choose the track and the projects by filling in the application form on EU-CONEXUS Smart Campus until the end of the Complementary exam session of the 1<sup>st</sup> semester. If there is a competition for the same project, the priority will be given to the student with higher ranking. The ranking depends on:

- the grade point average (GPA) of the 1<sup>st</sup> semester (50%),
- motivation letter (50%).

The track can be changed only if there are quotas left. A student who wants to change her/his track, must write a formal letter, in advance, addressed to the Programme Board with comments and justifications about the change. The members of Programme Board will evaluate the letter and will decide to accept or decline the change.

The final assignment of the track and project will be confirmed in February 2024.

Therefore, at the end of February you will already know where you will spend the 3<sup>rd</sup> semester.

**Academic Research Integration** (ARI; 14 ECTS) is a fascinating course and one of the highlights of the programme. During the ARI you with some other classmates will be working together (in groups of 5-7) on a shared and transversal research project. The proposed multidisciplinary research projects, designed by professors of different specialisations, will give you the opportunity to apply general academic, research and/or design skills in practice. At the same time, the transversality will be encouraged through the collaboration between students from different specialisations and in different locations, adding up each student’s work and thus running a truly multidisciplinary joint research project. You will be working with your Academic Supervisor, who will help you to meet the project’s milestones. This practical, professional and soft skills you will gain will assist you in carrying on other projects in companies or doing your Master thesis and PhD research.

## 6. Email and access to e-services

Once you register to the university (UCV), you will get university's email id.

After activating it you will have the access to the EU-CONEXUS Smart Campus with its Moodle, e-library, platforms for mentorship, projects, internship search.

### EU-CONEXUS Smart Campus



EU-CONEXUS Smart Campus with its Moodle, e-library, platforms for mentorship, projects, internship search is your learning environment. [www.eu-conexus.eu/smart-campus/](http://www.eu-conexus.eu/smart-campus/)

It is important that you check your email not to miss the latest updates on the classes, events, assignments, open calls for internships, projects, feedback, etc.

Also, the email sent from your university's email id is considered as official opinion, application, request, etc. The JMPMB policy denies the communication with those who use other email servers.

## 7. Classes, assignments, and exams

During the first year your classes will be organised in the classrooms, laboratories, and other necessary infrastructures. **The attendance to each class will be registered.** Many visiting teachers, experts from industry will be giving the classes and sharing their insights and 'real life' experiences.

In the 3<sup>rd</sup> semester, except the Academic Research Integration, the classes will be online. The reason for this is that we have foreseen teachers from different universities, companies, countries to provide you the best knowledge.

EU-CONEXUS Smart Campus with its Moodle, e-library, platforms for mentorship, projects, internship search is your learning environment.

### 7.1. Information about the courses

The JMPMB ECTS Course catalogue gives you the description of each course, the components of assignments throughout the course, the weight of each assignment and the composition of the final grade.

Also, you will find all information in the Moodle of the course.

During the semester you will have various activities: from theoretical classes to practices in the laboratories; making portfolios, visiting companies, having guest lecturers, working on your own and in group.

The course differs in the intensity and workload. ECTS (European Credit Transfer System) are used to describe it, when 1 ECTS is equal to 25 hours of studies: classes, practice, laboratory works, individual studying.

### 7.2. Assessment

The assignments (and grades) are used to evaluate how you achieve the intended learning outcomes of the course.

The final assessment of each course consists of the assignments during the semester (tests, reports, lab test, modelling, oral presentation, etc.) and final examination, if any, except for internship and Master thesis.

Usually, the teacher or teachers who will be delivering the course will be the ones who will do the assessment.

The university who coordinates the course is responsible for organising the assessment and the exams. If the course is offered virtually (3<sup>rd</sup> semester), the physical exam will take at the university where you are doing Academic Integration Research course with the tasks provided virtually.

The dates for each assignment during the course will be presented by the teacher(S) in the beginning of the semester and on the course Moodle.

The dates of exam session and of the complementary exam session (you have one more chance! if you fail) is indicated in the academic calendar of each academic year that is available on the JMPMB website.

The exam schedule of each course will be announced one month prior to the beginning of the exam session. We will make sure the exams do not overlap and leave you sufficient time to prepare for the exams.

Please visit our website and read the **Students’ assessment regulations** [here](#).

You have right to know the assessment methods and criteria that will be used by the teacher and are entitled to an objective assessment on your achievements in all summative assessments performed on the subject. They are usually presented during the first session of each course.

If you are not satisfied with your grades, you have right to appeal against the assessment result(s). You should file your appeal to the Academic Coordinator [academic.coordinator@eu-conexus.eu](mailto:academic.coordinator@eu-conexus.eu) including a statement detailing the reasons for the appeal. In three working days at the latest, the Programme Board is informed and communicates with the examiner, who either accepts the appeal and changes the grade or rejects it. In either case, you may accept the grade or request for a further assessment. Upon your request, Programme Board assigns the evaluation to two other examiners, and the final grade will result as the average of the two marks.

### Note!



We have a zero-tolerance policy on cheating and plagiarism.

To progress from Year 1 to Year 2 you must achieve a minimum ECTS grade of ‘E’ (i.e., a sufficient) in all courses of Year 1 (and completed 60 ECTS). You must pass all the exam and do all task mentioned by all teachers.

You can defend Master thesis only when all other courses in the programme and individual study plan have been passed.

### 7.3. Grading system

The results of assessments and examinations are given as a local grade (of the host university). The grades will be automatically transferred into the grading systems of all universities, and the joint diploma supplement that you will receive after the graduation will be reflected in the Spanish grading system.

ECTS description	Exceptional	Excellent	Very good	Good	Sufficient	Fail
ECTS Grade	A	B	C	D	E	F
Requirements	outstanding performance without errors	above the average standard but with minor errors	generally sound work with some errors	fair but with significant shortcomings	performance meets the minimum criteria	Fail – considerable further work is required

<b>Percentage of successful students normally achieving the grade</b>	10%	25%	30%	25%	10%	--
<b>LRUniv (France)</b>	20-18	17.9-16	15.9-13	12.9-11.0	10.9-10	<10
<b>AUA (Greece)</b>	10-8.5	10-8.5	8.4-6.5	6.4-5	6.4-5	<5
<b>UTCB (Romania)</b>	10	9	8-7.0	6	5	<5
<b>KU (Lithuania)</b>	10	9	8-7.0	6	5	<5
<b>UCV (Spain)</b>	10	9.9-9	8.9-7	6.9-6	5.9-5	<5
<b>UNIZD (Croatia)</b>	5	4	3	2	2	<2

To receive the Master's degree, you must have defended the Master thesis with a minimum ECTS grade of 'E' (i.e., a sufficient).



## 8. Career and academic support

An internship (8 weeks; 6 ECTS) at the end of the 2nd semester is an obligatory part of the Programme's curricula. Two internship supervisors (one from Consortium of Universities, one from laboratory or company) will be assigned to the student. The internship may be carried out in a laboratory of LRUUniv or at any company in any country.

EU-CONEXUS Smart Campus platforms and services throughout the studies will help you to prepare yourself to make your own CV and be competitive in the labour market:

- **EU-CONEXUS University-Industry platform** to facilitate the search for internships and to receive counselling on CV writing, job and internship search and other topics of interest will also be used for project development and Academic Research Integration course.
- **EU-CONEXUS Mentoring platform** will provide you mentoring in the following areas of interest: academic, research, career, entrepreneurship guidance.

Before the start of the internship (2<sup>nd</sup> semester) LRUUniv will organise orientation seminar how better benefit from the internship.

You will be able to use the Career centre services of all universities once you are there.

The high inclusion of the stakeholders into the teaching and learning process of the courses and the national language courses offered by the host universities will facilitate better integration in the labour market.

If you feel like the course covers the topics that you haven't studied before, or maybe the topic is too difficult and you need more time to get into it, **feel free to talk about it** with the teacher or academic tutor. On EU-CONEXUS Mentoring platform you will be able to choose **a tutor** for specific subject. We emphasise the personal attention to everyone!

Or maybe you decide to take the [EU-CONEXUS Minor in Blue Economy and Growth courses](#) (sector of Marine Biotechnology) to fill in slight gaps.

It's up to you, just do not delay: the earlier you start collaborating with tutors, the sooner you will catch up!

## 9. Individual study plan and additional courses

You will follow the study plan of the Programme as confirmed in the ‘JMPMB ECTS Course Catalogue’ and an individualised part via the chosen track in the 3<sup>rd</sup> semester.

But we want a **flexibility** and so you can gain the most during the studies!

You are allowed to take additional **local language courses** up to 6 ECTS at the host university each time you change the host university. The additional 6 ECTS language course is complementary and do not have to pay any fees for it.

If you want to take any other additional courses, it is allowed but total study plan must not exceed 42 ECTS. Any other but national language course is paid at the rate of the host university.

The additional course must be chosen before the semester and communicated and approved by the academic tutor at the host university. Once the study plan is confirmed, you can start the classes and, of course, you are obliged to pass the exam of the selected course.

Additional courses to the Programme plan will be included in the Diploma Supplement.

## 10. Transcript of records

The JMPMB curriculum is based on the ECTS (European Credit Transfer System). You are registered at all universities throughout the studies as a student of the joint Master programme in Marine Biotechnology and the credits obtained at the Partners are **automatically recognised** by all members of the Consortium of Universities.

Don't worry, you do not have to do anything.

If at any point for any reason you want to get the Transcript of Records (an official certificate stating what courses you have taken and what grades you have received up to date), just drop an email to [mm.diaz@ucv.es](mailto:mm.diaz@ucv.es)

## 11. Master thesis

After having successfully passed all prior exams you finally will start your Master thesis.

Master thesis is an integrated part of the joint Master programme in Marine Biotechnology with the workload of 30 ECTS. Master thesis is carried out in one of Partners', Associated Partner universities or other higher education and/or research institution ('host university') according to the chosen Master thesis topic or in a company. The subject must be validated with your track tutor.

Before starting the Master thesis work, you must have completed all previous courses and gained at least 90 ECTS.

During the thesis work, you will be focusing on a specific subject for a certain amount of time under the supervision of a thesis supervisor and, if relevant, a co-supervisor. During thesis work, you will apply the techniques and knowledge you gained during the courses in the three previous semesters. The final product of Master thesis is a written document ('Master thesis', 'thesis') stating the main scientific results. The Master thesis results are presented and defended publically ('Master thesis defence').

Research topics for Master thesis may be offered by the teaching and research staff of the Consortium of Universities, Associated Partners, or you can propose an accepted topic by other higher education and research institutions.

The Master thesis catalogue will be published for the 2<sup>nd</sup> year students on the EU-CONEXUS Smart Campus.

You may suggest your own topic and supervisor, especially if the work is foreseen to be carried out at another higher education and/or research institution, which does not belong to the Consortium of Universities or Associated Partners.

You will be able to choose the Master thesis topic by filling in the application form on the EU-CONEXUS Smart Campus with (Moodle) until beginning of December (3<sup>rd</sup> semester). If there is a competition for the same project, the priority will be given to the student with a higher ranking (the ranking depends on the grade point average (GPA) of the previous semesters (50%), motivation letter (50%)). Motivation letter will be assessed by selected mentor so it will reflect the point of view of the scientists that will mentor the student.

The final confirmation of Master thesis topics and the host university is announced on the EU-CONEXUS Smart Campus in December.

During the 4<sup>th</sup> semester you will be working on the Master thesis which may be of 3 types: experimental, project or bibliographic.

By the end of June, you will have to present the thesis manuscript and in July to present the thesis to the Jury of Master thesis at the Universidad Católica de Valencia (physically or virtually)

The final grade for the Master thesis consists of

- 1) Assessment of the Master thesis manuscript – for 70 % (20% supervisor, 50% Jury)
- 2) Public defence (oral presentation) - 30%.

If for any chance you do not manage to present and/or defend your Master thesis on time, you will have the second chance in September after jury decision.

More detailed requirements are in the [Master thesis guidelines here](#).

## 12. Graduation and Master's degree

Congratulations! We are inviting you to the official graduation ceremony which will be organised in July! You will be awarded a combination of Joint diploma and double degree in Marine Biotechnology by the Consortium of Universities.

Joint Master's degree in Marine Biotechnology refers to the following degrees issued by the universities of Consortium:

Fundación Universidad Católica de Valencia San Vicente Mártir	Máster Universitario en Biotecnología Marina
La Rochelle Université	Master en Biotecnologie parcours Marine Biotecnologie*
Agricultural University of Athens Γεωπονικό Πανεπιστήμιο Αθηνών	Master in Marine Biotechnology Μεταπτυχιακό Πρόγραμμα Σπουδών Θαλάσσιας Βιοτεχνολογίας
Klaipėdos Universitetas	Technologijų mokslų magistro laipsnis, studijų kryptis - Biotecnologija
Sveučilište u Zadru	Magistar morske biotehnologije

\* *additionally LRUniv will issue national Master diploma*

Universitatea Tehnica de Constructii Bucuresti is participating in the implementation of the JMPMB but will not issue the joint diploma.

You will have to apply for issuing the diploma and diploma supplement at UCV. The joint diploma and diploma supplement will be issued and registered by the Universidad Católica de Valencia within six months after the request is submitted and can be collected at UCV or the Spanish embassy or consulate where you decide to reside after the graduation.

The Universidad Católica de Valencia will issue a provisional diploma and transcript of records to on the Graduation ceremony or deliver it to by post/email if you cannot participate in the official ceremony. The latter shall be eligible to apply for further studies or to enter labour market until the final diploma and diploma supplement are issued.



Labas!

Bonjour!

Zdravo!

¡Hola!

Our community

Cháirete!

[buddy@eu-conexus.eu](mailto:buddy@eu-conexus.eu)

Hello!

Bună ziua!!



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