

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

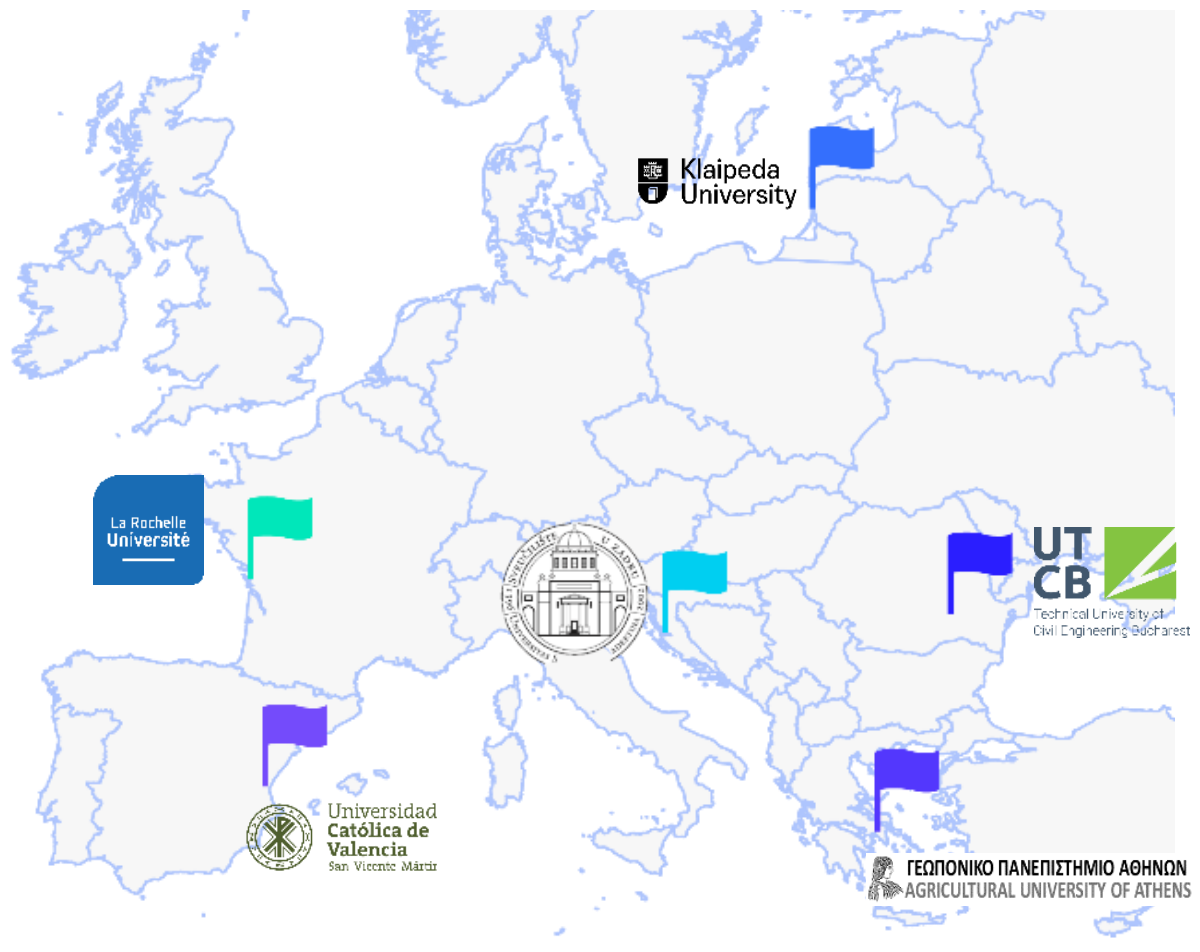


Welcome to EU-CONEXUS intercampus!

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 1st 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 2nd semester of the 1st 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						
			Blue Biotechnology Business and R&D Management II	6 ECTS						
		Marine Natural Products: Classes, Biological Activity and Biosynthesis	6 ECTS	LRUniv -France-						
		Chemical Libraries	6 ECTS							
		Screening of Bioactivity	6 ECTS							
	Mobility 3	Internship	6 ECTS	France or any other country						
					60 ECTS					
Year 2		Track 1 Innovative Bioproducts for Future	Semester 3 Mobility 4		AUA	LRUniv	UCV			
			Academic Research Integration	14 ECTS						
			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						
			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						
			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						
			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](https://eu-conexus.eu/Annex-7.-SER.-ECTS-Course-Catalogue.pdf) (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.

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



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:

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

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

Mobility Toolkit

Before

During

After



3. Before Arrival

3.1. Acceptance, study agreement & fees

Congratulations!

You have been accepted and invited to study joint Master programme in Marine Biotechnology at EU-CONEXUS.

The Student Agreement that you receive informs you about the study programme, mobility scheme, your rights and obligations, fees payment structure. Read it carefully and, if you accept our offer, send it back to the EU-CONEXUS Master Officer mm.diaz@ucv.es

You will be registered as a full-time student of the joint Master programme in Marine Biotechnology in all EU-CONEXUS joint Master programme in Marine Biotechnology consortium universities for the full duration of the Programme (2 years).

Feel free to ask questions or documents to apply for scholarship, health insurance, visa, or any other reason at admission.MB@eu-conexus.eu.

3.2. Arrival to the 1st university and mobility

Welcome to Universidad Católica de Valencia (UCV) where your journey begins!

UCV is found in Valencia, the third largest city of Spain on the coast of the Mediterranean Sea. The university has several campuses (check www.ucv.es) but you will be studying in the heart of the city, just next to the Torres de Quart – one of the defensive towers that were surround the old city in the medieval times. Studying you will not only learn about the city via multiple events, excursions, but also will have an opportunity to learn Spanish language, to cook paella, to swim in the sea, ride the bike or to explore Albufera.



The **first semester starts on the 11th of September in 2023 in UCV**, but the registration of students will start on **4th of September**, so we recommend arriving earlier, to get an apartment or student room (see Accommodation). **Your buddy** will help you around, and we will see you on the Welcome Week!

Before packing, make sure, you got everything you need for the start of studies:



- ✓ Passport and ID
- ✓ Travel and health insurance
- ✓ Acceptance letter and student agreement
- ✓ Original documents of your previous education (with apostille)
- ✓ The notary verified translations of your documents
- ✓ Original certificate of English proficiency
- ✓ The addresses and contacts

- ✓ Phone with uploaded maps and some family photos
- ✓ Clothes, shoes and swimming suit – it is still warm (hot) in September
- ✓ Maybe something personal
- ✓ Laptop
- ✓ and you can get the rest in Valencia – from clothes to exotic spices



During the next semester you will continue your studies at La Rochelle Université in France, and later on at the university of your choice:

	Host university
1st semester	UCV, Spain
2nd semester	LRUniv, France. Internship (8 weeks) at the end of the 2 nd semester may be carried at any company in any country.
3rd semester	Any partner universities according to the chosen track by the student in order to carry out his/her ARI; the elective courses will be taught online
4th semester	Any partner universities, associated partners and other higher education and/or research institutions according to the chosen Master's thesis topic

Before going to each university and country, you will get all necessary updates, useful suggestions, and new **buddy** at the next stop of your itinerary.

Before going to La Rochelle University, France, don't forget to ask your resident permit and then, with this permit, a French Social Security Number. You can apply for the French social security number in: <https://etudiant-etranger.ameli.fr/#/> (website available in English)

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 3rd and/or 4th semester (other than Spain/France).

Isn't it exciting!

We leave enough time in the Academic Calendar for you to move, get settled and prepare for the new semester. International and academic tutors at every university will be just an email away to assist you with personal questions.

3.3. Migration / Visa procedures

Depending on your citizenship, you may be required to complete certain immigration procedures (for example, apply for a visa) in order to start your studies in Spain, and then to continue in the rest of the countries of the JMPMB. Making sure you fulfil all the requirements and complete all the immigration procedures on time is your responsibility, but the Master programme officer and international tutors (see Chapter 2) will assist you throughout the process and will help you to make it as smooth and easy as possible.

1st semester: Spain

In order to start the studies at UCV, Spain, you need to fulfil the following procedures.



If you are EU/EEA citizen*

All EU/EEA citizens are allowed to enter Spain and start studies without any immigration procedures. Once in Spain, if the stay is to be longer than 90 days, it is obligatory to register in the Central Registry of Foreigners (Registro Central de Extranjeros, NIE document). This can be done at a local Immigration office (Extranjería)

[Consult Immigration offices in Valencia](#)

*Documents (among others)**:*

- Confirmation of being enrolled in the JMPMB (which will be given to you by UCV)
- Health insurance to cover medical treatment during the study period in Spain and/or a valid European Health Insurance Card
- Proof of resources to cover living costs
- Spanish bank account
- Spanish social insurance number (after obtaining the NIE number)



If you are a non- EU/EEA citizen

Non-EU/EA citizens typically need a student visa to enter Spain and start studies. You should apply for a Student Visa at the Spanish Embassy or Consulate in your country of residence (or in the country with jurisdiction to provide visas to your country of residence):

[Consult embassies and consulates and country-based requirements](#)

When to apply: maximum 90 and minimum 45 days before your departure date.

Visa fee: it depends on the country of your residence (consult the embassy).

*Documents (among others)**:*

- Valid passport/travel document (it should be valid for the whole period of studies + 3 months)
- Acceptance letter to study JMPMB (which will be given to you by UCV)
- The study programme content and description (which will be given to you by UCV)
- Health insurance to cover medical treatment, personal liability and repatriation costs during the study period in Spain.
- Medical certificate.
- Proof of resources to cover living costs, or scholarship statement, or an undertaking to accept financial liability from a guarantor who must provide proof of adequate, reliable and regular income, as well as a copy of their ID document.
- Proof of accommodation for the period the studies.
- Diplomas of previous studies may be requested.
- Proof of paid tuition fee may be requested.
- Spanish bank account
- Spanish social insurance number (after obtaining the NIE number)

Central de Extranjeros, NIE document) and obtain your residence permit. This can be done at a local Immigration office (Extranjería). [Consult Immigration offices in Valencia](#)

* If you are a citizen or a permanent resident of Spain, these procedures do not apply.

** This is a general list, and it may not include all the documents required by the corresponding institution as they are subject to change.

Note!



The immigration/visa procedures are subject to change. We will update you on the current procedures prior to the beginning of your stay in each EU-CONEXUS university within the joint Master programme.

2nd semester: France

In order to continue your studies on the second semester in La Rochelle, France, you need to fulfil the following procedures.



If you are an EU/EEA citizen*

All EU/EEA citizens are allowed to enter France and start studies without any immigration procedures. It is obligatory to come with the European Health Insurance Card (see more about insurance in section 3.4. of this Chapter)



If you a non-EU/EEA citizen

If you are a non-EU/EA citizen, you will need a French student visa to enter France and start studies. Within the first 3 months of your stay, you must validate your visa through an online process on the following website: <https://administration-etrangers-en-france.interieur.gouv.fr/particuliers/#/>

You have two ways to obtain French visa, in your transition from Spain (1st semester of your studies) to France (2nd semester of your studies): applying for a French visa from Spain or entering France with Spanish visa and applying for a new visa in France.

Applying for a French visa from Spain.

You can apply for a French visa at French Embassy in Madrid, Spain (note that you must be legally in Spain at the moment of application). Link to [French embassy in Spain](#)

For general information and for preparing, submitting and tracking your application, log on to France visas, the [official website](#) for visa application to France.

When to apply: maximum 90 and minimum 45 days before your departure date.

Visa fee: 99 EUR (subject to change)

*Documents (among others)**:*

- Valid passport/travel document (it should be valid for the whole period of studies +3 months)
- Student status and future mobility confirmation (which will be given to you by LRUniv)
- The study programme content and description (which will be given to you by LRUniv)
- Health insurance to cover medical treatment and repatriation costs during the study period in France.
- Proof of resources to cover living costs deposited in French bank, or scholarship statement, or an undertaking to accept financial liability from a guarantor who must provide proof of adequate, reliable and regular income, as well as a copy of their ID document.
- Proof of accommodation for the first 3 months or during the studies
- Diplomas of previous studies may be requested.
- Paid tuition fee may be requested.

Once in France, within the first 3 months, you must validate your visa through an online process on the following website: <https://administration-etrangers-en-france.interieur.gouv.fr/particuliers/#/>

Entering France with Spanish visa and applying for a new visa in France.

If your visa to Spain is still valid and it allows you to travel in Schengen area, you can enter France with your Spanish visa and apply for a new student visa in France once you're already there. If it is not your case, you need to apply for student visa to study in France as soon as you arrive. We recommend you start this process in Spain. International office of LRUniv or your Master officer will help you with these procedures.

** If you are a citizen or a permanent resident of France, these procedures do not apply*

*** This is a general list, and it may not include all the documents required by the corresponding institution as they are subject to change.*

3rd and 4th semesters: Greece, Romania, Lithuania, Croatia, France or Spain

During the second and third semester you will be guided to prepare for the immigration procedures, for the third and fourth semester of your studies in the universities of your choice.



If you are the EU/EEA citizen*

All EU/EEA citizens are allowed to enter Croatia, Greece, Lithuania, France, Romania or Spain and study without any immigration procedures. You may be obliged, however, to register in local Immigration Offices upon your arrival, if your stay in the country is going to be longer than 90 days. Your host university will inform you about these procedures upon your arrival.



If you are a non-EU/EEA citizen

Non-EU/EA citizens will, typically, need a student visa to enter and study in Croatia, Greece, Lithuania, Romania or Spain.

Where to apply: at the Embassy of the given country

General guidelines: The required documentation may differ for each country, but it is similar to the one submitted during your first visa applications to Spain and France – i.e., student status, proof of resources, health insurance, etc.

For more details, you may consult the embassies:

[Greek embassy in France](#)

[Romanian embassy in France](#)

[Lithuanian embassy in France](#)

[Croatian embassy in France](#)

[Spanish embassy in France](#)

[List of Greek embassies in other countries](#)

[List of Romanian embassies in other countries](#)

[List of Lithuanian embassies in other countries](#)

[List of Croatian embassies in other countries](#)

[List of Spanish embassies in other countries](#)

Once in the country, you may be obliged to register in local Immigration Offices. Your host university will inform you about these procedures upon your arrival.

If you will stay in France for the third semester of your studies, you will have to prolong your stay in France at the local Immigration Offices. International office of LRUniv will help you with these procedures.

Once Again!



The immigration/visa procedures are subject to change. We will update you on the current procedures prior to the beginning of your stay in each EU-CONEXUS university within the joint Master programme.

3.4. Travel

Traveling between your study destinations will be your own responsibility, but the administrative staff and the Buddies will be there to help you with the arrangements. Most of our institutions are located in cities on coastlines, not necessarily close to the capital cities, therefore, reaching your destination may require couple of transfers rather than a direct journey.

As the European University for Smart Urban Coastal Sustainability, we are not indifferent to the environmental impact of travelling, and we encourage you to use sustainable means of travels, such as train. This should be possible especially between countries located in a proximity, such as the travel from Valencia in Spain to La Rochelle in France. Does travelling by trains take more time? Yes, but you will have a chance to see the beautiful landscapes of our countries along the way or even stay overnight and visit some more European cities along the way, such as Barcelona or Bordeaux. It may be a great adventure to have in the break between two semesters.

3.5. Health insurance

Today, more than ever, it is important to have travel and health insurance.

A compulsory and comprehensive insurance for health during the entire period of studies will be paid for each student from the budget of the Consortium of Universities and will have no additional cost for the students. The insurance meets all the requirements for Erasmus Mundus students and cover sickness, accidents, pregnancy and childbirth, invalidity, cost related to death, as well as third-part liability and theft and loss of documents, in all Europe. If you need additional information about the insurance, Master Officer will help you to get it.

For non-EU/EEA citizens, it may be required to show a previous insurance document during visa application.

For EU/EEA citizens, it is also recommended to get the European Health Insurance Card (EHIC) from your country of residence for the periods of mobility in the other European countries. You can see more information about EHIC [here](#).

3.6. Accommodation

Some of the universities within the JMPMB offer accommodation in their own university dormitories, while other will provide you recommendations on private accommodation. Admission to accommodation in dormitories is not automatic – in most cases, you will need to make an application. Each host university will inform you about the option, and relevant procedures, prior to your arrival.



Universidad
Católica de
Valencia
San Vicente Mártir

UCV, Spain

UCV does not have university dormitories and accommodation office as such, but we do advise you some safe Accommodation Agencies with which the UCV is partner of and that offer special discounts for UCV students:

- Residencia universitaria femenina UCV Sagrado Corazón. For more information and admissions please contact - residsacor@resagradocorazon.es
- Moontels – please contact recepcion@moontels.com or at the telephone number +34 638734647
- HousingAnywhere.com – more information at vip@housinganywhere.com
- Uniplaces - More specific questions, please contact partners@uniplaces.com
- Uniresidences, Student Residences made for students - <https://www.uniresidences.com/>
- Livensa Living Marina Real - vmarina@livensaliving.com
- Live 4 Life - <https://www.live4life.es/>
- Aluni.net - <https://www.aluni.net>

More information at [UCV ORIENTATION GUIDE 2022-23 2nd A5.FH10](#)



LRUniv, France

Department of International Relations of La Rochelle University helps international students to find accommodation. The University residences are managed by the CROUS, which are regional centres for Student Affairs that aim to improve students' living and study conditions on a daily basis. The CROUS also offers housing in private homes via Lokaviz (www.lokaviz.fr), and L'ARPAE has a large number of apartments.

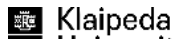
AUA, Greece

Agricultural University of Athens does not have students' hall of residence, but the European Programmes' Office provides incoming students with a list of accommodation options (private owned flats/rooms furnished or not, sometimes shared) upon request. ESN-AUA buddies help students in order to solve the problem of accommodation whenever is possible.



UTCB, Romania

UTCB students have the possibility to live in one of the 6 residence buildings (dormitories) placed in Tei campus. Depending on the country of origin and the type of financing (with scholarship or self-financed) the price of a place in the dormitory varies and also, depending on the type of the room.



KU, Lithuania

There are two student dormitories at Klaipeda University. Dormitory at Statybinnku ave. 43 is located in the southern part of the city. The building has not been renovated and it contains double and triple rooms. A block of a double and triple room shares a washbasin and a toilet. There are also shared showers and kitchens. Second dormitory at Universiteto ave. 12 is located in the campus of Klaipeda University. The building is new with double rooms. A block shares a shower and a toilet. Each floor offers a common kitchen-dining room.

Dormitory fees are 165 €/month (per person) living in a double room; 220 €/month (per person) living alone in a double room; 198 €/month (per person) living in a single room (if it will be possible). Prices applied if student is residing more than 30 days. 180 € safety deposit is mandatory. 30€ linen fee is applied.

If student is residing less than 30 days – 9 €/day (per person) living in a double room; 11 €/day (per person) living alone in a double room; 11 €/day (per person) living in a single room (if it will be possible). Safety deposit is required. 4 € linen fee is applied.

Note that prices are specified based on [appendix no. 8](#)

****Note that prices may vary***



UNIZD, Croatia

International students in Zadar are usually accommodated in the residence hall or in private apartments.

The university residence hall has 94 rooms, 18 of which are triple, and 76 double rooms, which can in total accommodate 206 students. There are three kitchenettes, two TV rooms, a large hall, a classroom, a computer cabinet, a laundry room and a recreational hall. If you would like to live in the Residence Hall during your studies in Zadar, you have to fill in the application A much more reliable way of finding satisfactory accommodation is a private room or an apartment. The university can provide list of agencies that can help in the search of private accommodation and an access to social media groups managed by local ESN where you can find roommates and rent offers.



Before arrival webinar

Before arrival we will have a webinar where you will have opportunity to ask the questions, to meet your future classmates and feel more confident to start the studies!

4. Upon arrival

4.1. Welcome Week & Welcome Day

Your studies will start with an introductory course which is called **Welcome Week**.

4-8th September you are invited to come to the university for the first time. During the Welcome Week you will

- ✓ Learn about both EU-CONEXUS and the Programme.
- ✓ Meet the Academic Coordinator, EU-CONEXUS Master Officer, international tutor, classmates – all the people that you were emailing and video-talking with during the application and preparation for studies months.
- ✓ Get the tour around UCV.
- ✓ Meet the teachers and get the classes schedule.
- ✓ Get an access to the UCV email, connections to the intranet, EU-CONEXUS Smart Campus.
- ✓ Make the Student card.
- ✓ Get a crash course on multicultural communication.
- ✓ Discover Valencia and surroundings.
- ✓ and much more, including a surprise in your welcome bag!

Once you will be moving from one university to another, each host university will organise a similar **Welcome Day** (the first day of the semester) to explain:

- ✓ About the host university.
- ✓ Meet the lecturers and get the classes schedule.
- ✓ Meet academic and international tutor of the host university.
- ✓ Learn about the city and the country.
- ✓ And.... we leave something out to surprise you when you come!

4.2. Registration at host university

When you come to the university for the first time (sorry, but this should be repeated), bring your passport/ID and education documents to complete the registration procedures. The academic and international tutors will prepare everything for you.

Check the second part of this toolkit to learn about the **academic affairs**.

4.3. Student status and student card

During the whole period of your studies, you will be registered as a full-time student of the Joint Master Programme in Marine Biotechnology in all EU-CONEXUS programme consortium universities. As such, you will receive the student card of the UCV, and you will be also entitled to obtain a student card of each university where you will (physically) stay during the Programme.

The student card will provide you the discounts for public transport, cinema, some shops, events, and of course, you will have access to the libraries, buildings, self-service, labs, and more.

4.4. Local language classes

The language of communication, instruction, and exams in the JMPMB is only English and you are not required to speak or learn any other language. However, if only you wish to, you may take the opportunity to study the local languages of EU-CONEXUS countries while you stay there.

During your stay at each of the EU-CONEXUS universities, you are entitled to enrol for a language course of its national language of up to 6 ECTS for free. If you want to take more classes or enrol for a course of

any language other than the national language of the given country, it will be possible upon an additional payment, at a rate of the host university.

If you are interested in the language courses, you should simply inform your host university before the start of the semester. You will be obliged to pass the exam of the selected language course at the end of the semester. The language courses will be included in your Diploma Supplement.

4.5. Student life

This experience is not only about studying, but also living a life!

At each host university of the consortium, you will be able to access all available services and facilities (e.g., [sports activities](#), [library](#), [co-studying spaces](#), [counselling](#), [psychological support](#), etc.) and you are invited to participate in the local student life. Each university has student organisations and associations, such as Erasmus Student Network or local Student Boards, that organise events, activities, and initiatives for international and local students. You are free to join all the offered activities or, even suggest your own ideas and/or become an active member of the student official structures.

4.6. Costs of living and currency

Each of the Programme country and city has different average costs of living. You can consult the tables below to see average costs of certain products and services. Some of the universities offer low-cost accommodation in the on-campus dormitories (see [3.6](#) above) or discounted meals in university canteens. The student card will also give you discounts in many services, especially public transport.

The currency in Spain, France, Greece, Lithuania and Croatia is euro, whereas Romania has its own national currency: Romanian leu (code: RON). The average prices presented in the table below are their equivalents in euro and may vary.

1st and 2nd semester:

		Valencia, Spain	La Rochelle, France
Accommodation – average monthly rent for a room		350 – 500€ plus bills	350 – 500€
FOOD	Lunch in a student canteen	---	3,3€
	Lunch outside campus	8-15€	15-20€
	Average cost of food and groceries per month	200-250€	100-150€
Public transport		Monthly student card: 25€	Monthly student ticket: 23€
ENTERTAINMENT	A coffee in a café	1,5 – 2€	2-3€
	A beer in a pub	3-5€	3-5€
	Cinema ticket:	8-10€	5-7€
	Other	A glass of wine or sangría: 3-5€ Oceanographic museum: 29€ for students Most of other museums: 5-8€	A croissant: 1€ Maritime museum: free for students Aquarium: 17,5€

	An organised hiking / sightseeing trip: 20-25€
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Other locations (for 3rd and 4th semester):

		Athens, Greece	Bucharest, Romania	Klaipeda, Lithuania	Zadar, Croatia
Accommodation –average monthly rent for a room		Around 250€	250 - 350€ euro plus bills	Around 300 - 500€plus bills	130-150 €
FOOD	Lunch in a student canteen	9€ for 3 meals per day	5-10€	5€	13-20€ per week
	Lunch outside campus	10€	10-15€	-8-12€	7-11€
	Average cost of food and groceries per month	150€	100-200€	150-250€	200 €
Public transport		Student monthly ticket 25 €	Monthly ticket around 15 €	Student monthly ticket 6 €	Student monthly ticket is for free
ENTERTAINMENT	A coffee in a café	4€	2€	3€	1 – 1,5€
	A beer in a pub	6€	2-5€	4-5€	2€
	Cinema ticket:	8€	6 €	5,5 €	5-10 €
	Other	Acropolis and some other sights: free for students A cocktail in a club: 10€	Escape room: 20€ Karaoke: 10€ Botanical garden: 1,2€	Pizza: 5-7 € Ice skating: 6€ A cocktail in a club: 8-10€ Free museums on the last Sunday of the month	Nightclub: 3-12 € Hot chocolate: 1,6€ Bike rental for one day: 15€ Ferry to a nearby island: 2€

**Prices are for reference only and may vary*

4.7. Bank account

If you want or need to open a bank account in Spain (that is, the country where you will stay for the first semester of the Programme) these are the documents that may be required:

- National ID card (EU citizens) or Passport and visa (non-EU citizens)
- NIE document (document of being registered in the Central Registry of Foreigners of Spain – see [3.3](#) above)
- The letter of acceptance and enrolment to JMPMB
- Proof of income

Please note that each bank may require more document and some fees may be applied. To open an account, you need to personally visit the bank office, with originals of the documents. As a suggestion, Banco Santander has experience in dealing with mobility students. Banco Santander. Address: Gran Vía Fernando El Católico,25 46008, Valencia

You can keep your Spanish bank account open for the whole 2 years of studies; it is very convenient because Erasmus Mundus scholarship will be paid by UCV for the whole study period. If you want or need to, you can also open bank accounts in the other countries of your stay within the JMPMB – the local university will help you with this.

4.8. Services for students with disabilities

EU-CONEXUS and the JMPMB is open to all students from all countries, and we aim to assist every of you in the best possible way. The EU-CONEXUS partners aim at developing a disability-inclusive higher education environment in order to ensure that no one are not excluded from higher education and that their potential is realised.

If you have any kind of disability and have challenges to move or to follow the class, we will help you. All our universities have a department or a specialist to assist the students with disabilities. If you notify us in advance, we can guide you providing a buddy, advising the university for your mobility within the Programme which is the best fit to your specific needs. The learning and exam framework is easy to adapt for blended (physical+virtual) learning.

And if you need [academic tutor](#) or more time with the teacher, it's just an email away students.MB@eu-conexus.eu.

5. Before leaving.

5.1. Heading to new destination

Well, semester is going to an end. All exams have been passed, you know how to say hello in local language, and unfortunately, it's time to say goodbye or see you later.

Before you leave, please visit the Academic tutor at the host university and make sure you know everything about your new destination.

It's time to read this toolkit once again!



Check for the latest version of this toolkit and make sure you have all documents with you, you have visa, if needed, health insurance, booked the accommodation. New university is waiting for you!

International tutor will be assisting you if you need any new documents to prove your status, to pay the fees or to receive the scholarship, or...

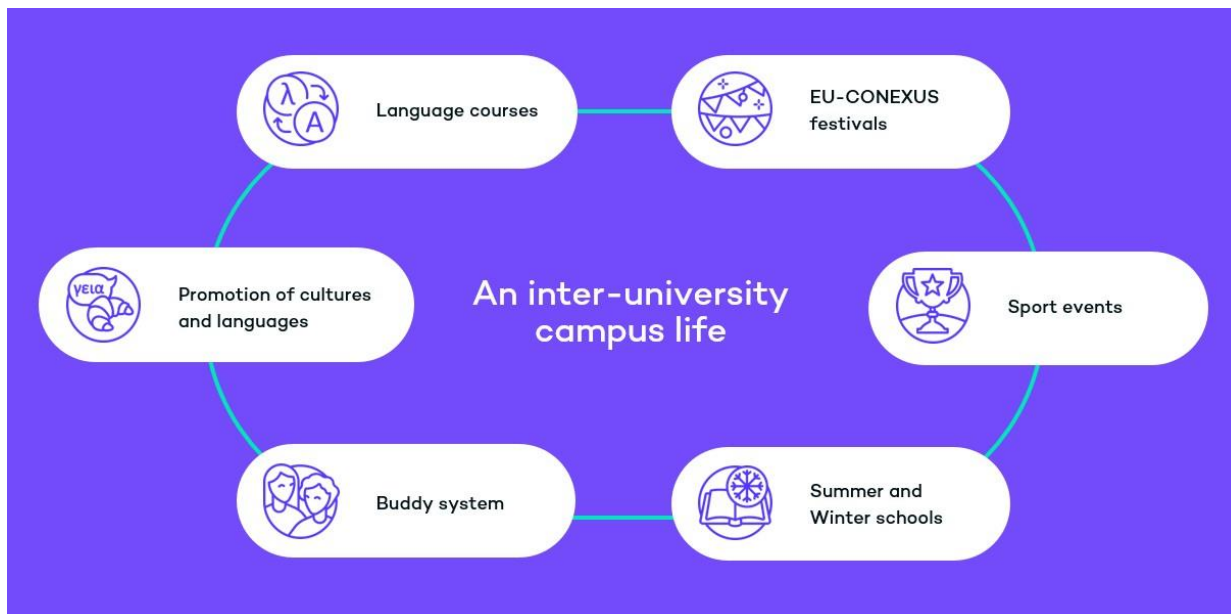
We are sure that we all meet once again at the graduation ceremony!

And if this is **your last semester** and the last university...

it's time to celebrate your Master's degree in Marine Biotechnology!

6. EU-CONEXUS Student Board and Buddy programme

EU-CONEXUS Student Board, with collaboration of local students and student organisations at each university, is coordinating Buddy programme for international students of the JMPMB. Buddy programme is meant to offer you a mentoring service during your stay at each of the universities – i.e., provide help and support before your arrival and during your first days of studies, as well as social activities and events throughout your stay.



Thanks to the Buddy programme you will get in touch with local students even before your arrival, so that you will be able to ask any questions about the city, accommodation, transportation, university procedures etc. Once you arrive, you will meet the students personally and they will make sure you feel welcomed and integrated with local student community. Your Master Officer will keep you updated on how to apply to the Buddy programme prior to your arrival at each university.

Have any questions, contact buddy@eu-conexus.eu!

And we hope that later on you will become a buddy yourself!