

EU-CONEXUS ENABLES PhD Call 2025 (Stage 2: PhD Students' Selection)

1. Overview

The [EU-CONEXUS ENABLES](#) project (Horizon Europe) is recruiting **5 PhD students** for fully funded doctoral positions starting in **October 2025**. Each PhD will be jointly supervised by two EU-CONEXUS partner universities under a **co-tutelle framework**, resulting in two doctoral degrees.

These positions are part of a broader effort to develop innovative, interdisciplinary solutions for [Smart Urban Coastal Sustainability \(SmUCS\)](#) using **Digital Twin technologies**.

Timeline

Phase	Dates	Description
Application Submission	1 – 31 May 2025	Submit full application documents
Application Review	1 – 15 June 2025	Eligibility and quality assessment
Notification to Shortlisted Candidates	16 – 20 June 2025	Invitations to interview
Online Interviews	23 June – 4 July 2025	Interviews with co-supervisors and selection committee
Submission of Master's Diploma	By 10 July 2025	Final deadline if not yet available at application
Final Selection & Notification	7 – 20 July 2025	Communication of final results
Programme Start	September - October 2025	Enrolment* and research start

*The enrolment process might be different accordingly to national and internal regulation of each partner university. Additional admission procedures might be necessary after the selection.

2. Selection Process

The selection process is based on a competitive evaluation that includes two main stages:

Eligibility and Quality Assessment (1–15 June 2025):

- All submitted applications will be reviewed by the steering committee against the evaluation criteria (see Selection Criteria section).
- Applications will be scored out of a maximum of **100 points**.
- Only candidates scoring **at least 70 points** will pass to the next phase.

Interviews (23 June – 4 July 2025):

- Shortlisted candidates will be invited to an **online interview**, held in **English**.
- Interviews will be conducted by the co-supervisors for each topic and the EU-CONEXUS ENABLES steering committee.

The final selection will be based on the combined evaluation of the application package and interview performance.

A candidate can apply for only one subject listed by the call.

3. About the Co-Tutelle PhD Programme

- **Duration:** 36 months
- **Enrolment:** Joint enrolment at two partner universities (1 widening + 1 non-widening country)
- **Outcome:** Two PhD diplomas + EU-CONEXUS Co-Tutelle Certificate
- **Mobility:** Minimum 6 months at the co-supervising institution (can be split). The

schedules are flexible depending on the project needs.

- **Shared Activities:** 10 ECTS or equivalent 250 hours in EU-CONEXUS activities (e.g., courses, summer schools, research reports etc.)
- **Thesis Language:** The PhD thesis shall be written and submitted in English (preferably) or one of the other official languages in the EU. The language has to be defined in the bilateral cotutelle agreement.
- The funded PhD duration is 36 months. Students are expected to complete and defend their thesis within this period, even if national PhD regulations allow for a longer enrolment period.

4. Funding

Each PhD position is funded for the duration of the 36-month co-tutelle program. The **total funding per position is approximately 100,000 EUR** that will cover the monthly salary of the PhD student.

The cotutelle agreement prepared by the supervising universities at the time of recruitment, will detail the financial breakdown for each PhD position. This document will reflect variations arising from different national legal and taxation systems, social security fees, etc. Candidates will receive detailed financial information upon final offer of admission. Also, the cotutelle agreement shall be in accordance with the general cotutelle agreement in EU CONEXUS.

In this call, the **widening partner university** (the one from a widening country as Romania, Croatia, Lithuania, Cyprus, Greece) is **responsible for managing the entire budget**. Even though the project is co-supervised, **the financial administration stays with the widening partner university**.

5. Eligibility Requirements

- **Master's Degree** – Candidates must hold a Master degree (or equivalent) relevant to the PhD topic at the time of enrolment. If the diploma is not available by 31 May 2025, a Certificate of Expected Graduation must be submitted. The final diploma or attestation must be provided no later than 10 July 2025.
- **Doctoral Status** – Candidates must not already hold a doctoral degree and must not be currently enrolled in another PhD programme.
- **Mobility and Study Eligibility** – Candidates must be eligible to work and study in EU countries.
- **Language Proficiency** – Candidates must demonstrate proficiency in English (B2 level or higher) through a formal English certificate.

EU-CONEXUS universities are responsible for respecting the national rules regarding foreign students.

6. Application Documents (in English)

- Curriculum Vitae Europass format (CV)
- Motivation Letter
- Recommendation letter
- Proof of Identity (passport or national ID for EU countries)
- Master's and Bachelor Diploma or certificate of expected graduation (certified translation if in another language than English)
- Transcript of Records for both diplomas certified translation if in another language than English)
- Completed Application Form (template provided)

7. Selection Criteria

Category	Points	Example Considerations
Academic Excellence	30	Grades, university ranking, thesis, technical background in relation with Smart Urban Coastal Sustainability
Motivation & Alignment	30	Fit with EU-CONEXUS ENABLES themes, motivation letter, interest in co-tutelle
Research Potential & Skills	15	Digital tools, modelling, or simulation skills
Language & Communication	15	Certification or clear evidence of B2+ skills
Diversity & Impact Potential	10	Motivation to contribute to regional, societal, or environmental impact (SmuCS)

Maximum score 100 points.

8. PhD Topics

A list of eligible PhD thesis topics, developed in Stage 1 of the call, is available [here](#). Applicants should clearly indicate which topic (**only one**) they are applying for and justify their choice in the motivation letter.

9. How to Apply

Download the [Application Form](#), complete it carefully and accurately, save the file, and be ready to upload it on the portal.

Questions? Contact us at: bogdan.gheorghe@utcb.ro

10. Equal Opportunity

EU-CONEXUS is committed to fostering diversity and inclusion. We welcome applications from all qualified individuals regardless of gender, ethnicity, disability, or background. Open, transparent, merit-based selection and recruitment procedure of doctoral candidates.

11. About EU-CONEXUS ENABLES

EU-CONEXUS ENABLES aims to create an innovative ecosystem promoting sustainable synergies between academic and research institutions across Europe. It focuses on long-term solutions to climate-resilient coastal development, driven by open science and digital innovation. Project Funded by: **European Research Executive Agency (Horizon Europe – HORIZON-WIDERA-2023)**

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