

FAQs 2026

JOINT MASTER PROGRAMME IN MARINE BIOTECHNOLOGY

1. What funding options are available for this programme?

This year, the JMPMB does not offer Erasmus Mundus scholarships. However, up to 15 places with a tuition fee waiver are available for students who meet the requirements and obtain the highest evaluation scores, while also ensuring a balanced distribution among the different track of specializations.

Selected students may apply for Erasmus+ mobility grants, provided they move to a university located in a country different from their country of residence. For example, a Spanish student could apply for a mobility grant at the end of the first semester to study in France during the second semester. However, a French student going to France would not be eligible for this grant. These grants only partially cover expenses, and the amount varies each year.

2. Is Erasmus Mundus funding expected to be available in the next call? Will this programme continue for the 2027–2028 academic year?

The program submitted a new application for Erasmus Mundus funding last February. Until the official decision is published, we will not know whether this type of scholarship will be available for future editions.

The JMPMB program must undergo its reaccreditation process next May, which is a normal process. Therefore, we do not yet know whether there will be a new call for applications in 2027. However, the continuation of the program is guaranteed until the graduation of the cohort that will begin in September 2026.

3. Is hands-on experience included in the programme? Is diving experience mandatory for participation?

Yes. The program includes a large number of hands-on learning hours. For example, laboratory activities begin in the first semester, and practical components such as the internship, Academic Research Integration, and the Master's thesis run throughout the duration of the program.

For one day, some activities take place on a boat at sea. However, having a scuba diving certification is not mandatory.

4. Do students from EU-CONEXUS partner universities receive any priority during the admission process?

No. All applications are treated equally and transparently. Candidates from consortium universities do not receive priority and must meet the same evaluation criteria as all other applicants.

5. Where are students based during the third semester if the courses are taught online?

During the third semester, some courses related to the chosen specialization track will be delivered online. However, students will be located at the institution where they carry out their Academic Research Integration course, which will be assigned during the second semester according to their chosen track.

6. Is it possible to complete an internship longer than two months during the first year of the programme?

Yes, it is possible to extend the internship period until August 31, if it is authorized and supervised by La Rochelle Université, which is responsible for this course.

7. Is there any support or guidance for international students in finding dormitories or housing?

Yes. Once the Student Agreement has been signed, students will receive the Student Toolkit. This guide includes information, recommendations, and tips, including details about accommodation and living expenses.

Additional questions frequently asked by prospective students

8. From which countries can applicants apply?

All countries are eligible.

9. My English certificate is more than 2 years old. Is it still valid?

The certificate must have been issued within the last 2 years.

10. Should the letters of recommendation be sent directly by the referees via email, or should I scan and upload them during the application?

They should be scanned and uploaded by the applicant during the application process.

11. What format should the recommendation letters follow? Do they need to be addressed specifically to the programme, or can they be general?

There is no specific template. However, the requirements are detailed in the admission guidelines. The letter must be dated (no older than six months), signed by the referee, and include their personal and professional contact information.

12. If I hold a master's degree, am I still eligible for this program?

Yes.

13. My university informed me that they do not issue confirmation letters stating that my bachelor's degree qualifies for postgraduate studies. What should I do?

This document is mandatory and can be provided by your university with your personal details and stating that your bachelor's degree give you access to university postgraduate studies. See the template below:

ELIGIBILITY STATEMENT for University Postgraduate Programmes

This is to confirm that Mr./Ms. *<name of student>* graduated from *<name of university>*. He / she passed final examination and is granted a Bachelor of Science degree / a degree of *<name of degree>*

The certificate / diploma no. *<number of certificate or diploma>* **entitles its holder, Mr./Ms. *<name of student>* to continue with University Postgraduate Programmes in any country.**

<stamp and signature>

14. How should I write the Statement of Purpose (SOP) if motivation questions are already included in the application portal? How are they different?

The Statement of Purpose (SOP) should justify your preference for a specific track. The explanation of why you are choosing our programme and the field of marine biotechnology can be included in the Motivation section of the application form. Both sections may overlap, but the SOP must clearly explain your track choice.

15. My academic certificates are already in English. Do they still need to be legalized by the Spanish embassy for the online application?

Legalization and translation are different requirements. Even if your documents are already in English, they still need to be legalized or apostilled.

16. My IELTS result will be available after deadline. Will this affect my application?

All required documents must normally be submitted during the application process. However, if you are waiting for test results or your final diploma, you must provide a document indicating the expected release date. If selected, your admission offer will be conditional until all required documents are submitted.

17. I am in the process to publish an article; can I mention it in my application even if it is still under review?

You are welcome to mention your scientific experience. However, only published articles will be considered for evaluation points during the selection process.

18. How much of the course material is virtual vs in-person?

The first and second semesters require full in-person attendance. The third semester is blended: theoretical courses (16 ECTS) are taught online, while the Academic Research Integration module (14 ECTS) requires in-person lab work. The Master's thesis is also conducted in person.

19. Does the Master's Programme begin in the summer semester? Approximately how many students start the programme each year?

The Master's Programme starts in September and runs full-time for two academic years. A maximum of 40 students may be admitted each year.

20. What career paths have previous alumni followed?

Most of them are enrolled in PhD programmes around Europe, and some also working in Europe and USA.