

Joint Master programme in Marine Biotechnology Students with disabilities or special needs information package



EU-CONEXUS partners aim at developing an-inclusive higher education environment in order to ensure that students with disabilities and special needs are not excluded from higher education and that their potential is realised.

In this respect, EU-CONEXUS partners are always searching for solutions and services to best support inclusion and equity and accommodate the different backgrounds, needs and aspirations of students through different approaches, initiatives and methods.

EU-CONEXUS partners have ensured that all conditions required for developing suitable disability-inclusive policies are in place and that services and support for all students to succeed, irrespective of their background and experiences, are provided.

At most of EU-CONEXUS partners, students with special educational needs, learning difficulties, and / or disabilities will find :

- dedicated department or specialist to assess their needs and assist them with psychological support, counseling services, educational activities, etc.;
- some adapted infrastructures ;
- educational materials with adapted software and devices ;
- incentive to participate in academic exchange programmes ;
- adapted access to study programmes ;
- training of teaching staff to support them but also training of students, who volunteer to accompany their peers ;
- study / assessment process personalisation to achieve academic results.

For practical information about services to disabilities, please choose the university below :

La Rochelle Université, France	Agricultural University of Athens, Greece
Technical University of Civil Engineering of Bucharest, Romania	Klaipeda University, Lithuania
La Universidad Catolica de Valencia, Spain	University of Zadar, Croatia

JMPMB, with support of Erasmus Mundus Joint Masters project, can assist the **students with special needs** with providing financial support. Please get in contact with mm.diaz@ucv.es for personal guidance.

LRUniv INFORMATION PACKAGE

La Rochelle Université is a young university founded in 1993 on the *Port des Minimes* of La Rochelle, number one marina on the Atlantic coast.

From La Rochelle, you can feel the energy of the ocean and refuel iodized air : maritime landscapes, bird watching, fishing huts... Oceanic or Mediterranean parks extend over nearly 350 hectares and encourage strolling and relaxation. With a rich architectural heritage and treasures from the Middle Ages to the Renaissance, from the seventeenth to the twentieth century until the contemporary period, La Rochelle represents the sweetness of life.

Since its foundation, La Rochelle Université aims at becoming a reference for the inclusion of students and staff with disabilities or special needs with a proactive approach to disability.

By making specific arrangements for students with temporary or long-term disabilities, the *Relais Handicap* accompanies them in order to help them complete successfully their studies.

In relation with the *University Health Service (SDSU)*, our teaching teams are mobilized in plural teams in order to take into account specific situations. The growing number of students benefiting from these arrangements shows the effectiveness of the system. The involvement of all the staff of La Rochelle Université is helping in creating some genuinely personalized study programmes.

At the *Relais Handicap*, the counsellors of the service will help students with disabilities or special needs :

- define their study programme project before they start at University
- Assess their needs
- Provide a personalised follow-up throughout their studies.

Some equipment can be provided (loan of laptops with special software, micro HF, writing tablet for use in a wheelchair, wheelchair for field visits..), personal assistance is offered (note taker, secretary for exams, teaching assistant, tutor to help settle into the university...), and specific arrangements can be organised for studies and exams.

In addition to this, a *Handicap counsellor* in the Human Resources Department of La Rochelle Université is responsible for raising awareness about disabilities within the

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La Rochelle Université

university community and for setting up workstations for employees with disabilities or special needs.

At La Rochelle Université, you can be ensured that we aim at providing a high quality environment where we can all live together.

For more information, <https://www.univ-larochelle.fr/en/student-life/student-with-disability/a-service-dedicated-to-students-with-a-disability/>

UCV INFORMATION PACKAGE

The UCV is a private, non-profit, catholic university. Located in Valencia, the third largest city in Spain, it was founded in 2003, starting with vocational degrees, such as Primary Education and Nursing. An honest vocation to service is what runs in our DNA. We promote intellectual and personal curiosity that will allow students to discover and lead full lives

We promote education based on humanistic thinking. This prepares students for searching for the truth. Our university is engaged in society; it is sensitive to the situation of the most disadvantaged and therefore makes education accessible to everyone. It focuses particularly on people with disabilities by promoting social integration and education inclusion

All Students have access to a coaching and guidance Service. Run by specialists in Pedagogy and Psychology, this service offers academic, professional and personal coaching. Workshops, seminars and personalized advice are available throughout your university experience.

The Disability Support Services (SAPD), formed by a multidisciplinary team, not only provide assistance and support for students and people with disabilities, but also guarantees the inclusiveness and equality among the university community members.

The principles underlying the implementation of the Service of Attention to People with Disabilities of the Catholic University of Valencia "San Vicente Mártir" (hereinafter SAPD), as well as the implementation of the actions derived from it aimed at full inclusion effective number of people with special educational needs at the University are referred to in Law 51/2003, of December 2, on Equal Opportunities, Non-Discrimination and Universal Accessibility of People with Disabilities. The SAPD is a service of the Catholic University of Valencia "San Vicente Mártir" made up of a multidisciplinary team, aimed at providing care, advice and support in matters of Disability to the entire university community. The SAPD was created with the purpose of ensuring the principle of equal opportunities and non-discrimination of those students with special educational needs, the teaching and research and the administration and services staff. Its development is carried out through a series of actions framed in the following programs under the principles of personal autonomy, normalization, equity, participation and co-responsibility:

- **Psycho-educational Information and Counseling Program.**

The purpose of this program is to inform and to advise regarding resources, regulations, curricular adaptations, fee exemptions *, scholarships, and to assess the needs of students with special educational needs to offer them the advice they need according to their situation. Fee exemptions * Students (not their family members) with a disability equal to or greater than 65%, or equal to or greater than 33%, will be exempt from paying tuition fees as long as, in the latter case, the gross annual income of their family unit does not exceed

60,101.22 euros. For these purposes, it must be taken into account that the certificates or documents that do not expressly state that the disability is provisional or that it is valid for a specific period, are not expired even if they have "distant" dates, and therefore, they should be considered who have the status of a person with disabilities

• **Equal Opportunities Program.**

This program focuses on the administration and management of those technical and human resources necessary to facilitate the support of students with special educational needs. The endowment of all these resources represents a measure of positive discrimination in order to equalize the opportunities of these students in the university. Depending on the type of resource used, technical support and / or personal support will be provided.

Awareness and Training Program

It includes the planning and proposal of a training program on content related to disability, aimed at both students and teachers and administration and service personnel in order to promote information, awareness and awareness of the entire university community.

• **Universal Accessibility Program.**

The adaptation of the University to universal accessibility criteria requires an important communication capacity between the different operating structures that compose it, as well as the existence of clear protocols of action based on the urgency of the same to be integrated into the usual management of spaces and facilities. Only the existence of an accessibility chain guarantees the possibility of having an inclusive University. It is useless to have accessible classrooms if access to the building that houses them is not accessible. The Universal Accessibility program incorporates three different types of actions depending on the intervention context: Physical environment, Virtual environments and Access to information

• **Program of Attention to the teaching and research and the administration and services staff with disabilities**

The program aims to establish various kinds of aid to compensate for the disadvantages and difficulties that may appear in their professional performance, trying to favor conditions of effective equality

For more information, <https://www.ucv.es/eng/university-life/student-facilities>

UNIZD INFORMATION PACKAGE

The University of Zadar is the fifth largest university in the Republic of Croatia. Students who join us will be delighted by the position of the University (vicinity to Zadar Sea Organ and old town of Zadar) as well as the unique cultural and natural position of Zadar and its region (the archipelago with 540 islands, proximity to national parks). In the City of Zadar students will find some of the most beautiful monuments of architecture and cultural heritage of the eastern Adriatic coast.

With the aim to ensure conditions for quality and equally accessible education of current and future students with disabilities, the University of Zadar has organized a string of activities through the *Student Counselling Centre*, and encouraged the foundation of the *Committee for the Students with Disabilities*. Students with disabilities at the University of Zadar are considered students who have *visual impairment, hearing impairment, motor disabilities, chronic diseases, specific learning difficulties and students with mental illness and disorders*. By categorizing these students as students with disabilities our intention is not to stigmatize them, but rather to emphasize the need for accommodation of academic content to their individual abilities. In this process, we take care not to jeopardize academic standards and not to compromise defined learning outcomes. Students with disabilities are provided with *continuous support* during their studies, with the aim of achieving more efficient and successful learning.

Viewing from the perspective of a student with a disability, there are *no spatial obstacles* for accessing the University. All buildings are accessible to the persons in a wheelchair due to the ramps at the entrances, while different parts of the building can be reached by an elevator. Besides, there are toilets adjusted to the persons with physical disabilities. All the rooms are accessible to the students with visual impairment and hearing impairment, and the elevator buttons are marked in Braille signs.

Also, the University of Zadar provides *additional assistive equipment and technology* depending on individual student needs. Students can apply for *individual counseling* at the Counseling Center and join the *support group for students with disabilities* that was formed last academic year. Students with disabilities also could enroll in a *peer support course*. The course is available to all students enrolled in any department of the University of Zadar, be it at an undergraduate, graduate, or postgraduate level. The prerequisite for the enrolment is the acquaintance with a disabled student who needs peer support, and who consents that the student who enrolls in the course be his or her student helper (a pair). The course is entered as a university course, and it is not affiliated to a particular study program. Students with disabilities could participate in a *customized fitness program and therapeutic swimming* (activities organized by the Center for Exercise and Student Sports).

For more information, <https://studentisinvaliditetom.unizd.hr/>

KU INFORMATION PACKAGE

Klaipeda University (KU) aims at fostering a disability friendly and inclusive environment.

KU encourages students with a disability to express their needs and let us know about them as early as possible. Through reciprocal communication we will put efforts to ensure access to studies and make reasonable accommodations for student's full, effective and equal participation in the study process.

Students with disabilities are provided with continuous support during their studies, with the aim of achieving more efficient and successful learning by means of:

- individualization of the study process to meet the needs arising from a disability;
- improving the physical accessibility of the University campus;
- providing assistive technologies, allowing to adjust the study process to individual needs;
- counselling students and lecturers.

The administration, professors, and students of the University work together to ensure that students with disabilities have a comfortable experience at the University. All students with disabilities may design individual plan of studies. Individual accommodations may include: modification of the deadlines or the type of assignments/exam; providing teaching materials in an accessible format, etc.

KU offers services for students with special needs:

Software

- *Braille Music Translator GOODFEEL*. Software package consists of 3 programs: translation of music scores in electronic medium into Braille and printing, program Sharp Eye Reader for scanning and recognizing music scores and music editor Lime Aloud 9.
- *Dolphin - EasyConverter, EasyReader*. Converts regular text documents to alternative formats (Mp3, audio, Braille, digital book format DAISY).
- *Super Nova Magnifier 13.3*. Allows to magnify all the information or its parts on the screen, as well as pictures, icons, etc.
- *JAWS 14 for Windows*. Analyses information on the screen and transmits it to speech synthesizer, which converts text into sound.
- *Win Talker Voice 1.6*. Transforms information on computer screen to user in voice in Lithuanian.

Equipment

- Image magnifier *TOPAZ XL HD V 246 HL*. Allows to magnify the text, adjust its brightness, contrast, letter and background color modes.
- Alternative computer mice *Traxsys Roller Joystick II* for users with motor disorders.
- Keyboards. Bright color keyboards for the visually impaired.
- *The SARA CE* (Scanning and Reading Appliance, Camera Edition) is the next-generation self-contained scanning and reading appliance for the blind and those with poor vision.
- Braille printer *VP Columbia*. Regular text documents are printed in convex Braille writing and produce tactile diagrams (charts, schedules, etc.).

Databases

Subscribed databases either have an integrated voice reading service (*Taylor and Francis*) or support audio and text enhancement software (*Springer, Wiley Online Library EBSCO, Sage, ScienceDirect*).

Students who have official approved diagnosis of mental, physical, intellectual or other cognitive disabilities which cause 45 percent or lower working capacity are eligible to receive social grant from The State Studies Foundation.

Students with disabilities may participate in the competition for Erasmus+ studies or internships abroad and they can also get additional grants, which would cover all expenses that are related to disability or special needs during Erasmus+ studies or internship.

KU provides accommodation for the students with disability in the dormitory in a priority manner. On the first floor of the dormitory (Universiteto alėja 12) 4 rooms are adapted for the needs of people with disabilities.

KU appointed a *disability specialist* who is responsible for the development and planning of the disability issues policy and for the implementation of the plan at the University.

UTCb INFORMATION PACKAGE

Having its roots in the “School for Land Surveyors” and the “The School of Bridges, Roads and Mines” founded in Bucharest in the 19-th century, Technical University of Construction’s (UTCb) actual basic structure was established in 1948.

Located in Bucharest, the capital of Romania, which itself is a very dynamic and lively academic center, UTCb is the only Romanian university entirely devoted to education in civil engineering and the related fields, having a long history of successful contributions in construction development.

With a competitive and well recognized academic staff, UTCb is a major actor in public higher education, research, consultancy, and design codes regulations in the construction field.

Starting from the need of society to benefit from quality educational and research services in the field of constructions for its sustainable development, the fundamental mission assumed by the Technical University of Constructions Bucharest is to be a national center for training of new generations of specialists and high-performance scientific researchers.

UTCb has adopted a Code of Student Rights and Obligations where the student-centered educational process is stipulated and ensured. It is assured that there is no discrimination of any kind, UTCb considering that all its students have the same rights to education and support so free services for educational and vocational guidance and counseling, tutoring and academic integration are ensured to help students achieve their professional success. The right for an alternative method of examination and for free teaching materials have always been a part of the UTCb’s culture.

Technical University of Constructions Bucharest is starting to take a proactive approach to the inclusion of students and staff with disabilities in the campus and in the community.

Students who have official evidence of diagnosis of disability are entitled to submit their request for academic scholarship. They also can benefit from the support of Students Association which voluntarily provides care and help.

The Career Counseling and Guidance Center counsellors are prepared to help students with disabilities or special needs with individual counseling, personalized plan for their needs and the respond to their particular requirements.

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Technical University of Civil Engineering Bucharest

During the pandemic, Technical University of Constructions Bucharest is applying the epidemiological safety measures by going online while continuing to ensure a quality education.

Technical University of Constructions Bucharest wants to attract more students with disabilities or special needs and to try to offer them the necessary support, this step being a learning and development experience for us also.

Technical University of Constructions Bucharest is working to assure a good connection and communication between the management, teachers, secretary, staff, and students, knowing that this relation gives the best results.