EU-CONEXUS Joint Master Programme in Marine Biotechnology

Admission procedure and timeline

INTAKE 2027.
Approved by the EU-CONEXUS Academic Council.

EU CONEXUS
European University for Smart Urban Coastal Sustainability

Co-funded by the European Union

Student admission procedure for intake 2027

Article 1. General provisions

The student admission includes the procedures and rules for application, selection, enrolment and registration of the students in the joint Master programme in Marine Biotechnology.

The Partners agree to apply a joint application, selection, enrolment, and registration procedures for JMPMB students.

This Students admission procedure and timeline is approved by the EU-CONEXUS Academic Council.

Article 2. Admission calendar

Procedure	Timeline		Responsible
Confirmation of the Selection Committee	24/11/2026		Programme Board
Publishing of application, selection, and admission procedure for intake of 2027	30/11/2026		Programme Coordinating University
	1st round: Erasmus Mundus Scholarships	**2nd round**: Self-funded and tuition fee waiver	
Call for applications	**01/12/2026 - 31/01/2027**	**01/02/2027 - 30/04/2027**	Applications shall be submitted online
Start of applications' assessment	01/02/2027	03/05/2027	Selection Committee
Publishing the list of eligible students to interviews	01/03/2027	28/05/2027	EU-CONEXUS Master Officer
Interviews	08/03/2027 - 23/04/2027	07/06/2027 – 15/06/2027	Selection Committee
Pre-nomination student list and waitlisted students	30/04/2027	21/06/2027	Programme Board
Sending the conditional acceptance letters	06/05/2027	28/06/2027	EU-CONEXUS Master Officer
Review of withdrawals and invitation to students on waiting list	14/05/2027	05/07/2027	Programme Board
Signing the Student Agreements	20/05/2027	06/07/2027	EU-CONEXUS Master Officer

Procedure	Timeline	Responsible
Registration of students	06/09/2027*	EU-CONEXUS Master Officer Secretariat
Start of courses	08 /09/2027*	UCV

**Pending of confirmation*

Article 3. Admission requirements

The programme is open to the **holders of a first cycle higher education degree** (bachelor's degree) in **Natural Sciences, Mathematics and Statistics (ISCED 05), Engineering, Manufacturing and Construction (ISCED 07), Agriculture, Forestry, Fisheries and Veterinary (ISCED 08) and other similar fields of study as JMPMB from all countries** but related to Biotechnology, Biochemistry, Pharmacy, Chemistry, Biology, Marine Sciences, Environmental Sciences, Food Technology, etc.

The qualification must give access to Master studies and be recognised by the NARICs (National Academic Recognition Information Centres) of the Partners (see Article 5.1.).

The minimum **eligibility requirements** to study joint Master programme in Marine Biotechnology are:

- University bachelor's degree (min. 180 ECTS and Bachelor thesis as part of the study programme received) providing access to university postgraduate programmes, and which shows that the applicant has a solid background in biological sciences and it is linked to the Master's field in Biotechnology,
- English language proficiency: at least CEFR B2, IELTS 6.5 (at least 6 in any skill overall speaking, writing, listening and reading) or equivalent), if English is not a native language or language of previous Bachelor or Master studies,
- Motivation.

The Partners agree to aim at selecting the best students in the JMPMB. The Consortium will select the students in **three selection steps**:

(1) eligibility evaluation,

(2) assessment of applications and

(3) interview.

The final list of nominated and pending students will be announced by the Programme Committee.

For detailed information and particularities for university admission, please, check the following link: Specific requirement for admission based on the countries.

Article 4. Application

An applicant to the Joint Master programme in Marine Biotechnology shall fill in the application form and upload the following scanned documents through the EU-CONEXUS application system https://apply.eu-conexus.eu/:

– **Diploma of Bachelor's degree**, in language of origin and an official translation into English. Apostilled or legalized by Spanish embassy.

- *If the diploma is not received yet, the applicant shall indicate when it is expected to be received or provide the confirmation from university about completing Bachelor studies*.*

– **Diploma Supplement or Transcript of records**, in language of origin and an official translation into English, showing full details of courses studied and grades/marks obtained.

- *If at the moment of application, the Bachelor studies (or equivalent) are not completed yet, the Transcript of records with the courses and grades to date is accepted*.*

– A letter from the University stating that his/her Bachelor gives **access to university postgraduate programmes.**

– **Certificate to proof of English language proficiency** (see requirements), if English is not a native language.

- *If at the moment of application,* it is not possible to provide proof of language qualification, applications will still be accepted but any offer of a place on the programme or of a scholarship will be conditional until the test result is received & verified by Selection Committee.

– **Statement of purpose** completed with comments/justification about the preference for the track (specialization) in JMPMB.

– **CV** with the emphasis on professional/research experience in the related subject and extracurricular activities (Europass CV format is highly recommended).

– **2 academic recommendation** letters (the letters must be not older than 6 months and must be signed. They must also contain a date, and they must be on letterhead paper and include the referee's signature or official stamp).

– Copy of the photo page of **passport or ID** (ID card for EU citizens only).

– **Scientific articles**, if any. The articles may be listed in the CV with the link to the journal where it is published and object identifier (OID) number

– **Proof of volunteering and/or work activities** (e.g., certificate, report, membership payment slip, etc.).

At the moment of application, the applicant is requested to select the track for the 3rd semester of JMPMB (you can select up to 3 priority choices).

All documents, if not in English or bilingual, when English is one of the languages, shall be duly translated and notary verified (sworn translation).

Applications shall be submitted until the end of Call for applications. If any of the required documents are missing, the application will not be considered.

**** Conditional offers***
An applicant who is completing the final year of his/her first degree or who has yet to provide the required evidence of proficiency in English will be considered for entry to the JMPMB but will not receive an unconditional offer of a place on the programme until it is received his/her final degree and/or English language test results. In such cases, the applicant may be offered a conditional admission on finishing Bachelor's degree at the required grade and/or obtaining the required English language test results. This documentation must be submitted to the EU-CONEXUS Master Officer. If Diploma of Bachelor degree is issued with the delay, a provisional diploma or letter from University must be submitted.

EU-CONEXUS Master Officer is responsible to communicate and consult potential applicants and assist them in the application procedure.

After the applications are submitted, the EU-CONEXUS Master Officer prepares the applicants lists and their documentation to the Selection Committee.

Article 5. Selection

The selection process, performed by the Selection Committee, consists of three steps to ensure the involvement of every Partner institution in the selection of potential students:

(1) eligibility evaluation,

(2) assessment of applications and

(3) interview.

These steps include the assessment of applications in a gradual flow of choosing the best applicants.

The selection is based on criteria guaranteeing a fair evaluation of the applications and does not give priority to any applicant depending on his/her nationality, race, religion, or gender.

Article 5.1 Eligibility evaluation

The submitted applications shall be thoroughly reviewed:

1) first the formal aspects to be checked (required documents, documents in English, etc.),
2) and then the eligibility requirements to be reviewed.

The relevance of the Bachelor's degree of the applicant in respect to the access to the second cycle studies and the JMPMB programme will be assessed:

- The degree issuing higher education institution must be an accredited institution in the country where the studies are conducted/registration of HEI and to have a right to issue the degree which is submitted.
- The programme must be accredited for the period when the applicant has studied there.
- The qualification must provide access to Master's studies.

- The qualification must be recognized by the NARICs (National Academic Recognition Information Centers) of the Partners.
- The qualification (or together with additional formal and non-formal qualifications) shall meet specific requirements to study JMPMB, i.e. the applicant must have sufficient background knowledge to study master's in biotechnology.

In case of doubt regarding the quality of the issuing institution, external advisors will be consulted, in order to establish the status and quality of the institution concerned.

The recognition of the learning outcomes gained through non-formal and informal learning may be used for (1) admission purposes (under the responsibility of the Selection Committee), (2) recognition and transfer of (part of) credits in the JMPMB (under the responsibility of the course coordinating Partner in collaboration with the Programme Committee).

If applications are found to be incomplete and/or non-eligible, the applicants will be informed.

Article 5.2 Assessment of applications

Eligible applications are then evaluated and ranked by the Selection Committee according to the following selection criteria and point system:

Selection criteria	Points
Grade (GPA – grade point average) of Bachelor	0 (not satisfying) to 40 (excellent)
Statement of purpose, including logical argumentation of how previous studies lead to this Master, and how new acquired knowledge through JMPMB curricula and chosen track will contribute to career development, advancing in the chosen field	0 (not satisfying) to 40 (excellent)
Professional/research experience in the related subject	0 (no experience) to 10 (very high)
Extracurricular merits (entrepreneurship, publications, conference papers, volunteer work, social activity, etc.)	0 (no merits) to 10 (very high)
Total:	**0 to 100**

Article 5.3 Interview

Only 10 applicants from the same country with the highest number of points but no less than 60 points could be invited to interview in each of the rounds.

The interview takes approx. 15 minutes and is meant to evaluate motivation and personal skills by the Selection Committee.

Interview evaluation criteria	Explanation	Points
Motivation	Student should show why he/she should be chosen over other candidates. It shows his/her passion for the programme and what he/she hopes to attain from being part of the Erasmus Mundus programme. Student needs to tell a story that motivates the evaluator to choose him/her.	1(extremely low) to 10 (very high)
Strength	Tasks or actions student can do well. These include knowledge, proficiencies, skills, and talents. People use their traits and abilities to complete work, relate with others, and achieve goals.	1(extremely low) to 10 (very high)
Disagreement	Conflict happens in all areas of life, and when you're applying for a position, the company wants to understand your conflict resolution skills. Confidently answering interview questions about conflict resolution can show your ability to work with others, handle stress, and problem-solve effectively.	1(extremely low) to 10 (very high)
Aspirations	Career aspirations are student's vision for his/her future. They are what one hopes to achieve in his/her professional life in the years to come.	1(extremely low) to 10 (very high)
Cultural knowledge	Means that student knows about some cultural characteristics, history, values, beliefs, and behaviours of another ethnic or cultural group. "Cultural awareness" is the next stage of understanding other groups — being open to the idea of changing cultural attitudes.	1(extremely low) to 10 (very high)
Total:		**5 to 50**

N.B. The applicants' ranking points are given under a joint agreement. In case of disagreement, each Selection Committee member gives personal points, and the final points are calculated as the average.

The Selection Committee (SC) decides whether the applicant is nominated for the programme. There should be a shared understanding and agreement on the profile of students accepted into the programme. In case, that one member of the Selection Committee is not willing to admit an applicant; the (non)acceptance will be decided by a simple majority of SC members.

Article 6. Final nomination list

The final ranking will consist of the total points collected from the selection criteria evaluation (60 to 100) and interview evaluation (5-50). In case of high competition, the priority will be given to the applicants based on their indicated priorities for tracks in the 3rd semester to ensure the homogenous distribution of students among the tracks.

The Selection Committee approves the pre-nomination list and submits it to the Programme Board for final approval.

The list of nominated students and pending applicants is announced on the EU-CONEXUS website and selected applicants are informed by the EU-CONEXUS Master Officer by email within the admission timeline.

If the nominated student is still due to present his/her final documents, the conditional offer is issued until the pending documents are received.

If a nominated student withdraws his/her application or refuses the offer to study JMPMB, the next person from the pending students list moves up to take the study place.

Article 7. Distribution of Erasmus Mundus and other scholarships

Article 7.1. 1st Selection round

The 1st selection round is to select the best candidates to study JMPMB with Erasmus Mundus scholarships.

EU-CONEXUS Joint Master programme in Marine Biotechnology has been selected by the Erasmus+ programme Erasmus Mundus Joint Masters (2026-2032, Project No. 101325655) and offers around 17-20 scholarships yearly to the best applicants in 2027, 2028, 2029, 2030 intakes.

EU-CONEXUS Erasmus Mundus Joint Masters project requires to ensure geographical balance – i.e. no more than 10% of the total number of scholarships awarded during project implementation should be awarded to candidates from the same nationality (this rule does not apply to top up scholarships for targeted regions of the world, if applicable).

Foreseen distribution of Erasmus Mundus scholarships in 2027:

EU Member States and Third Countries associated to the programme	**Third Countries not associated to the Programme**	**Third Countries not associated to the Programme - IPA**	**Third Countries not associated to the Programme - NDICI**
EU and N. Macedonia, Serbia, Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway, Turkey	*All other countries not associated to the Programme*	*Albania, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Kosovo, Montenegro*	*All other countries not associated to the Programme except USA & Canada, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Moldova, Ukraine, Russia*
Erasmus Mundus scholarships foreseen to be distributed in the intake 2027*			
6-7	6-7	1-2	4-5
Total			**~ 17-20 scholarships****

** The total number is approximate and may vary*
*** These positions do not have to be filled on a mandatory basis.*

If any nominated candidates for Erasmus Mundus scholarship refuse the offer to study JMPMB, his/her place can be offered to the candidates from the waiting list based on the

ranking but keeping the distribution of scholarships by country or region and, preferably, by chosen track.

Other candidates passing the interview stage may be offered a self-paid place.

Article 7.1. 2nd Selection round

The 2nd selection round is to select the best candidates to study JMPMB on a self-paid basis or with partial scholarships (tuition fee waiver).

All candidates from the waiting list for the 1st selection round and new applicants will participate in the 2nd round of the selection. Only new applicants, complying with the requirements listed in Article 4 will be invited to the interview.

EU-CONEXUS offers up to **15 places with 100% discount for tuition fee** with some partial scholarships to cover part of living costs during 6-12 (24, program duration) months to the best candidates of the 2nd round.

Other applicants will be offered a self-paid place. A maximum of 40 students with or without scholarships will be accepted to study JMPMB in 2027.

Article 8. Enrolment and registration

The EU-CONEXUS Master Officer is in charge of communication with nominated students. Once the nominations list is approved by the Programme Board, EU-CONEXUS Master Officer has to send the following documents to the invited students:

- (Conditional) acceptance letter, where the start of studies, duration, chosen track for the 3rd semester, language of studies, tuition fees will be notified.
- Individualized explanatory letter, where the nominated student will be informed about the next steps to take, what documents to present, how to obtain health insurance, and, how and where to apply for visa, if needed.
- Student agreement.

When the nominated applicant returns the signed Student agreement, it is considered the student accepted the invitation to study.

As a next step, EU-CONEXUS Master Officer sends out:

- Payment instructions (for those students with 50% fee waiver or self-paid)
- Student toolkit (with travelling, migration procedures, accommodation, health insurance, academic regulation information, etc.) and contacts;
- Connection to social media networks;
- Information about the webinar 'Before arrival' and Welcome Week.

Any other documents, requested by the student for personal reasons (for scholarship, bank loan, visa application, military service, etc.) shall be provided by EU-CONEXUS Master Officer.

The student who signed the Student agreement and paid the tuition fees (or the latter were paid by third parties) is registered as a full-time student of the joint Master programme in Marine Biotechnology at five universities of the Consortium for the whole period of the studies.

Programme Board members at each Partner are in charge to provide all required information to the institutional administrative departments to finalize these procedures.

When the student arrives at the first university (UCV) of the JMPMB, he/she shall present original Bachelor diploma (apostilled or legalized by Spanish embassy), diploma supplement or transcript of records and, if not in English, their duly translated notary verified copies. These documents are stored at the Programme Coordinator University, and the copies of all students' documents to be sent to Partners. The Partners store student data according to the respective rules of each institution.

Article 9. Appeals

The Selection Committee and Programme Board guarantee an absence of any conflict of interest as well as transparency and equal treatment for all applicants.

In case of any objection in any stage of the application, selection and admission process, the applicant may file his/her appeal to the Academic Coordinator at the Programme Coordinator University at admission.mb@eu-conexus.eu. Appeals may be submitted within a period of up to five (5) days following the closure of the call.

The appeal shall be dealt with by the Programme Committee within 5 working days, or if the complaint requires more time to verify the facts and/or documents, to notify the person about possible time to answer.