

# EU-supported Master Programme of Excellence

Erasmus Mundus  
Master Programme

# Euroculture

Europe in the Wider World

## Euroculture Consortium Universities

Georg-August-Universität Göttingen, Germany

Rijksuniversiteit Groningen, the Netherlands

Universidad de Deusto (Bilbao), Spain

Univerzita Palackého v Olomouci, Czech Republic

Uniwersytet Jagielloński w Krakowie, Poland

Uppsala Universitet, Sweden



Education and Culture

Erasmus Mundus

## Description of the programme

The Erasmus Mundus Master of Arts Programme **Euroculture: Europe in the Wider World** is a unique multilingual, interdisciplinary and inter-university double degree project of six European universities, recognized by the European Commission as a **Master Programme of Excellence**.

### Its aim

The programme addresses current topics and problems of the EU and students are taught to reflect on the development of the social-cultural dimensions of the EU. The basic aim of the Euroculture degree programme is to reflect in an interdisciplinary way on Europe's current position and its values, as well as the many different expressions and manifestations of self-understandings of societies, social groups and individuals within Europe. Indispensable in this regard is knowledge of the current political governance of the EU and of political tensions related to the replacement of political sovereignty and authority and how this affects the EU. Both push and pull factors at work in the EU are studied. The programme uses relevant theories, approaches and methods in social, political, historical and cultural sciences to pay special attention to:

- The constitution and breaking up of political loyalties and identities
- Regional, national and supranational dimensions of the European democratic development
- Mobility, migration and interculturality in the multicultural society
- The fading away of inner frontiers; the formation of new borders

Because of its multi- and interdisciplinary approach, the Euroculture programme stands out from many other European Regional Studies programmes.

The programme was established in 1999, and in 2005 the European Commission awarded the Euroculture Programme the status of **Erasmus Mundus Programme**. The Erasmus Mundus Programme is a co-operation and mobility programme in the field of European higher education and brings together students from Europe and across the world. Its aim is to promote the European Union as a centre of excellence in learning around the world. It provides EU-funded scholarships for a limited number of outstanding third-country nationals to study the Euroculture programme.

The participating consortium members are Deusto, Göttingen, Groningen, Krakow, Olomouc and Uppsala. These consortium universities confer a double Master of Arts Degree in Euroculture to students who successfully complete the programme. The Euroculture programme also cooperates with the following European and non-European universities:

- Università di Udine
- Université de Strasbourg
- Indiana University (USA)
- University of Osaka (Japan)
- Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México (Mexico)
- University of Pune (India)

## Key competences

Euroculture has been designed around the development and training of the following competences:

### Specific Euroculture competences

- Knowledge of the academic debates concerning the push and pull factors in the creation of European identity
- Understanding the academic debates about the cultural and social effects of the development towards multilevel governance
- Independently and critically judge academic research in the field of Europe and European integration
- Insight into cultural processes as a factor in the political process of European (dis)integration
- Sound historical understanding of the European integration process
- Understanding, applying, processing and assessing relevant theoretical approaches and methodologies
- Capacity to reflect on the cultural aspects of the European integration process and its bifurcations in European and neighbouring cultural spaces
- Ability to identify focal points in the public debate on European integration in a reflective way with an eye for cultural sensitivities.

### Practical competences

- Critically using and analyzing primary and secondary texts, audio or visual expressions and sources related to the interdisciplinary field of Euroculture
- Developing and managing specific problem-based projects and disseminating the results to an appropriate public via an appropriate format
- Producing written assignments and oral presentations in English about Europe and European integration
- IT skills (word processing, powerpoint, Internet, e-mail)
- Identifying the European dimensions of a social problem and to differentiate these from local or national problems
- Collecting and processing relevant information from European institutes and organizations.

### Personal competences

- Communication skill, especially cross-cultural understanding
- Ability to work in international/multicultural teams
- Self-reliance, independence.



## Career prospects

Graduates of Euroculture work in a broad range of fields where expert knowledge of present Europe and European integration processes is required. Euroculture alumni have found employment in the following areas/institutions:

- European institutions and non-governmental organizations
- Education and research institutions
- Embassies all over the world
- Media, journalism, publishing, libraries
- Public relations institutions
- Law and personnel departments of international companies
- Political parties, foundations and associations
- City and regional planning, local and regional cultural projects
- Cultural management organizations
- Museums and exhibition organizations
- Tourism
- Immigration
- Religious institutions



«My double-degree in Euroculture was very helpful. I managed to prove my project management skills with the Eurocompetence experience, and my employers were very interested and impressed that such a thing exists...»

*Veronika Goncharova from Ukraine.*

## Programme outline

The length of the full-time programme is 16 months (90 ECTS credits). The programme combines the acquisition of theoretical knowledge with developing practical skills (Eurocompetences). The Euroculture programme annually comprises some 120 students (average of 20 students per institution).

Students spend the first semester at one university of their choice (called the 'home university'). The second semester is spent at one of the partner universities of the consortium (called the 'host university'). During the third semester students return to their 'home universities' from where the internship or research seminar is completed, depending on whether a student has chosen for the professional or research track.

First semester			Location
Acquisition of competences 30 ECTS	Core fields of European (political) culture	25 ECTS	Home university
	Eurocompetence I	5 ECTS	
Second semester			Location
Deepening and applying competences 30 ECTS	Eurocompetence II	10 ECTS	Host university
	Research Seminar: Europe in the Wider World	10 ECTS	
	MA thesis proposal	5 ECTS	
	Intensive programme (IP)	5 ECTS	
Third semester			Location
Exercising competences in practice 30 ECTS	MA thesis	15 ECTS	Home university
	Internship or research seminars (Choice based on selected profile)	15 ECTS	

## Programme in detail

### First semester: Acquisition of competences

Location: One of the participating Euroculture consortium universities

At each of the Euroculture consortium universities, four conceptual clusters (mobility, transfer, intervention and co-operation) are used in teaching, analysing and discussing aspects and dimensions of **European politics and culture** in a number of course-based modules:

- Mobility: Analysis of people, communities and cultures in local and global contexts
- Transfer: Analysis of cultural meanings and values in social interrelations
- Intervention: Analysis of policies, programmes of action
- Co-operation: Analysis of implications of cross-cultural co-operation in trans-national projects

A start is also made with the **Eurocompetence** module, which is characterized as an interdisciplinary and problem-oriented approach to develop such skills which form a link between academic competence and professional requirements. As a module of the Euroculture programme, it was designed with the goal of preparing Euroculture students with a) their entry as experts of the European integration process and European culture into the job market, b) their development into committed (European) citizens willing to research, learn and work towards the improvement and innovation of multicultural societies. The acquisition and training of competences required for the internship, Intensive Programme (IP) and writing of the MA thesis

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are integrated in the Eurocompetence modules (I and II). Specific attention during Eurocompetence I and II will be paid to:

- Reflection on personal identity and competences (including CV writing and job application skills)
- IP introduction and preparation
- Academic writing workshop
- Time management
- Presentation skills and visual rhetorics
- European cultural policies, programmes and funds
- Inter- and transcultural communication skills development
- Project design and management within European contexts.

### Second semester: Deepening and applying competences

Location: Students spend the second semester at another one of the consortium partner universities.

The second semester **research seminar** *Europe in the Wider World* is characterized by an interdisciplinary, problem and project oriented approach and represents:

- A combination of academic and professional training
- A focus away from teacher-centred to competence-centred approaches
- An innovative step for the programme's commitment to social engagement and conveying of knowledge.

The research seminar concentrates on the relationships between Europe and concrete parts of the world depending on the academic strengths and expertise of the consortium universities.

Together with the research seminar the second part of the **Eurocompetence** module is offered. During the second semester the topic of Project Management stands central in this module.

«Studying Euroculture has been a great experience. It has given me the chance to know different cultures and languages not only from the countries where I chose to study but also those from where my classmates came. Moreover, it has provided me with the opportunity to develop my competences as student and, with my internship, it has helped me to develop skills for a future career»

*Velia Altamira from Mexico.*

«The Erasmus Mundus Scholarship helped me realize my dream of studying in Europe. My formal classes comprised of lots of students from different countries with different cultural backgrounds, which presented a huge opportunity to learn and adopt multiculturalism...»

*Kiran Wagle from Nepal.*

### Intensive Programme: «An experience of a lifetime»

Every year in June, all Euroculture students from the participating universities convene at one of the partner universities to participate in an **Intensive Programme (IP)**. The IP has three main objectives:

- To offer the chance to meet and interact with more than hundred students and academics from all parts of the world during a ten-day intensive course
- To synthesize in a problem-oriented platform the content and methodologies taught during the first and second semester course units
- To consolidate methodological, competence-based, and research intensive modules.

Each year a specific IP topic and thematic focus is chosen. During the past years the IP topics were the following:

- 1999 - 2000: The Cultural Impact of Migration in Europe
- 2001 - 2002: Regionalism and Nationalism in an Integrating Europe
- 2000 - 2001: Cultural Constructions of Europe: European Identities in the 21st Century
- 2002 - 2003: European Transformations - Transformation of Europe
- 2003 - 2004: Images of Europe
- 2004 - 2005: Borders in an Enlarged EU: Bridges or Barriers?
- 2005 - 2006: Space and power in Europe: Culture, Communication, and the Politics of Identity
- 2006 - 2007: Difference or Discrimination? The Challenges of a Multicultural Europe
- 2007 - 2008: European Heritages and Collective Memories
- 2008 - 2009: Unity and Variety in the Perception of European Cultures
- 2009 - 2010: Europeans between Europeanisation and Globalisation



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The IP offers students the possibility to interact with renowned academics and experts and enables them to engage with professionals from relevant Euroculture fields. During the IP students present their own research papers and comment on each other's work in workshops. The IP serves as a stimulating space where students can obtain feedback on their work from their mentors and peers. Comments from students about past IPs show that they highly appreciate the conference atmosphere of the IP and value its intrinsic intercultural components and built-in opportunity to engage in multilingual dialogue.

The last part of the second semester is the submission and approval of a **thesis proposal** which is submitted as a thesis portfolio by the end of the semester. During the semester students are given the opportunity to work on their proposed thesis topics before submitting the portfolio to their supervisors: one at both the home and host university.

## Third Semester: Research and internship

**Location: Home university/host university/  
international organization/third country**

During the third semester students complete the **MA thesis**. The MA thesis is an important stage in a student's intellectual development. The purpose of the thesis is to give evidence of a student's abilities in collecting and evaluating information, critically analyzing theories in the chosen area of inquiry, and constructing, testing and defending an argument. The thesis should also demonstrate a student's ability to present research results concisely and in a scholarly form, and show furthermore that the student is capable of original and independent work.

Within the context of the MA programme Euroculture, the MA thesis is a written account of research based on a clearly defined problem located within a contemporary European context (20<sup>th</sup> or 21<sup>st</sup> century) and dealing with a topic related to the field of Euroculture, such as European culture, history, politics, foreign relations, literature and the arts, European law, history of religion in Europe, or European institutions.

Competences required in order to successfully complete the thesis include:

- Selecting and analyzing relevant material from diverse sources
- Carrying out independent research taking into account current theories and methodologies
- Confronting new problems and elaborating innovative solutions
- Identifying the cultural implications of the research in a given context.

«As a lecturer in a Chinese university, I feel confident and passionate sharing with my students the knowledge and experience acquired from the Euroculture programme...»

*Jie Tan from China.*



«The best thing about the programme is the opportunity to meet other students from all around the world. After only two semesters I already developed a big network of people who are interested in the same field as I am.»

*Julie Wouwenaar Tovgaard from Denmark*

### Two tracks

Within the MA Programme Euroculture students have the possibility to choose between two tracks during the third semester. The first option, called the «**professional track**» requires the completion of an **internship** of minimally 10 weeks at an organization where the acquired Euroculture skills and knowledge can be further developed and applied. The purpose of the internship is to offer students the possibility to link theoretical knowledge, skills and understanding with practical experience.

Typical Euroculture internships are conducted at institutions such as:

- The European Union and related organizations
- Governmental institutions and non-governmental organizations in the fields of politics and culture
- Educational institutions and research institutes
- Museums and galleries
- Cultural institutions
- Embassies and national representations abroad

The alternative track during the third semester is the «**research track**», which enables the deepening of research skills and theoretical knowledge and requires the completion of extra research seminars at the student's home university. This track is ideally suited for students wishing to pursue an academic career (such as entering into a third cycle degree) after completion of the Euroculture programme.

## Entry requirements, selection criteria and application information

Admission may be granted to applicants who meet the following criteria:

- Candidates must have completed at least a good level first cycle degree (university level) in a discipline relevant to the fields of European culture and European studies, preferably with a focus on cultural relations and intercultural studies.
- Candidates are required to have a recognized qualification in the languages of instruction of the university that they plan to attend. Knowledge of languages of the place of study is an asset.
- Study mobility periods abroad and practical experience in European and/or international organizations and institutions are valued.
- All applications should be complete and contain all the necessary documentation (both original and required number of copies).

## Selection criteria include motivation, academic qualifications, language skills, research experience and international and professional experience

Applications MUST include the following documents:

- Academic credentials, with a copy of diploma and, if available, Diploma Supplement
- Certified copies of academic transcripts (courses and grades)
- Academic and professional CV
- Letter of motivation to study Euroculture (max. 1 page)
- English proficiency test (paper based TOEFL: minimum 580; internet based TOEFL: minimum 92; IELTS: minimum 6.5; Certificate in Advanced English (CAE): minimum C1)
- 4 passport-sized photographs of the applicant
- 2 reference letters
- A valid copy of passport or identity card.

Candidates applying for an Erasmus Mundus scholarship can get more information on the bursary, as well as an online application form via the Euroculture website ([www.euroculturemaster.org](http://www.euroculturemaster.org)). Paper application dossiers should be sent to the University of Groningen, postmarked before the 15<sup>th</sup> of December of the year before the start of the course.

### Applications can be sent to:

Euroculture Erasmus Mundus secretariat  
Faculty of Arts  
University of Groningen  
Oude Kijk in 't Jatstraat 26  
NL - 9712 EK Groningen  
The Netherlands

All other candidates (not applying for an Erasmus Mundus scholarship) should apply directly to one of the EURO CULTURE universities (the one where you wish to start the programme, i.e. the «home university») by sending an application dossier to this specific university. The DEADLINE for regular applications is university specific. For information, consult the website of the relevant consortium partner university.

For further information about the Euroculture programme, please contact:

### EURO CULTURE Secretariat

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### In cooperation with:

#### Université de Strasbourg, France

Website: [www.iriti.com](http://www.iriti.com)

#### Università di Udine, Italy

Website: [www.uniud.it](http://www.uniud.it)