



# ERASMUS+ MASTER LOANS

## **Erasmus+ Master Loan: opening up access to more affordable lending for cross-border studies**

The Erasmus+ programme makes it possible for students who want to take a full Masters level degree in another country to apply for an Erasmus-backed loan on more affordable conditions. Erasmus+ is offering this because studying abroad can be expensive; while some countries make it possible to use national student grants and/or loans in other countries, many do not. Or the funding available may not be enough to cover all the costs – especially in countries with high living costs.

The Erasmus+ Master loan is an entirely new and additional action and will not replace Erasmus grants, which continue to be the main part of the Erasmus programme.

The loans are up to 12,000€ for a 1-year Master programme and up to 18,000€ for a 2-year Master and can cover both living and tuition costs in any of the 35 Erasmus+ programme countries. **You must follow the Master programme in a different country from your country of residence; and in a different country from where you took your Bachelor degree.**

You apply, usually in your home country, to a bank or student loan company that has signed up to the scheme. They will assess your application and explain all the terms.

This is a loan, not a grant, so it must be paid back. But special conditions make the repayment terms easier, including:

- neither you nor your family needs to provide any collateral to be approved for a loan
- the interest rate is lower than the market rate, because the financial intermediary must pass on the benefit of the EU guarantee
- the repayment terms allow for a 'grace period' of up to one year following the completion of your studies before repayments begin and a further one-year 'payment holiday' which can be taken in whole or in part throughout the duration of your loan

### **Might I be eligible to apply for an Erasmus+ backed loan?**

#### **1. Are you a resident of one of the following Erasmus+ programme countries:**

*One of the 28 EU Member States (Belgium, Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Denmark, Germany, Estonia, Ireland, Greece, Spain, France, Croatia, Italy, Cyprus, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Hungary, Malta, Netherlands, Austria, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovenia, Slovakia, Finland, Sweden, United Kingdom)*

*Other associated countries: EU Candidate Countries (Iceland, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Turkey) and EFTA countries (Liechtenstein and Norway)*

#### **2. Have you successfully completed first cycle higher education studies (Bachelor or equivalent) and been accepted for a 2<sup>nd</sup> cycle programme (Master or equivalent) at a Higher Education Institution which holds the Erasmus Charter for Higher Education?**

*A list of higher education institutions holding an Erasmus Charter for Higher Education (ECHE) is available on the [EACEA website](#)*

#### **3. Is where you intend to study for your Master in a different country from your country of residence?**

**4. Is the country where you intend to study also different from where you obtained your Bachelor degree (or the equivalent degree which gives you access to the Masters you want to take)**

*Why this requirement under 3 and 4? The Erasmus+ Master loan is to support learning mobility. It can't support studies which are within the same country or, for example, for you to go back to study in your home country after completing studies abroad.*

**5. Is the Master (or equivalent) you will study for a full programme that will lead to a degree?**

*Credit mobility (where you only study for part of your qualification abroad) is not eligible for an Erasmus+ Master Loan, but you may qualify for an Erasmus mobility grant. Contact the Erasmus+ national agency in your country for more information*

[http://ec.europa.eu/programmes/erasmus-plus/national-agencies\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/programmes/erasmus-plus/national-agencies_en.htm)

If you answered yes to all of the above questions, then you may be eligible to apply for a student loan backed by the Erasmus+ Master loan.

Please note that the above information is for illustrative purposes only; it cannot be taken as a decision on whether you will be approved for a loan, this will be up to the participating bank or student loan company to decide based upon an examination of your application and the provision of necessary proof demonstrating that you comply with the eligibility criteria.

## **Where to find out more**

The Student Loan Guarantee **will begin operation early in 2015, with a gradual roll-out across the Erasmus+ programme countries.** A list of participating banks and student loan companies will be published on this site.

In the meantime, if you want to find out more, please contact your Erasmus+ National Agency [http://ec.europa.eu/programmes/erasmus-plus/national-agencies\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/programmes/erasmus-plus/national-agencies_en.htm)

## **Frequently Asked Questions**

### **1. What if I need less than 12,000€ or 18,000€?**

*The amount you apply for is up to you and will depend upon your circumstances, the above figures are maximum amounts*

### **2. I already had an Erasmus grant during my Bachelor studies, can I still apply for an Erasmus+ Master loan?**

Yes.

### **3. Can I combine an Erasmus+ Master loan and an Erasmus grant?**

*You can't have an Erasmus grant and a loan to go to the same place but if you want to study abroad for a full degree and part of those studies is in still another of the 35 Erasmus+ programme countries that's ok (remember, not your home country or a country where you studied before). For example, you want to follow a 2year Master in one country and as part of that programme there is a semester in another country.*

### **4. How many loans will be given?**

*During the period of the Erasmus+ programme (2014-20) an estimated 200,000 student loans will be supported. The student loan guarantee represents 3.5% of the Erasmus+ programme (approx. 520m€) which will be boosted by funding from participating banks bringing the total available for loans to over 3bn€ during the programme period.*