Research and staff mobility

Staff mobility

The staff mobility in Erasmus Mundus Partnerships (EMA-2) includes the teaching staff and researchers from the partner universities, but also university administrators. They will teach and/or participate in research or administrative activities in host institutions as well as exchange ideas and good practices.

Doctorate and post-doctoral mobility

Doctorate and postdoctoral mobility of researchers is also financed by EMA-2. The European host institutions welcome researchers or representatives of working life (e.g. local public authorities, school teachers) as EMA-2 grantees.

There are some additional eligibility criteria for mobility from outside the partner universities. European or Partner country nationals who have obtained a university degree or equivalent in a higher education institution are eligible. This includes also individuals working outside the academic sphere and also those living outside the partner country in Europe.

Doctorate and post-doctorate, as well staff when applicable, applicants are requested to write a research plan. The length of the research plan must not exceed 4 pages. The plan should include the following information whenever relevant to the project concerned:

- Title of research project
- Background
- Objectives
- Research methods and material
- Implementation
- Research environment
- Expected research results
- How will the visit enhance cooperation between the applicant’s home and host university
- How would the research work benefit from EMA-2 mobility

The applicant should justify the planned visit as well as the applied length of the visit abroad.

The English language summary (one page, not more than 3000 characters) of the research plan is usually appended to the online application. The full research plan is to be sent as an enclosure to the coordinator. The applicant may write the full research plan(s) in the language of instruction(s) of the host university.

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The research plan must contain your name and the reference number of your application (if available at this stage).

The aim of staff and research mobility

The aim of staff and post-doctoral mobility is to lead to professional development of grant holders. Furthermore, host and home universities/ organizations will receive new ideas on how to broaden the curricula and courses offered for students or learn good practices. These results contribute to the development of both home and host universities: experiences of grant holders lead to a higher degree of innovation in teaching and research and increase international cooperation capacity at personal and institutional level. Hosting partner universities benefit academically from exchange of experience and good practices in pedagogy, research and administration.

Some practicalities

If you are interested in participating in the research mobility scheme as a doctoral or post doctoral student or staff, it is advisable to contact the host institution as early as possible. You are kindly encouraged to write a good project proposal and work plan, to identify a potential supervisor/collaboration partner at HU via the internet and other publications, and to approach her/him for collaboration with the usual documents- your CV, letter of motivation, short publication list and as a PhD student, your latest degree and the transcript of records. The supporting scientist must be senior staff at HU. If you do not get answers to your request you may take this as a “No” – professors at HU get a high number of such requests and some occasionally answer only if they agree.

For finding the research partner/supervisor at HU you should go to the websites of the institutes and research projects, among others via http://www.hu-berlin.de/ueberblick/humboldt-universitaet-zu-berlin/daten-und-zahlen and then to “Forschung and wissenschaftlicher Nachwuchs” - there you find the respective links of the schools and projects.

The support or invitation letter from Humboldt-University as a host is a compulsory document in the application process. It is based on established contacts between scientists and not a formal administrative document from the EM management - therefore neither the EM management nor any administrative body at the HU will provide such letters.

Take also into consideration that the length of the semesters varies between the host institutions. Also the teaching and research methods may be different, and these matters are good to discuss with the host when planning the content and details. The visit will be most beneficial when it is well prepared and the visitor has also done some background work to find out more about the host country and institution. You should also be prepared to introduce facts about your own work, institution and country to the representatives of the host institution.