



TROPIMUNDO

ERASMUS MUNDUS MASTERS COURSE IN TROPICAL BIODIVERSITY AND ECOSYSTEMS

Frequently Asked Questions - FAQ

(Version 0023)

This document is not intended to repeat information available on the TROPIMUNDO website or in its online Information and Application Module. It is intended to provide additional information or to provide examples of particular personal situations.

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Who are the associate partners and what are their tasks?

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TROPIMUNDO has 16 Associate Partners that agreed to advertise the program, to provide or to communicate existing placement/job/internship/thesis perspectives and/or scholarships, to assist in evaluating Master theses and to participate in the continuous evaluation of the Master's program through TROPIMUNDO's Steering Board's external advisory body and through its Internal Evaluation Committee.

Organisation	Country	Type	Contact person
Technische Universität Dresden – TUD	Germany	HEI	Uta Berger
Centre de Coopération Internationale en Recherche Agronomique – CIRAD	France	Research Institute	Charles Doumenge
Vlaams Instituut voor de Zee – VLIZ	Belgium	Public authority	Jan Mees
Université d'Antananarivo – UNIVANTA	Madagascar	HEI	Ndriana Aro Vonjy Honoré Ramarosandratana
Instituto de Ecología – INECOL	Mexico	HEI	Jorge López-Portillo Guzmán
Kenya Marine and Fisheries Research Institute – KMFRI	Kenya	Research Institute	Jared Bosire
Agence Inter-établissements de Recherche pour le Développement - Sud Expert Plantes – AIRD-SEP	France	Public authority	Eric Chenin
Cosmetic Valley – Cosmetic-Valley.com	France	Professional association	Jean-Luc Ansel
Université de Lomé – UNILO	Togo	HEI	Adolé Isabelle Glitho
Institut de Recherche pour le Développement – IRD	France	Research Institute	Corinne Rouland-Lefevre
Universidade Federal de São Paulo – UNIFESP	Brazil	HEI	Marília Cunha-Lignon
Institut Français de Pondichéry – IFP	India	Research Institute	Cedric Gaucherel
Smithsonian Institution, Smithsonian Environmental Research Center – SERC	USA	Research Institute	Ilka Candetta Feller
Good Planet Foundation – GoodPlanet.org	France	Non profit / NGO	Matthieu Tiberghien
Biodiversity International – BiodiversityInternational.org	Italy	Non profit / NGO	Elizabeth D. Goldberg
Universidad Nacional del Santa – UNS	Peru	HEI	Eleuterio Lucio Encomendero Yépez
Universität Wien (Tropenstation La Gamba) – UW	Austria/ Costa Rica	HEI	Werner Huber
University of Hong Kong	China	HEI	Stefano Cannicci

Why am I not eligible for a scholarship?

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The regulation regarding applicant's eligibility for Scholarships is governed solely by the European Commission's Education, Audiovisual and Culture Executive Agency (EACEA). The TROPIMUNDO Consortium has no other choice than to follow these rules.

QUESTIONS RELATED TO APPLICATIONS (DEADLINES, ELIGIBILITY, ETC.)

Do I have the right diploma(s) with enough study credits to be eligible?

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You need **minimum** a Bachelor's of Science degree **equivalent** to 180 ECTS with a major in Biology, Natural Sciences, Zoology, Botany, Environmental Sciences, or **equivalent** from an **accredited** university. A hypothetical student that has completed four years B. Sc (Hon's) in Forestry for 161 credits and has an additional Master in Forestry for 40 credits fulfils the eligibility for this course.

Mathematics, Physics, Chemistry and Biology are considered essential, and Biochemistry, Geology and Statistics are considered important, and course marks on them are evaluated by the TROPIMUNDO Selection Committee. Students from the UK may have followed one or more of these basic scientific courses in secondary school and should emphasize this in their motivation letter.

A non-exhaustive list of diplomas considered being equivalent (provided the essential courses listed above appear on the course transcripts) or not equivalent to a Bachelor's degree with a major in Biology, Natural Sciences, Environmental Sciences is given below by way of example:

Equivalent BSc.	NOT equivalent degrees
Agriculture	any professional Bachelor degree (aimed at teaching)
Agroforestry and Nature Management	any Licence professionnelle (aimed at teaching)
Agronomie	any Bachelor of Arts
Aménagement et Protection de l'Environnement	Animal Behaviour and Welfare
Applied Natural Sciences	Biochemistry
Aquatic Science, Fisheries or Oceanography	Biotechnology (without Ecology)
Aquatic Resources	Chemistry or Chemical Engineering
Bio-engineering: Agronomy	Computer Science
Biotechnology	Crop Production and Protection
Climate Science	Cultural Anthropology and Tourism
Dryland Agriculture	Education, even with a major in Biology
Environmental Sciences and Resources Management	Global Affairs
Fisheries, Forestry and Wildlife	Horticulture
Forest Management and Utilization	Language and Literature

Equivalent BSc.	NOT equivalent degrees
Forest Resources Conservation and Ecotourism Forestry Forestry and Environmental Sciences Forestry and Wood Technology Geology and Environmental Sciences Lic Sciences Vie Terre et Environnement Marine Biology and Coastal Ecology Microbiology Oceanography Plant Protection Range Management Wildlife Science, Conservation or Management	Medicine Metallurgical and Materials Engineering Pharmacy Policy & Law, or Criminology Production forestry Public administration Social Geography Social Sciences Technology in Industrial Microbiology Veterinary medicine

If your diploma is not listed here and you believe it is equivalent, then please submit and a decision will be taken after examining your course list.

I do not speak French; can I apply to the program?

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Yes you can, but you should carefully select the right Trajectories based on course languages. All detailed course descriptions are available on the TROPIMUNDO website. Basically, all Trajectories involving UPMC-MNHN and UDSch necessitate proficiency in French. At ULB-VUB students have the opportunity to choose courses taught either in English or in French, so English suffices as a language (although French or Dutch may be helpful to get around Brussels). Finally, at UNIFI, UCP, UMT and UQ all courses are taught in English, but Italian and Spanish may be helpful to get around Firenze and Iquitos.

While filling the application form, **please make sure** that your first six Trajectory choices and your selection of the course language (Section 10) matches your current language knowledge (Section 8).

Can I send my official documents in PDF by e-mail or by ordinary post?

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No. All documents must be uploaded online. We do not accept any documents sent by e-mail or by ordinary mail. In addition, official documents comprising multiple pages must be merged and uploaded as a single PDF document.

Can I enrol after the deadline?

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The annual deadlines are set to close the applications to the program. However the submission of an application is not the same as the official enrolment procedure with the institutions of the TROPIMUNDO Consortium, the latter of which is started approximately in April. Also note that there are multiple deadlines per year depending on whether or not you are applying for an Erasmus Mundus scholarship and for the self-funded students, whether you are from within the EU or from outside.

Do I need to send/bring my original diplomas?

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Whereas we are happy to proceed with diploma scans at selection stage, at enrolment stage some institutions require the original Bachelor diploma or a certified copy (to be checked before travelling to Europe). Also note that if you are accepted under condition of providing your Bachelor diploma, and you have not done so at enrolment stage, you will have to do it at a later stage or see yourself denied the TROPIMUNDO diploma.

POST-ADMISSION QUESTIONS

Is the Masters course covered by a Consortium Agreement?

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There is a Consortium Agreement signed between all eight Higher Education Institutions involved in TROPIMUNDO that can be consulted by TROPIMUNDO students and staff.

Do I need to sign a Student Agreement?

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Yes. Each student needs to sign a Student Agreement.

Where can I obtain information about immigration and visas?

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Belgium

<http://diplomatie.belgium.be/>

N.B. To apply for a Belgian visa as a self-funded student, you will need to have a financial guarantor. The guarantor must be able to prove that he has a monthly income that is sufficiently high for him to be able to pay you 614 EUR/month, while retaining 973 EUR/month for himself and 150 EUR/month for each dependent. If these conditions cannot be met, the Belgian consulate will not issue a student visa. Non-European students with an Erasmus Mundus scholarship will have 1000 EUR/month of monthly allowance to prove financial independence.

France

<http://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/france/coming-to-france/getting-a-visa/>

<http://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/france/studying-in-france/administrative-steps/>

Italy

http://www.esteri.it/visti/index_eng.asp

Cameroon

<http://www.visa-en-ligne.com/pays/cameroun.php>

<http://www.cameroonhighcommission.co.uk/visa/>

Malaysia

<http://www.imi.gov.my/index.php/en/>

<https://educationmalaysia.gov.my/>

Australia







<http://www.immi.gov.au/>

<http://www.uq.edu.au/international-students/student-visas>

What is the cost of living in each of the cities involved in TROPIMUNDO?

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The table below provides a non-exhaustive list of the most important costs associated to the TROPIMUNDO programme. Superscripts are clarified below the table.

Higher Education Institution(s)	ULB-VUB	UPMC-MNHN	UdG	UdA	UNIFI	UDsch	UMT	UQ
Country								
City	Brussels	Paris	Kourou (French Guyana)	Point-à-Pitre (Guadeloupe)	Florence	Dschang	Kuala Terengganu	Brisbane
Currency	in Euro (EUR)	in Euro (EUR)	in Euro (EUR)	in Euro (EUR)	in Euro (EUR)	in Cameroon Franc (XAF)	In Malaysian Ringits (MYR)	in Australian Dollar (AUD)
Monthly expenses								
Courses, books	35	35	50	40	35	10000	50	100
Accommodation ¹	400	450	130	350	260	50000	600	800
Food ²	300	300	400	300	300	250000	600	480
Health care (medical costs) ³	20	20	30	30	20	20000	50	45
Public transport	40	35	0	60	25	20000	200	80
Miscellaneous (telephone, leisure ...) ²	55	55	100	80	55	50000	500	120
TOTAL (in local currency)	850	895	710	860	695	400000	2000	1625
TOTAL (in EUR, 22/03/2017)	850	895	710	860	695	610	419	1163
One-time expenses								
Country visa ⁴	variable	variable	variable	variable	variable	variable	300 + variable	535
Residence permit/ Student pass	45	free	free	free	160	not needed	not needed	not needed
Health check ⁵					150 ⁴		250	
Field schools ⁶				>239		353333	2000	600-900
TOTAL (in local currency)	>45			>239	>310	>353333	>2550	1135-1435
TOTAL (in EUR, 22/03/2017)	>45			>239	>310	>539	>534	812-1027

¹ Accommodation based on a room in a shared apartment incl. expenses for electricity, gas and water. For UMT based on each student living in a shared hostel room (max. 2 students in each room).

² This largely depends on personal lifestyle.

³ This largely depends on your personal health. Note that basic health care costs are paid for by the TROPIMUNDO Consortium.

⁴ Country visas vary between free of charge and >350 EUR. In MY, Education Malaysia Global Service (EMGS) is operating as a middle person.

⁵ IT: **Italian sanitary card**. Vaccinations in Italy *e.g.* in case of special allergies, asthma, immunological deficiencies (Tessera Sanitaria per Stranieri Temporaneamente in Italia = Italian Sanitary Card). We advise to get vaccinations that you will need in S2 in your home country before travelling to Europe. MY: Obligatory health check.

⁶ For details please consult the TROPIMUNDO course list at:

http://www.tropimundo.eu/userfiles/files/tropimundo_course_list.pdf

Each of TROPIMUNDO's partner websites listed on www.tropimundo.eu has pages dedicated to international students with information on a variety of topics. Please also check with the Local Coordinators of your personal Trajectory whether the respective universities have secured accommodation for you or not.