**emPLANT+**

**европейская магистерская программа по селекции растений, была разработана и организована консорциумом шести европейских университетов из шести разных стран: Политехнический институт UniLaSalle (Франция), Университет Святого Иштвана (Венгрия), Политехнический университет Валансии (Испания), Шведский университет сельскохозяйственных наук (Швеция), Университет природных ресурсов и наук о жизни (Австрия) и Университет Милана (Италия).**

**Plant Breeding**

<https://emplant-master.eu/application-procedure>

##### **APPLICATION DEADLINES**

The first call for applications, with Erasmus Mundus scholarship opportunity, is CLOSED

The 2nd call for applications, for SELF-FUNDED applicants (or applicants with other grants than Erasmus Mundus), is OPEN from January 16, 2021 to February 28, 2021 (11:59pm Central European TIme)

The call for applications 2021-2023 is under a new Master program named emPLANT+.

Candidates from **all over the world can apply** for the Erasmus Mundus Joint Master Degree in Plant Breeding – emPLANT+. Both scholarship and self-funded applicants have to submit their application through the same online application form available [here](https://emplant-master.eu/apply-now) when the call is open.

##### **1- ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS**

If you are interested in applying for the Erasmus+ Master Programme in Plant Breeding, please check if you meet the requirements below:

* **Awarded Bachelor of Science degree** (min. 180 ECTS) in Agriculture/Agronomy, Plant Biology, Biotechnology, Biochemistry, Master 1 Genetics, Molecular Biosciences or related relevant fields
* **OR** students in their last Bachelor year
* **Language proficiency**:
  + B2 in English except when English is your mother tongue. If not, please provide one of the following documents:
    - Official English test:
      * TOEIC: minimum 785 points
      * IELTS: minimum 6.0
      * TOEFL: 577 paper-based, 233 computer-based, 90 internet-based (20 written)
      * Cambridge: Certificate of Advanced English
      * etc…
    - **Or a University letter attesting English is the medium of instruction of your higher education**
  + Spanish: for those applying to UPV in year 2, a level B1 is needed by the beginning of the second year (not required at the time of application). Official test: DELE, ALTE, etc…
* Application received before the end of the deadline
* Application form filled out in English
* Application containing all requested elements and documents

##### **2- DOCUMENTS REQUIRED TO APPLY**

**If you meet all requirements and want to apply to emPLANT, the following list of documents will have to be attached to the application in a PDF format:**

* Copy of your diploma(s) / degree(s) certificate(s) (add an English translation if applicable) or enrolled certificate from your university (for last year students)
* Copy of transcript of records for your whole degree and a grading scale (add an English translation if applicable)
* Copy of official language certificate attesting language skills in English and Spanish if applicable
* Curriculum Vitae in a European format
* Passport (or valid ID document)
* Proof of current and exact place of residence (see requirements below)
* Two recommendation letters (no specific format)
* Declaration on honor ([download template](https://emplant-master.eu/wp-content/uploads/2020/12/Declaration_on_honor_emPLANT.docx))
* Other document you consider relevant for the application

##### **3- INFORMATION ABOUT THE ONLINE APPLICATION**

* The application form must be filled out **in English**
* The online application procedure takes some time so make sure you have **plenty of time** to do it. Or do it in several times
* Before starting your application, make sure you have **all the required documents** you will have to attach to your application and in a PDF format
* All documents must be in **English language**. If it is not the case, add an English translation done by a certified, court-approved translator officially recognized by the issuing country
* Don’t wait the last moment to apply or the platform might shut down due to too much applications received at the same time
* After submission of your application, you will receive an automatic**acknowledgement of receipt** by e-mail
* You **can’t submit more than one** application
* Candidates can apply for an EMJMD scholarship to any of the Erasmus+ Erasmus Mundus courses of their choice but for a given academic year the number of applications must be limited to**maximum three** different joint programmes

MPORTANT NOTE

* **Certificate of residence**

The purpose of the residence document is to prove your current place of residence so your **current postal address**. Which means your name and your own address need to appear on the document as well as the date of issuance of the document.  
That is why we need a document as described in the chart below:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Residence certificate issued in accordance with the candidate’s municipality normal registration rules OR | Certificate from the candidate’s current place of work, study or training issued by the employer or institution in question |
| Must have been issued by an official institution within 12 months before the application deadline | |

**Be careful** we won't accept "work certificate" from the company you are working in. We want to have your current personal postal address and not your working address. We won't accept your birth certificate either or your passport.

* **All documents must be in English language**. If it is not the case, add an English translation done by a certified, court-approved translator officially recognized by the issuing country
* In order to confirm your registration to emPLANT+ you may need to provide **legalized documents** such as your diploma, transcript of records or birth certificate. Those documents are **not required at application stage** so you don’t need to initiate expenditures in case of a non-selection of your application
* **Referees** often take time to write their recommendation letters so we strongly recommend you to take care of it **well in advance**

##### **HIGH DEMAND FOR PLANT BREEDERS**

The development and release of new varieties, along with associated activities, is one of the fields of technology with **greater projection and foreseeable demand** in the future. The market for seeds and other propagating materials is one of the most dynamic ones, the annual value of worldwide commercial seed production reaches €30 billion (Ragonnaud, 2013). It is estimated that plant breeding has generated **60% of crop plant productivity increases** (Bradshaw, 2016), now with the integration of new tools of biotechnology the potential of this discipline has multiplied.

The plant breeder of today (and of tomorrow) needs **to master concepts** of traditional breeding and modern molecular breeding. In addition to having hands on expertise on growing plants, understanding their reproductive biology and knowing the possibilities and limitations of crossing-selection breeding, he/she needs to have skills in molecular biology, bioinformatics, advanced statistics and project management.

##### **IMPORTANCE OF PLANT BREEDING**

A recent report (Noleppa 2016) shows that **innovation in plant breeding** over the last 15 years increased productivity in EU arable farming by 74%. In addition, the study reveals that in the field of arable crops 3,4 billion tons of direct CO2 emissions have been avoided, 55 billion m3 of water have been saved and approximately 70 000 jobs have been created. This shows the significant contribution of plant breeding **to achieve food/nutrition security and climate change goals** in Europe and the world.

It is also noteworthy that the development and growth of this sector does not only occur in Europe and other developed countries, but there is a significant growth of the sector **in developing countries**, where the use of improved seeds is becoming a common practice.

As a reminder, in less than 25 years the world population is expected to rise to 9 billion people and agricultural production will need to increase by 70% to secure food supplied (FAO). That is why, at the global level, the Plant Breeding sector needs**specialists with a high degree of training** who know and are able to combine and apply the methodologies derived from conventional techniques with those of the new biotechnologies (molecular markers, In vitro cultivation, genetic transformation, etc.) for the **development of new varieties.**