

**Call for Applications for
Erasmus+ Partner Countries - KA171
Mobility Scholarship for Doctorate student from a fewer opportunities
background from the University of the Witwatersrand to University of Turin
(UniTO)**

EU Erasmus+ Programme Objectives

The EU Erasmus+ Programme (Erasmus Plus) 2021/2027, launched on January 1st 2021, has introduced significant changes to higher education mobility programmes for students, namely the repeatability of the mobility for study and traineeships and the opening of the programme to third non-European countries, the so-called *Partner Countries*.

Erasmus+ Programme allows university students to spend a study period abroad, in one of the universities involved in the Erasmus+ projects selected and funded at a European level. The sending and receiving Institutions have to sign an inter-institutional agreement within the framework of Erasmus+ Programme.

Participants will receive a monthly financial support by the Italian National Erasmus+ Agency to cover part of the expenses related to their study period abroad. Moreover, a contribution for travel is also provided. The present Call refers to the joint-project between the Department of Life Sciences and Systems Biology (DBIOS) at the University of Turin and the University of the Witwatersrand.

In 2025 one grant covering 30 days per person will be allocated to a PhD student of the University of the Witwatersrand from a fewer opportunities background to spend a mobility period at the University of Turin in the framework of the Erasmus+ Partner Countries – KA 171, call 2023.

Eligibility requirements

The Erasmus 2021-2027 programme promotes equal opportunities and equal access, inclusion, diversity and equity in all its actions. Organisations and participants with fewer opportunities are at the focus of these objectives and, in this view, the programme makes dedicated resources available to them.

For the purposes of this call, and in line with the provisions of the Erasmus 2021-2027 Programme Guide and the relevant Community provisions¹, the University of the Witwatersrand considers participants with fewer opportunities, those students in one of the following conditions:

- coming from a previously disadvantaged background;
- whose socio-economic status limits their advancement opportunities;
- living with a disability.

To apply for the present call for Erasmus+ mobility, students from fewer opportunities backgrounds shall meet the following requirements:

- *be regularly enrolled for a PhD Programme at the University of the Witwatersrand*
- *have acquired suitable experience in research using Mass Spectrometry*
- *Candidates shall have a proper knowledge of the main language of instruction (English B2) required by the University of Turin, as specified in the Inter-Institutional Agreement signed with the Partner Institution.*

According to Erasmus+ Programme, every student can carry out more than one Erasmus mobility within their university career, up to a maximum of 12 months for each study cycle, regardless of the number and the typologies of mobilities already done.

Erasmus mobility duration

The duration of the mobility period is five to thirty days, shorter periods are not eligible. The mobility period shall be carried out without interruptions. In any case, the mobility activity shall be concluded before 31/07/2026.

Eligible and ineligible activities during the mobility period

Eligible activities during the mobility at UniTO include:

- courses attendance and exam sessions;
- traineeships activities;
- additional research for final dissertation.

Financial support and grant restitution

The financial support for the mobility period corresponds to Euro 79,00 per day until the 14th day and Euro 56,00 from the 15th day of mobility (Individual Support). In addition, the

¹ Commission Implementing Decision on the framework of measures for the inclusion of the Erasmus+ and “European Solidarity Corps” programmes for the period 2021-2027: <https://erasmus-plus.ec.europa.eu/document/commission-decision-framework-inclusion-2021-27>

Guidelines for the implementation of the Erasmus+ Inclusion and Diversity Strategy and the European Solidarity Corps: https://ec.europa.eu/programmes/erasmus-plus/resources/implementation-guidelines-erasmus-and-european-solidarity-corps-inclusion-and-diversity_it

participant shall receive a contribution of Euro 1.500,00 for travel (Standard Travel Grant), according to the EU Commission distance band, in order to cover travel expenses. Moreover, each incoming student will receive an additional amount of Euro 250,00 (Extra contribution from UniTO) to cover all costs related to international mobility such as VISA, residence permit and health insurance. Further financial support will not be provided by the University of Turin.

In the case of participants with fewer opportunities (see Art. 5 of this call), they will have priority in the selection procedure.

A pre-financing, corresponding to the travel costs (Standard Travel Grant) and 100% of the total amount of the mobility grant (individual support + Extra Contribution from UniTO + TOP-UP fewer opportunities, if applicable), is granted to the participant on the basis of the timing of receipt of the Mobility Agreement by UniTO Office:

- it will be made indicatively from the 25th day of the month in the case of receipt of the Agreement by the International Mobility Section of the UniTO University by the 1st working day of the same month;
- for agreements received from the 2nd working day onwards, payment will be made from the 25th day of the following month.

These timeframes do not apply to the months of August, December and January, for which payment is still made in the following month.

The mobility period abroad shall last at least 5 days, failure to comply will result in the restitution of the entire amount received. Should the participants waive their scholarship, the grant shall be given back.

Participants who end their mobility period before the scheduled date stated in the Grant Agreement will have to return the amount corresponding to the number of days the participant did not spend at UniTO.

Should the participants not give back, if due, the corresponding amount, UniTO will not issue any Transcript of Records.

Extension of mobility period requests shall be submitted at least one month before the end of the originally planned mobility period. Potential extension periods do not automatically imply an extension of the financial support.

Recognition of Erasmus mobility

The study period abroad is a part of the academic curriculum of each participant.

The activities carried out during the mobility shall be agreed upon before the beginning of the mobility period, by signing the "Learning Agreement".

The University of the Witwatersrand ensures full recognition for satisfactorily completed activities in terms of credits awarded (ECTS or compatible grading system) as stated in the “Learning Agreement”.

Application procedure

Students must submit their application via email to alex.schoeman@wits.ac.za, which should include a recent curriculum vitae and a study, traineeship, or research project proposal.

Application deadline

Deadline for application is set on 06/06/2025 at 17:00. Failure to comply will result in the exclusion of the candidature from the selection.

Selection procedure

Candidates will first be evaluated by an internal committee based on their applications.

Shortlisted candidates will then be further evaluated through a face-to-face interview (or, in cases of necessity, via Microsoft Teams).

The first criterion will be academic merit, but with equivalent academic level, preference should be assigned to students from less advantaged socio-economic backgrounds.

The Selection Committee will use the following selection criteria:

- knowledge of the language spoken in the host country and/or of the main language of instruction at the receiving institution;
- motivation to undertake the mobility and its relevance to the candidate's academic career;
- year of enrolment: Priority is given to students enrolled in the final years of their study courses
- previous experience in field studies related to agriculture and the environment.
- coming from a previously disadvantaged background;
- whose socio-economic status limits their advancement opportunities;
- living with a disability.

The selection committee will offer the opportunity to conduct MS Teams interviews for candidates who are unable to attend a face-to-face interview.

Final ranking of selected candidates and acceptance of the Erasmus scholarship

The final ranking of the selected candidates will be published on the School of Geography, Archaeology and Environmental Studies website.

Contacts

For any questions related to this call for applications, please contact
alex.schoeman@wits.ac.za