

## AFEPA Partner Country Student Agreement



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### PARTNER COUNTRY STUDENT AGREEMENT

#### Erasmus Mundus Joint Master Degree (EMJMD) in Agricultural, Food and Environmental Policy Analysis (AFEPA)

Student recipient of an Erasmus Mundus scholarship

Programme Years 2022-2024

*The Rheinische Friedrich-Wilhelms-Universität Bonn*, established in Regina-Pacis-Weg 3, 53113 Bonn, Germany, responsible School: Institute for Food and Resource Economics, coordinating institution of the Erasmus Mundus Joint Master Degree (EMJMD) *Master's Programme in Agricultural, Food and Environmental Policy Analysis (AFEPA)*, represented by Professor Thomas Heckelei, AFEPA Coordinator,

of the one part,

Name:

First name:

Date of birth:

Place of birth:

Nationality:

Passport number:

**the student**, of the other part,

have agreed to the following terms and conditions.

1. The student commits him/herself to duly attend the academic programme and the prescribed lectures, seminars, summer sessions and examinations of the *Master's Programme in Agricultural, Food and Environmental Policy Analysis*, having a duration of two academic years, beginning on \_\_\_\_\_, in at least two of the following participating universities of the AFEPA consortium, in accordance with the programme of studies supported by the European Commission: the *Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore* (UCSC, Italy), the Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences (SLU, Sweden), the *Rheinische Friedrich-Wilhelms-Universität Bonn* (UBonn, Germany), and the *Université catholique de Louvain* (UCLouvain, Belgium).
2. The attendance referred in the previous article is recognised by the respective universities as integral part of the qualification for which the student is preparing, as long as the student is successful in the respective examinations and/or assessments.

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**3.** To participate in the academic programme of the AFEPA European Master, which is approved by the European Commission under the EMJMD Grant Agreement (2018-1481 / 002) contracted between the Education, Audiovisual & Culture Executive Agency (EACEA) of the Commission of the European Communities and the coordinating institution, the student receives a scholarship to the total value of 49,000 Euros<sup>1</sup>, donated to the AFEPA Consortium, consisting of the universities mentioned above, by the Commission of the European Communities.

**4.** The monthly allowance of the scholarship for living costs (contribution to subsistence costs) are paid to the student in twenty-four monthly instalments of 1,000 Euros each. The payments of the monthly allowance should begin up to 30 days after the beginning date stated in the first article of the present agreement but not before the end of the registration process at the first host university. The monthly allowance is paid by bank transfer to the student's personal bank account identified in Annex 1 of the present agreement. The contribution to the student's installation costs of the scholarship is paid to the student in one single instalment of 1,000 Euros upon arrival at the first host university. The contribution to the student's travel costs is paid to the student in two annual instalments of 1,000-3,000 Euros per scholarship holder depending on the place of residence and distance to the coordinating institution. The payment for the first contribution to travel costs should be paid upon the arrival of the student at the first host university at the beginning of the first academic year but not before the signature of the present agreement and the end of the registration process at the first host university. The payment of the second contribution to travel costs should be paid upon the arrival of the student at the second host university at the beginning of the second academic year but not before the end of the registration process at the second host university.

**5.** The student agrees that the AFEPA Consortium retains the contribution of 9,000 Euros per semester of the scholarship to cover the participation costs to the AFEPA European Master. These participation costs include any compulsory administrative and operational costs related to the participation of the student in the AFEPA European Master (e.g., admission, registration, university tuition, course exams, thesis examination, library and computer access, insurance coverage, etc.). The insurance scheme selected by the coordinating institution covers adequately the student in case of accident, injury, hospitalisation and illness while participating in the AFEPA Master's programme. Any other costs that may be charged in addition (e.g., for participation in fieldwork activities and summer sessions), being compulsory or voluntary, are communicated to the student at the application stage. These costs and any other costs, such as document application, visa and residence permit, books, local transportation, travels and accommodation, including the travel and accommodation expenditures to participate to the two summer sessions are not covered by these participation costs.

**6.** Under the present agreement, the student is obliged:

- to obtain his/her residence permit from the national and local Authorities upon his/her arrival in the host countries;
- to participate in the orientation and welcome meetings as well as informative and official meetings and events;
- to attend assiduously, and with the objective of successfully passing, the courses, seminars, summer sessions and the thesis inherent in the programme of studies;
- to refuse any other scholarship or subvention financed by the Commission of the European Communities under other Community programmes.

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<sup>1</sup> This amount might vary due to the distance between the student's location at the time of the application and the AFEPA Coordination office

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**7.** The participating universities of the AFEPA consortium shall announce the academic calendar by the first week of the academic year, including the course schedule and location as well as the examination periods. The coordinating institution in consultation with the organizing institution shall announce the period and location of each summer session within the first three months of each academic year.

**8.** Each participating university of the AFEPA consortium shall post the description of its own courses of the AFEPA academic programme before the beginning of each academic year. The course description includes the objectives and the structure of the course as well as the methods and examination conditions. Each participating university of the AFEPA consortium shall also post the guidelines for the thesis examination before the beginning of each academic year. The Master's thesis is examined and evaluated according to the second-year university regulations on Master's theses including regulations on length, format, etc. Each participating university of the AFEPA consortium uses the grading scale of its own institution to assess the academic performance of the student.

**9.** The student is obligated to read and understand the exam regulations at his or her AFEPA partner universities. The exam regulation will be contained in the welcoming package the student receives at his/her partner university. If doubts remain, the student is asked to discuss the unclear elements with the local AFEPA representative at the beginning of the academic year.

**10.** The student can obtain a professional exposure through an internship at an associated non-academic partner organization during the second year of the Master's programme. With this, the student can earn 6 to 15 ECTS credits depending on the main partner university.

**11.** The scholarship does not create or entitle an employer-employee relation between the host universities and the student, and therefore is not subject to direct taxation.

**12.** The student shall participate in programme surveys/evaluations, and join the Erasmus Mundus Students and Alumni Association (EMA, see <http://www.ema.eu/>).

**13.** Scholarships are intended for full-time study. The AFEPA programme however does not foresee any restrictions for remunerated work outside the scholarship activities providing:

- It is in line with the national legislation of the country concerned (e.g., the visa or residence permit allows it);
- The scholarship holder can still dedicate the necessary efforts to the AFEPA European Master's mandatory activities in order to complete it successfully within the agreed period.

**14.** The student has to supply a copy of his/her current academic transcript as soon as possible after each exam period, but at the latest after the end of a semester to the AFEPA Coordination office at UBonn.

**15.** The student has to stay at his or her respective two programme universities for the entire duration of the academic school years. Short absences such as trips for a weekend or during university vacation periods do not need to be justified. However, longer absences do require the approval by the local AFEPA representatives and have to be duly justified and communicated to the AFEPA coordination office in Bonn. This also includes the fourth semester of the programme when the student may not have to take courses anymore but is writing the master's thesis. Any longer absence that was not communicated to the AFEPA coordination office in Bonn may affect the payment of the monthly scholarship instalments.

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**16.** Any alteration to the present agreement or respective Annexes must be communicated in writing. All alterations to the initial situation must be immediately communicated by the student to the coordinating institution and the host universities. Upon mutual agreement of contractual modifications, the coordinating institution issues an *addendum* to the present agreement.

**17.** Any deliberate failure on the part of the student to fulfil the conditions expected in terms of attendance at the AFEPA European Master, in particular non-fulfilment of the conditions stipulated in the present agreement, constitutes sufficient reason for action to be taken towards resolving the issue and could lead to the exclusion of the student from the AFEPA European Master and the reimbursement of the scholarship awarded.

**18.** In case of exclusion of the student from the AFEPA European Master or withdrawal of the student from the AFEPA European Master, on his/her own decision or force majeure, the student hereby makes a commitment on his/her honour to reimburse the host university the excess funding from the scholarship allocated to him/her, which consists in:

- any funds of the scholarship received in terms of monthly allowances covering the period following the months of the date of exclusion or withdrawal,
- any portion of the funds of the scholarship received in terms of contribution to travel, installation and any other type of personal costs, the amount of this portion being calculated on the basis of the number of months not attended in the AFEPA European Master with respect to the total number of months for which these funds were allocated.

**19.** Upon exclusion or withdrawal, the student shall in due time and before his/her departure pay for all his/her financial obligations, in particular:

- the rent of his/her accommodation,
- the bank fees corresponding to his/her accommodation insurance,
- the bank charges to pay for any of his/her bank accounts and credit cards.

**20.** The host university shall allocate the student funds to cover the cost of travelling back to his/her country of origin.

**21.** For the student's information, the EMJMD Grant Agreement (2018-1481 / 002) between the coordinating institution and EACEA which funds the AFEPA programme, imposes upon the coordinating institution, following the exclusion or the withdrawal of a student from the programme:

- to reallocate the remaining funds of the scholarship allocated to that student to another new suitable student;
- to refund the EACEA of the Commission of the European Communities with the remainder of the scholarship allocated to that student if no new applicant is enrolled as a replacement;
- except for funds kept by the student as mentioned in §14 and used for the student as mentioned in §16.

**22.** Without prejudice to the general consequences laid down in national law applicable in the present agreement, the coordinating institution reserves the right to cease the effects of the present agreement, without recourse to any juridical procedure apart from adequate communication to the student. Failing agreement by both parts, the German courts are designated as the only competent authorities to resolve any legal dispute between the coordinating institution and the student emerging from the present agreement. The present agreement is governed by German Law.

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**23.** The coordinating institution and the participating universities are exonerated from any responsibility for accidents, illnesses, injuries, losses or damages to persons or goods resulting from or in any way related to the activities that are the object of the present agreement. The student is obliged to accept the necessary insurance related to the activities for the full duration of the study period.

The signatories declare that they have read and that they accept the conditions laid down in the present agreement.

First signatory

Second signatory

Prof. Dr. Thomas Heckelei

Bonn,  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Place and date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Place and date

(Stamp of institution)