

Zagreb, 25 August 2023

In the framework of the Erasmus+ Programme Algebra University College issues a

# Call for Applications

for financial support for participation in blended intensive programmes (BIP)

at foreign higher education institutions

Code: **ERA17ST01**

Project: **2022-1-HR01-KA131-HED-000056502**

## Introduction

The aim of mobility at the foreign higher education institution is the blended intensive program (BIP).

Applications for the Call for Applications will remain open until the conclusion of the project on 30 July 2024, or until the allocated funds for student mobility within the blended intensive programs have been fully utilized, whichever comes first.

Applications are submitted exclusively electronically and can be submitted no later than 6 weeks (30 working days) before the planned start of mobility.

Combined mobility is a combination of physical mobility and a virtual component, which facilitates collaborative learning and teamwork via the Internet. For example, the virtual component can bring together students online from different countries and fields of study to attend programs online or joint and simultaneous work on assignments recognized as part of their studies. In addition, students who cannot participate in long-term physical mobility for the purpose of studies or traineeship, for example, because of their field of study or because they have fewer opportunities for it, will be able to do short-term physical mobility by combining it with the mandatory virtual component.

Erasmus+ students are exempt from paying tuition fees at foreign higher education institutions. Students remain enrolled at their home university for the entire duration of their mobility period, which means that they must not graduate during their mobility period. Throughout the duration of their mobility, they are obliged to continue paying tuition fees to their home university.

## Blended Intensive Programmes

BIPs are short, intensive programs that apply innovative ways of learning and teaching, including online collaboration. Programs can include problem-based learning, where transnational and transdisciplinary teams work together to solve them.

The intensive program should have added value in comparison to existing courses or training programs provided by the participating higher education institutions and may last for several years. By enabling new and more flexible forms of mobility in which physical mobility is blended with a virtual element, blended intensive programs aim to include all types of students from all backgrounds, study areas, and cycles.

Groups of higher education institutions will have the opportunity to organize short blended intensive learning, teaching, and training programs for students and staff. During these blended intensive programs, groups of students or staff members as program participants perform short-term physical mobility abroad in combination with a mandatory virtual component, which enables collaborative learning and teamwork via the Internet. The virtual component must bring together participants via the Internet to work jointly and simultaneously on specific tasks that are integrated into the blended intensive program and are included in the overall learning outcomes.

## Formal Criteria

During their mobility period, students have to be enrolled at Algebra University College as full-time or part-time undergraduate or graduate students. During the entire mobility period, students should retain their student status and have no outstanding debt toward Algebra University College.

Regarding blended intensive programmes, undergraduate students must be enrolled in the second or third year of their studies when they leave for mobility.

## Project Duration

The valid period for implementing Erasmus mobilities related to this call is from 25 August 2023 to 30 July 2024.

Blended intensive programmes for students and staff must consist of short-term physical mobility abroad combined with a mandatory virtual component, which enables collaborative learning and teamwork via the Internet. The virtual component must bring together participants via the Internet to work jointly and simultaneously on specific tasks that are integrated into the blended intensive program and are included in the overall learning outcomes.

A maximum of 5 days of physical mobility and a maximum of 2 days for travel will be financed, and the mobility itself can last even longer, depending on what was agreed with the partners (up to a maximum of 30 days). Combined virtual and physical mobility must bring students at least 3 ECTS points.

The student has to complete his or her mobility period in continuity, without interruptions. It is possible to interrupt the mobility period only if there are justified reasons or in the case of force majeure.

## Eligible Countries and Participating Organizations

Mobility for the purpose of blended intensive programs can be realized at universities or organizations in the member states of the European Union (Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, the Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden) and in the following countries: Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway, the Republic of North Macedonia, Serbia and Turkey.

## Selection Criteria

The selection process for students applying for Erasmus+ Call for Applications is carried out by Algebra University College based on the following criteria:

- Grade point average in the previous semester
- Number of courses passed in the previous semester
- Motivation letter in English, min. 200 words
- Written explanation of the selection of the blended intensive program in no less than 50 words

The Erasmus+ Mobility Commission appointed by the Dean is responsible for conducting the selection process and creating the list of successful candidates who will receive Erasmus+ financial support.

Selection formula:

$$A \cdot 100 + N \cdot 10 + M_1 + M_2 + M_3 + B_1 + B_2 + B_3$$

A – grade point average of all courses in the previous semester rounded to two decimals

N – the total number of courses passed in the previous semester

M1 – M3 – Points awarded to students by each of the three members of the Erasmus+ Mobility Commission based on the motivation letter; min. 250 words. Each member will award each candidate a minimum of 10 and a maximum of 50 points.

B<sub>1</sub> – B<sub>3</sub> – Points awarded to students based on the written explanation of the selection of the blended intensive program in no less than 50 words. Each member will award each candidate a minimum of 10 and a maximum of 30 points.

Example:

GPA: 4.65

Number of courses passed: 4

Points awarded by the first Commission member for motivation letter: 10

Points awarded by the second Commission member for motivation letter: 20

Points awarded by the third Commission member for motivation letter: 30

Points awarded to students by the first Commission member based on the written explanation of the selection of the blended intensive program: 10

Points awarded to students by the second Commission member based on the written explanation of the selection of the blended intensive program: 12

Points awarded to students by the third Commission member based on the written explanation of the selection of the blended intensive program: 15

Points scored:  $4.65 \cdot 100 + 4 \cdot 10 + 10 + 20 + 30 + 10 + 12 + 15 = 602$

## Financial Grant

Students who study abroad in the framework of the Erasmus+ Programme are co-financed – this means that the financial grant they receive covers their living costs partially.

Mobilities of blended intensive programs realized within the framework of project 2021-1-HR01-KA131-HED-000011300 will be financed according to the following rules:

**Financial support for student mobility in the blended intensive programme amounts to 70 EUR per day.**

**A maximum of 5 mobility days is financed, and additional days for the trip can be financed.**

**Students and recent graduates with fewer opportunities selected to participate in the intensive program have the right to an additional 100 EUR one-time payment (see Annex to the Call for Applications - Students from disadvantaged backgrounds).**

**Travel costs in student mobilities:**

**Students and recent graduates without travel grants based on a travel distance calculation (distance band):**

**Addition for "green" travel:**

**an additional 50 EUR one-time payment if "green" transportation means are used for the travel.**

**Students and recent graduates with travel grants based on a travel distance calculation (distance band):**

**Contribution is based on a travel distance calculation (distance band) (regular or "green", depending on the type of transportation).**

The home institution will give the individual financial support to the student, after the signing of the Grant Agreement in the amount of 80% of the grant. The student will receive the remaining 20% of the amount after the return from the mobility period, and only after s/he has sent all required documents to the home institution Erasmus Coordinator, as well as submitted the *online* EU survey.

The number of grants awarded by Algebra University College for student mobility depends on the number of study months applied for, as well as on the amount of funds awarded by the EU. Under the Erasmus+ Programme, students can benefit from an exchange abroad multiple times either for a study visit or a traineeship but the total time abroad for each student cannot exceed 12 months within one cycle of study (bachelor or master). Students are not eligible for a financial grant if their stay is financed from the EU funds at the same time. National or local grants are not considered double funding.

Students who apply for the Call for Applications and meet all the requirements but do not get Erasmus+ funding can undertake mobility at their own expense as **zero grant students**. The same rules apply to them as to Erasmus+ students who receive support.

*Note: from 01.01.2019. by amending the Income Tax Act, the amount of the Erasmus+ scholarship no longer affects the achievement of tax relief for the parent of whom the student is a dependent (Erasmus+ scholarship is not taken into account when determining the right to a personal deduction for dependents: article 17 point 10). More information is on the website of the Tax Administration. Questions or ambiguities related to the interpretation of tax regulations in force can be addressed exclusively to the Ministry of Finance of the Republic of Croatia - the Tax Administration, as the only body authorized to provide official interpretation on the issue of taxes and taxation.*

## ADDITIONAL FINANCIAL SUPPORT FOR SPECIFIC TARGET GROUPS (IF SELECTED)

**Students with special needs** may be entitled to extra funding to cover associated costs, due to possibly higher costs incurred during their mobility period. This has to be in line with the special needs of the students and the degree of disability. Students with disabilities cannot apply for mobility outside this Call and they belong to the same student quota as other students, as defined by the Agency for mobility and EU Programmes.

## SPECIFIC PROJECT RULES

**Project 2022-1-HR01-KA131-HED-000056502 - Students from disadvantaged backgrounds**

**(see Annex to the Call for Applications - Students from disadvantaged backgrounds)**

1. Students of lower socioeconomic status – students whose family average income per household member does not exceed 375,22 EUR (2.827,10 HRK), i.e. 85% of the budget base, which is determined each year by a corresponding regulation.
2. Students who are migrants, asylum seekers, or refugees,
3. Students with support for inclusion (students whose personal, physical, mental, or health-related condition is such that their participation in Erasmus+ would not be possible without extra financial support or other forms of support).

4. Other underrepresented or vulnerable groups of students in accordance with the National Plan for the Improvement of the Social Dimension of Higher Education in the Republic of Croatia 2019 - 2021.

**For more information on categories of students from disadvantaged backgrounds, please see *Annex to the Call for Applications - Students from disadvantaged backgrounds*.**

Students from disadvantaged backgrounds selected in this Call are entitled to additional financial support to one-time financial support in the amount of EUR 100.

Zero grant students are not entitled to additional financial support for students from disadvantaged backgrounds.

## General Rules

When choosing a course, it is obligatory to adhere to the Book of Regulations on Study Programs and Studying, the Book of Regulations on Mobility, and all other regulations of Algebra University College. All documents are publicly available on the website of Algebra University College.

Selected students should undertake their mobility by a certain deadline, i.e. perform all necessary actions that precede the realization of mobility (sign agreements with home and host institution in which the dates and agreed conditions of mobility are defined). If students selected in the Call for Applications do not meet these prerequisites by a certain deadline, Algebra University College may give priority, and thus allocate funds to the next student on the waiting list. If there are more students on the waiting list, the student who has found a suitable institution for student mobility has the advantage.

## Data Protection Notice

Personal data included in the application form or in other documents will be processed for the purpose of the application process. The results of the application process are publicly announced for the purposes of transparency. The basis for the processing of personal data is the candidate's application and the processing is vital for the actions preceding the conclusion of the agreement and a possible subsequent conclusion of the agreement. The European Commission is in charge of the processing of personal data regarding the Erasmus + programme. For more information on data processing please follow this [link](#).

We suggest you consult the [Croatian Personal Data Protection Agency](#) for more information on personal data and privacy protection.

## Application Process and Deadline

By submitting their application, applicants agree to have their name and surname published on the list.

**APPLICATION DEADLINE: no later than 6 weeks (30 working days) before the planned start of the mobility**

The application should contain:

- 1) Completed online application form with signature, including the letter of motivation in English in no less than 200 words and a written explanation of the selection of the blended intensive programme in no less than 50 words,
- 2) Europass CV (available on <http://europass.cedefop.europa.eu/en/documents/curriculum-vitae>),
- 3) *For students with special needs – proof of disability documentation.*
- 4) *For students from disadvantaged backgrounds – relevant documentation (See Annex).*

***\*\*Students don't need to include transcripts of records in their application.***

The student should submit only one (1) application. Blended intensive programme mobilities must be concluded at the latest on 30 July 2023.

**Please submit your signed applications (handwritten or digital signature) with supporting documents to the following email address ([erasmus@algebra.hr](mailto:erasmus@algebra.hr)) only! Paper versions won't be accepted.**

**Incomplete applications, applications with no supporting documentation, or applications that do not meet the application deadline will not be considered.**

## Selection Results

The selection results will be posted on Infoeduka system and on the webpage of Algebra University College.

## Final Provisions

Any amendment to this Call for Applications will be posted on the official webpage of [Algebra University College](#) and on Infoeduka system.