

ERASMUS MUNDUS MASTER DEGREE IN PLANT HEALTH IN SUSTAINABLE CROPPING SYSTEMS
PLANTHEALTH PROJECT

STUDENT AGREEMENT

Student recipient of an EU-funded Erasmus Mundus Joint Masters (EMJM) scholarships

Academic Years 2024-2026

Between the Coordinating Institution, Universitat Politècnica de València, *hereafter mentioned as "UPV"*,

on behalf of the PLANTHEALTH Consortium formed by the following universities:

- Universitat Politècnica de València (UPV) (Spain), the Coordinating Institution
- Università degli Studi di Padova (UNIPD) (Italy)
- Georg-August-Universität Göttingen Stiftung Öffentlichen Rechts (UGOE) (Germany)
- Institut National d'Enseignement Supérieur pour l'Agriculture, l'Alimentation et l'Environnement (Institut Agro) (France)
- Institut National des Sciences et Industries du Vivant et de l'Environnement (AgroParisTech) (France)

and the student

Surname / last name (*ex. SMITH*):

First name (*ex. John*):

Date of birth (*day/month/year*):

Nationality:

Passport number:

With official residence in (name of city and country):

With agreed mobility track First host university (*ex. UPV*):

Second host university (*ex. the FRENCH partners*):

Further also referred to as "the student"

The following is agreed upon:

Art.1. Scope

On behalf of the participating consortium partners, the student is admitted to the *Erasmus Mundus Master Degree in Plant Health in Sustainable Cropping Systems*, subject to the rights and obligations set out below.

Art.2. Academic structure

The PlantHealth Master offers a high quality, integrated two-year course that is jointly designed and delivered by the partners in the consortium. Academic activities begin with a welcome session (*Orientation Week*) common to all PlantHealth students. The two-year course consists of a first year of study (M1) at one of the two institutions (UPV, UNIPD) and a second year of study (M2) completing one of the specialisations offered by the five institutions. The second year must be spent at a different university from the first. The first year includes a compulsory internship module to be undertaken during the second semester. The host institution is responsible for the supervision. Last semester is dedicated to the Master thesis.

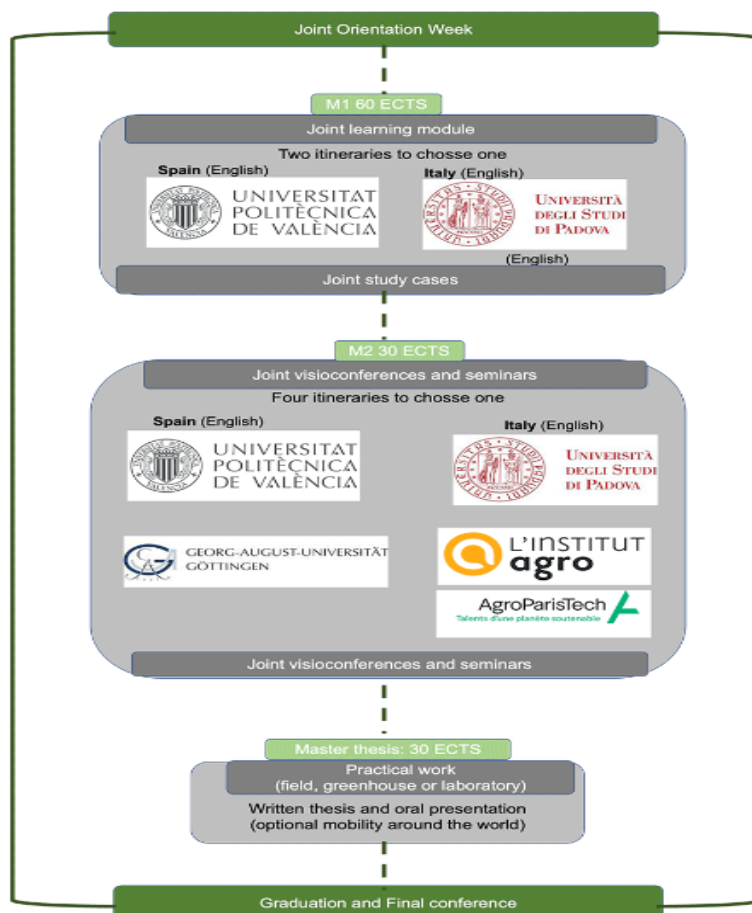


Figure 1 – Integrated structure of the PlantHealth program

The complete list of courses offer is available on: <http://planthealth.upv.es/courses>

Art. 3 Degree awards on completion of the full programme

Any student who passes the required assessments will receive a double degree (i.e., degree from M1 partner and degree from M2 partner) including Diploma Supplement. The participation fee will cover all fees related to the awarding of the degrees. The degrees awarded are:

- Universitat Politècnica de València: Máster Universitario Erasmus Mundus en Sanidad Vegetal en Agricultura Sostenible
- Università degli Studi di Padova: Laurea Magistrale in Sustainable Agriculture – LM69
- University of Göttingen: Master of Science in Crop Protection
- L'Institut Agro & AgroParisTech : Master international “Sciences et technologies de l'agriculture, de l'alimentation et de l'environnement”

The coordinator will issue a common curriculum information document, which will provide details of the Plant Health Master degree.

An ECTS transcript showing the grades and credits obtained and the corresponding European Diploma Supplement will also be provided to the student by the awarding universities.

Art. 4 Language policy

All M1 courses are taught in English. The M2 courses will be taught in English at all the partner universities, except for the French universities, where the language of instruction will be French. All students receive language training to promote academic success and social integration. Some language courses will be part of the academic programme of the Master degree and will have ECTS credits.

French language classes are offered to students selected to study at a French university in order to reach the required level in French, plus, before the start of the M2 academic year, a French summer course will be offered at the French universities.

Each partner university will also offer a local language and culture course.

Art. 5 Performance monitoring and evaluation

Students will follow the assessment procedures of the partner universities they attend. Student performance will be assessed through oral and written examinations, including written reports, oral presentations and practical reports. All activities will be graded according to the national grading scale and the ECTS grading scale

Each semester, students will complete a self-evaluation questionnaire in which they will report on their acquired knowledge and skills, as well as their academic and personal satisfaction.

The defence of the thesis will take place in accordance with local regulations and the common procedure approved by all the partner universities. The PlantHealth Board will define specific options for the thesis defence, subject to the regulations of the partner universities.

5.1 Pass/fail criteria and re-sit exams for individual courses:

ECTS credits for an individual course will be awarded if the student passes the examination according to the local rules of the university. In the event of a student failing a course, re-sit options must comply with the regulations of the host university.

Tuition fees for a second or subsequent enrolment on a PlantHealth course may apply, as they are not covered by the initial cost of attendance.

Any academic period exceeding the duration of the Master degree will not be covered by the Erasmus Mundus Joint Masters (EMJM) scholarship (max. 24 months).

5.2 Specific education and examination regulations:

In matters not covered by this *Student Agreement*, the specific academic, administrative and examination regulations of the institution at which the student is enrolled for a particular course will apply.

Art. 6. The student's obligations and code of conduct with respect to the programme

6.1. The student declares that she/he fulfils the conditions required to follow the proposed academic programme, in particular that she/he holds a bachelor's degree (or equivalent) and that she/he undertakes to reach a minimum level of proficiency in English (and French for students going to France in their M2) corresponding to level B2 of the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (CEFR) before the start of the programme (in the case of English) or before the start of academic activities in France (in the case of French).

6.2. If the student has made false statements in her/his application, the consortium has the right to immediately cancel her/his admission or enrolment in the programme and to stop payment of the scholarship. In such a case, the student must return to her/his home country at her/his own expense.

6.3. Confirmation of enrolment in the Plant Health Master Programme is subject to the fulfilment of the enrolment requirements of the various partner universities at Master level and the timely submission of the required documents.

6.4. The student is obliged to actively participate in the teaching and examination activities, including the internship module. If the student fails to comply with this requirement and can't provide an acceptable reason of force majeure, she/he will be informed that she/he is excluded from the programme and the scholarship will be stopped immediately.

6.5. The student is required to successfully complete a total of at least 120 ECTS (60 ECTS at each host university) in order to obtain the Master degree.

6.6. The student's scholarship may be cancelled, in accordance with the procedures established by the PlantHealth Board and communicated to the student well in advance, if she/he has not obtained 48 ECTS at the end of the first academic year without a valid reason. The scholarship holder will be given 10 days to provide justification. The student may decide to continue the Master Programme as a self-funded student if the scholarship is cancelled for this reason.

6.7. It is the responsibility of the individual student to be fully informed of and to comply with all university regulations at the first- and second-year institutions, as well as the rules and regulations set out in the PlantHealth Student Agreement.

6.8. The student commits him/herself to ethical behaviour during her/his studies. She/he will not commit any act of deception and, in particular, will avoid any form of cheating, falsification or plagiarism of any academic work. She/he will also take great care of the movable and immovable property of the University, will not abuse or misuse access to equipment and facilities, and will not commit any unauthorised acts or violate departmental, school or University rules. Failure to do so may be grounds for suspension or expulsion from the University and the plant health programme.

6.9. PlantHealth has a zero-tolerance policy on plagiarism. All students are expected to be familiar with and to comply fully with the rules on plagiarism at the institutions where they are studying in their first and second year. All PlantHealth institutions have a policy of actively communicating their non-acceptance of plagiarism and institutional sanctions. The PlantHealth Coordinator will be informed of all cases of plagiarism.

6.10. If a student is expelled, the PlantHealth Secretariat will formally notify the student in writing. The student will have a period of 10 days for the submission of documents in support of the case.

6.11. The student must not receive any other scholarship or grant funded by the European Commission under other EU Commission programmes if awarded a PlantHealth Scholarship. In case of additional funding, the student will have to inform the PlantHealth coordinator in order to carry out the necessary checks on eligibility.

By signing this agreement, the student declares on her/his honour that she/he has not previously received any other EMJM scholarship or Erasmus Mundus Masters Courses/Joint Doctorate scholarship. In case of false declaration, the Coordinating Institution will have the right to ask the student to reimburse any unduly received scholarship payments.

6.12. The student is obliged to provide all necessary administrative documents and undertakes to participate in quality assurance procedures and follow-up activities (such as questionnaires, surveys, monitoring meetings, etc.) which may be initiated either by the PlantHealth Board or by the Education, Audiovisual and Culture Executive Agency of the European Commission - EACEA- Some of the documents may need to be submitted after the end of the EMJM PlantHealth Master programme.

6.13. The student may not leave the host institution except during the regular holidays of the host institution. In all other cases, leave of absence from the host university, even for academic purposes, must be authorised in writing by both the academic supervisor at the host university and the coordinator (UPV) on the basis of the student's request and justification. Any unauthorised absence may result in the withdrawal of the scholarship.

6.14. In case of being awarded a PlantHealth EMJM scholarship, the Coordinating Institution has the right to suspend the payment of the scholarship in the following cases:

- The scholar withdraws from the project for *force majeure*;
- The scholarship holder is expelled or dismissed from the university or leaves the university at her/his own request;
- The scholar fails to comply with the internal regulations of the PlantHealth Consortium, the regulations of the host universities and/or the clauses of this agreement.

In the event that the student terminates her/his participation in the programme prematurely or wishes to interrupt her/his scholarship for any reason, she/he must notify the programme coordinator immediately, either by e-mail or in writing.

In all cases of interruption of the EMJM scholarship the student is obliged to refund any amount unduly paid to the PlantHealth Coordinating Institution. In the case of monthly allowances, the number of eligible payments shall be calculated according to the provisions in Art. 8.3.

6.15. If a PlantHealth EMJM scholarship has been awarded, the coordinating institution has the right to request a partial or total refund of the scholarship in the following cases:

- The scholar withdraws from the academic programme without prior notification to the coordinator and the contact persons at the host university;
- The scholar is guilty of serious misconduct, including, but not limited to, providing false or misleading information.

In such cases, the PlantHealth Board will determine the amount to be refunded.

In the event of a refund obligation, the scholar has 30 days from the date of notification of the final decision to transfer the appropriate amounts to the coordinating university in accordance with the instructions provided. Failure to do so may result in additional bank charges and interest and/or legal action.

6.16. If awarded a PlantHealth EMJM scholarship, it will be for full-time study. However, the Programme does not restrict scholarship holders from taking up paid employment provided that:

- It complies with the national legislation of the country/ies concerned (visa, residence permit);
- The scholarship holder is still able to devote the necessary effort to the required activities in order to successfully complete them within the agreed time frame;
- The Erasmus Plus: EMJM programme does not impose any restrictions.

6.17. If awarded a PlantHealth EMJM scholarship, a scholar may receive additional funding for her/his study/research activities, provided that it does not come from other European Union sources/programmes. It is the scholarship holder's responsibility to inform the coordinator and the contact person at her/his host university of any additional funding received that may be incompatible with the EMJM scholarship. It is also the scholarship holder's responsibility to check the compatibility of the EMJM scholarship with any other funding (e.g., scholarship, salary, etc.) she/he may receive and, if necessary, to inform the relevant authorities about this additional funding.

6.18. Students are encouraged to become members of the EMA (Erasmus Mundus Alumni Association <http://www.em-a.eu/>), which is the international professional and personal network for Erasmus Mundus students and graduates and serves as a channel of communication between students, alumni, universities and the European Commission.

6.19. Students are obliged to acknowledge the European Union funding in the Master thesis and any publication resulting from the student's participation in the PlantHealth Master, to comply with the new Erasmus+ visual identity, by including the following disclaimer:

Funded by the European Union. Views and opinions expressed are however those of the author(s) only and do not necessarily reflect those of the European Union or the European Education and Culture Executive Agency (EACEA). Neither the European Union nor EACEA can be held responsible for them.

Art. 7. Administrative aspects

Universities will use their best endeavour to provide students with teaching, supervision, assessment and support services of a professional standard.

The PlantHealth Secretariat and Consortium Partners will provide:

- Detailed information on programme content and structure including practical information
- First and second year admission
- Registration of courses and results
- Timely payment of scholarship
- Assistance with visa procedures
- Assistance with accommodation
- Welcome and integration events
- Academic and social student counselling, including tutor/academic advisor
- Local language tuition
- Insurance – The student is covered by a health insurance policy for the duration of the studies (max. 24 months). This comprehensive insurance policy complies with the specific rules of the EACEA for Erasmus Plus: EMJM students (health, travel, civil liability and repatriation costs to the student's country, etc.). The student will be provided with the necessary documentation and information (e.g., conditions of cover, restrictions, helpdesk contacts, etc.) before the start of the PlantHealth Master Programme and as soon as the final list of selected students is approved.

PlantHealth students will have access to all the facilities and services available to regular students (e.g., libraries, laboratories, computer rooms, etc.).

7.1 PlantHealth Helpdesk

Each partner University offers a PlantHealth Helpdesk where information for PlantHealth students is centralised. The French Partners (L'Institut Agro and AgroParisTech) offer a joint PlantHealth Helpdesk service, due to the integration of the courses offered by these universities.

Art. 8. Financial aspects

8.1 Participation costs

The annual PlantHealth participation fee for all students is 4,500 EUR, regardless of which host institution they attend.

The cost of participation includes:

- Health and accident insurance throughout the whole academic period;
- Registration of the student as a regular student at the M1 and M2 host universities;
- Tuition fees;
- Language and cultural courses at each university, integrated into the PlantHealth curriculum;
- An e-learning module;
- Access to library and laboratories;
- Student administration, services and activities; assistance with visa application procedures, etc.;
- Initial Orientation Week for all PlantHealth students;
- Field trip for all M1-student;
- All other academic and administrative fees (e.g., diploma issuing by the two partner universities attended, enrolment fees, academic recognition fees, etc.).

Participation fees do NOT include:

- Travel costs
- Visa costs
- Accommodation/living costs
- Some individual module-related costs (e.g., specific books and materials, etc.)

8.2 Travel costs

It is the student responsibility to cover the necessary travel expenses to participate in all compulsory activities of the PlantHealth Master Programme (e.g., travel to attend the Orientation Week, travel to the 1st and the 2nd Host Institutions, etc.).

8.3 Administration of scholarships

The award of an EMJM scholarship is based on the information provided by the student when applying for the scholarship. The student will be required to submit her/his passport and academic records, among other documents.

The Erasmus+ programme is managed by the Plant Health Secretariat at the UPV: EMJM Scholarship Programme.

The scholarship is awarded for full-time enrolment and covers the entire duration of the Master programme (max. 24 months), consisting of:

	EMJM scholarship
Contribution to PlantHealth participation costs	9,000 EUR (full 2-year Master degree)
Pro-rata Payment of the Living allowance (max. 24 months)	Max. 1,400 EUR per month

Table 1 - Amount of the scholarship granted to the awarded students

Amount I: Contribution of participation costs, incl. insurance:

An amount of 4,500 EUR per year be charged directly by the PlantHealth Consortium from the funds received from the European Commission to cover the participation costs of EMJM grantees. Therefore, this amount will not be transferred to the grantee.

Amount II: Monthly Living Allowance:

A monthly amount of up to of 1,400 EUR/month for a maximum of 24 months. Payments will be made systematically in EUR, preferably on a monthly basis at the end of each month, into a European bank account held by the scholarship holder.

The monthly transferred is calculated on a pro-rata basis according to the actual number of days that the student is actively participates in the Master programme (e.g., 1,400 EUR / 30 days = 46,67 EUR per day). This period includes study, research, internship activities, thesis preparation and defence, in accordance with the requirements of the Joint Master. During this period, the scholarship can only be awarded in full, and to full-time students.

The *Living Allowance* is paid according to the actual number of days spent in the host country carrying out her/his academic activities. The monthly allowance can only be paid from the month of arrival, at the first host institution (M1), and after formal enrolment. Upon arrival, the scholarship holder will be required to sign a certificate stating the start date of her/his academic activities and to submit monthly reports to demonstrate her/his active participation in the Master programme.

The payment of the scholarship will end at the end of the M2 academic year and no later than three (3) months after the official end of the EMJM intake. It cannot exceed the maximum number of instalments foreseen for an academic programme of 120 ECTS (i.e., 24 monthly payments).

If students decide to join the programme voluntarily at an earlier stage, this period cannot be considered as part of the EMJM course duration. This rule also applies to cases where students arrive late to the course.

Scholarship payments to the student may be suspended if the student is expelled or dismissed from the course, is refused entry to the country of mobility by the national authorities, or leaves the course at his or her own request.

Students who wish to spend time studying in a partner country, e.g., to complete a Master thesis or an internship, will only be covered by the monthly grant for a maximum of 3 months.

The monthly living allowance does not cover the periods when the student is in her/his country of residence.

By signing this agreement, the student declares that she/he has never been and is not in receipt of any other European Union/Erasmus Mundus/EMJM scholarship and that she/he is not a former Erasmus Mundus Master or PhD student.

8.4. Money transfers

All payments will be made by direct bank transfer to a European bank account specified by the scholar, in accordance with the rules established by the Erasmus +: EMJM programme. Immediately upon arrival at the first host institution, the scholar must open a European bank account and send a bank certificate with the account details (including IBAN number) to the Secretariat and complete a bank account form provided.

If the student decides to change his/her bank account (e.g., due to moving to a different country for the second Master year), she/he must inform the PlantHealth Secretariat by sending the new bank certificate and filling a new bank account form.

The scholarship will not be awarded until the student has signed this agreement and has officially enrolled at the host institution for the first year.

To transfer the individual scholarship payments centralised by the coordinator (e.g.; monthly living allowances) to the scholars, the hosting partners will send the following documents (scanned copies) to the coordinator once the scholars arrive at the host university:

- Proof of enrolment;
- Certificate of arrival signed by the local PlantHealth Coordinator and the student;
- Student agreement signed by the grantee, if it was not signed during the Orientation Week;
- European bank account of the student to which the funds are to be transferred (official document issued by the bank, clearly stating the bank account details and the name of the account holder).

Art. 9. Complaints and amendments

In the event of a complaint, the student may appeal to the PlantHealth Board. The student may initiate the complaint through the Student Representative, elected by and from PlantHealth students, who is part of the PlantHealth Board (advisory role for student related issues).

The PlantHealth Board will consider the matter and resolve it as soon as possible. However, for specific complaints about a particular service or facility provided by a partner institution, the student must follow that institution's complaints procedure.

Any complaints relating to the Plant Health Course or the termination of studies must be brought immediately to the attention of the Course Coordinator. The Secretariat will amend the agreement on an ad hoc basis in the event of temporary termination, e.g., for health reasons.

In the event of a scholarship being interrupted, the PlantHealth Board will deal with the situation on a case-by-case basis.

Any changes or updates to the current agreement must be in writing and signed by the parties.

Art. 10. Responsibility limitation

The PlantHealth Consortium shall not be liable for any accident, illness, injury, loss or damage to persons or property arising out of or in any way connected with the activities covered by this contract.

Art. 11. Consent for use of student's image

By signing this agreement, the student consents to the recording and use of images of him/herself (photographs, audio or video images and recordings) in hard copy or digital form for the following purposes:

- the promotion, communication and dissemination of EMJM PlantHealth activities and programmes. These may be used on the EMJM PlantHealth website, leaflets, posters, social media, display screens and presentations.

- the generation of training materials (e.g., e-learning resources, online learning materials, etc. These may be shared with other individuals involved in plant health).

Art. 12. Data protection

By signing this agreement, the student authorises the use of her/his personal data for activities related to the EMJM PlantHealth.

In accordance with the provisions of Regulation 2016/679 of 27 April 2016 on the protection of individuals with regard to the processing and free movement of personal data, we inform you that the Universitat Politècnica de València (UPV) is responsible for the processing of your personal data for the purpose of managing applications for enrolment at the University and scholarships payments. The legal basis for this processing is section 6.1.b of the above-mentioned regulation, as it is necessary for the performance of a contract to which you are a party, or to carry out pre-contractual activities at your request. No disclosure of the data processed is foreseen. You may exercise your legal rights of access, rectification, cancellation and portability, as well as your rights to restrict or oppose the processing of your personal data, by sending a request to the Universitat Politècnica de València, Camí de Vera s/n, 46022 València. Please consult the PlantHealth privacy policy here: http://planthealth.upv.es/privacy_policy

The European Education and Culture Executive Agency (EACEA), in the context of managing the Erasmus Mundus Joint Masters, collects and processes the personal data of some of the candidates. In particular, certain data of the scholarship holders and non-scholarship holders is shared with the Agency and treated according to its privacy statement available here: <https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/erasmus-esc/index/privacy-statement>.

Such data will be processed in connection with the implementation and follow-up of the Agreement by the Partner Institutions, EACEA and the European Commission, without prejudice to the possibility of transferring the data to the bodies responsible for inspection and audit in accordance with EU legislation. Personal data may also be communicated, on a need-to-know basis to third parties involved in the management of the PlantHealth Project.

The student may, upon written request, obtain access to her/his personal data and correct any inaccurate or incomplete information. She/he should address any questions regarding the processing of her/his personal data to planthealth@upv.es.

Art. 13. Further information:

The relevant Reference documents are available at the documents section of the PlantHealth intranet:

- PlantHealth Guide for students and Scholarship Holders
- EMJM Programme Guide and related documents
- EMJM Administrative and Financial Handbook

Art. 14. Duration of the agreement and applicable law

This agreement will automatically terminate at the end of your second academic year. If the agreement is terminated earlier, the scholarship payment will automatically stop at the same time. The Secretariat will seek reimbursement of any undue advance payments. The annual PlantHealth participation fee is non-refundable.

Without prejudice to the general consequences laid down in the national law applicable to the present agreement, the PlantHealth Consortium reserves the right to suspend the effects of the present agreement without recourse to any judicial procedure other than appropriate notification to the student. In the absence of agreement between the two parties, the Spanish Courts will be the only competent authorities to resolve any dispute between the PlantHealth Consortium and the student arising from this agreement. This Student Agreement is governed by Spanish law.

I acknowledge having read, agree with and commit to comply with all articles of this agreement.

Signed in _____, on _____

<p>Signature:</p> <p>Name of the student:</p>	<p>Signature:</p> <p>Prof. Dr. Josep Armengol <i>PlantHealth Coordinator</i></p>
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