

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

STUDENT AGREEMENT

SCHOLARSHIP-HOLDERS & SELF-FUNDED STUDENTS

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

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

- Universitat Politècnica de València (UPV) (Spain), the Coordinating Institution
- Università degli Studi di Padova (UNIPD) (Italy)
- Georg-August-Universität Göttingen Stiftung Oeffentlichen Rechts/University of Göttingen (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: _____

First name: _____

Date of birth (dd/mm/yyyy): _____

Nationality: _____

Passport number: _____

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

With agreed mobility pathway:

First host university: _____

Second host university: _____

Further also referred to as "the student"

The following is agreed upon:

ART.1. SCOPE

The student is admitted to the Erasmus Mundus Joint Master’s (EMJM) Degree in Plant Health in Sustainable Cropping Systems (Master PlantHealth) on behalf of the participating Consortium partners. Admission is subject to full compliance with the rights, obligations and conditions set out in this Agreement.

ART.2. ACADEMIC STRUCTURE

The PlantHealth programme is a two-year, integrated EMJM jointly designed and delivered by the Consortium partners. The programme begins with Orientation Days and ends with a Final Conference which are both compulsory for all students.

- **Year 1 (M1):** completed at either Universitat Politècnica de València (UPV) or Università degli Studi di Padova (UNIPD). It includes a compulsory internship in the second semester under the supervision of the M1 host institution.
- **Year 2 (M2):** completed at a different institution from the M1, choosing one specialisation track offered by any of the five partners in Germany, Spain, Italy or France.

Master’s thesis: completed and supervised at the M2 institution.

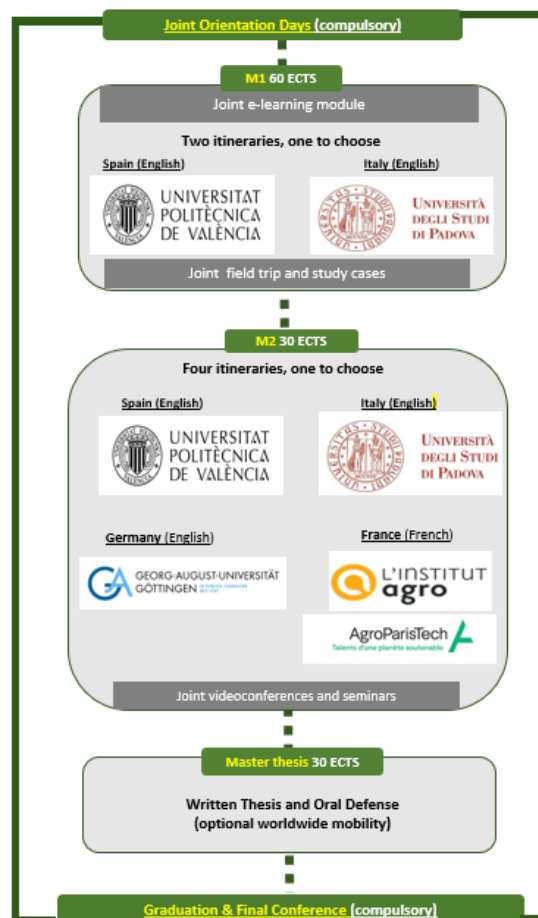


Figure 1 – Integrated structure of the PlantHealth programme

The full list of [courses](#) is available on the PlantHealth website.

ART. 3. DEGREE AWARDED

Students who successfully complete 120 ECTS (60 ECTS at each host institution), including the Master's thesis (30 ECTS), will receive a double degree, issued by the M1 and M2 awarding institutions, along with the official academic transcript and Diploma Supplement.

Degrees awarded include:

- Universitat Politècnica de València: *Erasmus Mundus Master Degree in Plant Health in Sustainable Cropping Systems / Máster 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 (MSc) in Crop Protection*
- L'Institut Agro & AgroParisTech: *Master STAAE (Sciences et technologies de l'agriculture, de l'alimentation et de l'environnement)*

ART. 4. LANGUAGE POLICY

All M1 courses are taught in English.

M2 courses are also taught in English, except at French partner institutions where French is the language of instruction.

Students assigned to French institutions will receive language courses during the M1 and a supplementary summer French module to help them reach an adequate level of French before starting the M2.

All partner institutions offer local language courses, which are fully integrated into the mandatory curriculum

ART. 5. PERFORMANCE MONITORING AND EVALUATION

Students must attend all scheduled academic activities (lectures, practical sessions, guest lecturers' seminars, visits, field trips, internships) and complete all required assessments. Evaluation follows local regulations and the ECTS framework.

Each semester, students should complete a feedback questionnaire to evaluate their academic and personal satisfaction.

Thesis defense follows the procedures agreed by the Consortium and the M2 institution's regulations.

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

ECTS are awarded upon successful completion of a course, in accordance with the local regulations of the host institution.

Failed courses must be retaken according to the host university's re-sit regulations.

Second or subsequent enrolments require payment of any tuition fees not covered by Erasmus Mundus (EM) scholarships or participation costs.

Erasmus Mundus (EM) scholarships and participation costs do not cover study periods exceeding 24 months.

5.2 Regulations Not Covered by this Agreement

Any matters not addressed in this Agreement are subjected to the academic and examination regulations of the host institution.

ART. 6. STUDENT OBLIGATIONS AND CODE OF CONDUCT

6.1. Students must comply with all regulations of their M1 and M2 host universities, the decisions of the PlantHealth Consortium, and the articles of this Agreement.

6.2. A minimum of **120 ECTS is required to obtain the double degree** (60 ECTS at each host university).

6.3. Before the programme begins, **students must meet the Master's admission requirements**, including holding a Bachelor's degree and a B2 English proficiency certificate (as indicated on the official website) before the beginning of the programme.

6.4. Providing false or misleading information will result to immediate expulsion and termination of financial support (Erasmus Mundus/Erasmus+ mobility grant), where applicable.

6.5. Students **must complete enrolment** procedures at each host institution and submit all required documentation on time (e.g., proof of enrolment to the PlantHealth Coordination Office).

6.6. Students are formally **obliged to maintain active communication** with the Coordination Office and respond promptly to official enquiries throughout the entire duration of the Master's programme. Persistent lack of communication or failure to respond to official requests from the Coordination Office may result in the suspension of scholarship payments or cancellation of the student's place on the programme.

6.7. Compulsory attendance: Students must be **physically present at their assigned host institution and actively follow the PlantHealth programme** throughout the period of enrolment. Participation in all mandatory programme components (practical sessions, guest lecturers' seminars, visits, field trips and internships) is obligatory. Active participation shall be evidenced primarily through the **compulsory monthly reports** and, where applicable, through attendance records or other procedures established by the host institution. Any absence from mandatory programme components, or any absence from the host institution or host country exceeding 5 consecutive calendar days, must be reported without delay to the local coordinator and to the PlantHealth Coordination Office. Failure to comply with these obligations may result in administrative measures under this Agreement, including, suspension of financial support.

6.8. Students must adhere to the principles of **ethical academic conduct**, ensure avoid misconduct, and respect university property. Any breach may result in suspension or expulsion.

6.9. PlantHealth has a zero-tolerance policy on plagiarism. All violations are reported to the Programme Coordinator and dealt with in accordance with the host university's local rules.

6.10. Students who are suspended or expelled have 10 days to appeal to the PlantHealth Board.

6.11. Students **must submit all required administrative documents**, including the 'Certificate of Arrival' to be signed upon arrival at both the M1 and M2 host institutions, and the compulsory monthly reports, and must participate in quality assurance processes such as feedback questionnaires. Failure to submit them in a **timely manner** may result in the suspension of student status and/or the Erasmus Mundus/Erasmus+ mobility grant scholarship.

Students are required to submit a **compulsory monthly report** at the end of each month of the

programme's duration. A standard reporting template will be provided at the start of the programme. Each report must include a concise summary of any relevant master's activities undertaken during the previous month. The reports must be signed by the host institution's coordinator (or the thesis supervisor, if applicable). Reports covering the summer period must be signed by the coordinator of the M2 host institution when the student commences the second year of their studies. All students must submit completed and signed reports by email to the PlantHealth Coordination Office. In addition, scholarship holders must upload the reports to the PlantHealth intranet in accordance with the programme's administrative procedures.

6.12. Students may only leave the host institution during official academic holidays established by the host institution. Any other absence requires written approval from both the academic supervisor and the UPV Coordinator and the duration of the absence must be agreed upon by all parties prior to its commencement. Authorized absences will result in the temporary suspension of Erasmus Mundus/Erasmus+ mobility scholarship payments on a pro-rata basis, where applicable. Unauthorized absences may result in exclusion from the programme and the loss of the scholarship.

If a **self-funded student** wishes to terminate their participation in the programme prematurely or interrupt their studies for any reason, they must notify the Programme Coordinator immediately in writing. In all cases of premature termination or interruption, any payments previously made by the student towards the master's participation costs are non-refundable, and the student remains liable for any outstanding fees accrued up to the official date of withdrawal.

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

6.14. Students must acknowledge the European Union funding in their Master's thesis and in any publication resulting from their participation in the PlantHealth Master programme. This is to comply with the new Erasmus+ visual identity and requires the inclusion of 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.

> **APPLICABLE TO SCHOLARSHIP-HOLDERS ONLY**

6.15. Scholarship-holders must **not** receive additional EU-funded scholarships. False declarations may lead to scholarship cancellation and repayment.

By signing this agreement, EMJM scholarship-holders declare on their honour that they have not previously received any other EMJM scholarship or Erasmus Mundus Master's/Joint Doctorate course scholarship. If a false declaration is made, the Coordinating Institution reserves the right to request reimbursement of any unduly received scholarship payments from the student.

6.16. The EMJM scholarship may be withdrawn if the student obtains fewer than **48 ECTS** by the end of M1. Students may appeal within 10 days. They may continue as self-funded if the scholarship is revoked.

6.17. Scholarship payments may be suspended in cases of withdrawal, suspension, absence, expulsion and violation of Consortium rules.

If a **scholarship-holder** wishes to terminate their participation in the programme prematurely or interrupt their studies for any reason, they must notify the Programme Coordinator immediately in writing. In all cases where the EMJM scholarship is interrupted, the scholarship-holder must refund any amount unduly paid to the PlantHealth Coordinating Institution. For monthly allowances, the number of eligible payments will be calculated according to the provisions in **Art. 8.3.**

6.18. Partial or full reimbursement may be required in cases of unreported absence or withdrawal, serious misconduct, or false information. The scholarship-holder has 30 days to return the required amount. Failure to do so may result in additional bank charges and interest, and/or legal action.

6.19. Scholarship-holders may work only if it complies with national law (e.g., visa and residence permit requirements), does not impede academic duties (fully and active attendance to all master's activities) and does not violate EMJM rules (EMJM programme does not impose any restrictions).

Art. 7. ADMINISTRATIVE ASPECTS

Partner universities commit to providing teaching, supervision, assessment and student support to a professional standard.

The Consortium provides:

- programme information
- administrative support for admission, enrolment and course registration
- scholarship administration
- visa guidance
- assistance with accommodation (at UNIPD, UGOE and French Institutions)
- orientation and integration activities
- academic and social counselling
- access to all institutions' facilities and services available to regular students (e.g., libraries, laboratories, computer rooms, etc.)
- local mandatory language courses
- insurance coverage, in compliance with EACEA's rules for Erasmus+ programmes, valid for up to 24 months (including health, accident, civil liability, repatriation cover)

7.1 PlantHealth Helpdesk

In addition to the general Master's PlantHealth Helpdesk, each partner university hosts its own dedicated Helpdesk. The French Institutions provide a joint helpdesk.

ART. 8. FINANCIAL ASPECTS

8.1 Participation costs

Participation fees are EU/EEA/Swiss Citizens: €4,500, and Non-EU/Non-EEA/Non-Swiss Citizens: €5,000 per academic year.

They cover tuition fees, insurance (max. 24 months), course registration, learning resources, language courses, student administration, Orientation Days, field trip (M1), and degree-issuing costs.

They do *not* cover travel, visa, accommodation, or personal expenses.

8.2 Travel costs

Students must cover travel costs related to participation in all compulsory programme activities.

> APPLICABLE ONLY TO SCHOLARSHIP-HOLDERS

8.3 Administration of scholarships

The Erasmus+ programme is managed by the PlantHealth Secretariat at the coordinating institution, the UPV, under the EMJM Scholarship Programme.

Scholarship duration: maximum 24 months.

	EMJM scholarship
I. Master's total participation costs	EU, EEA & Switzerland: €9,000 Rest: €10,000 (Two-year Master's programme)
II. Monthly Living allowance (max. 24 months)	Max. 1,400 EUR per month (Calculated pro-rata)

Table 1 - Amount of the scholarship granted to the EMJM scholarship-holders

Amount I: Contribution to Master's participation costs, incl. insurance:

Participation costs for the EMJM PlantHealth programme will be charged directly by the PlantHealth Secretariat from the funds received from the European Commission, to cover the costs of scholarship-holders.

Amount II: Monthly Living Allowance:

A monthly living allowance of up to EUR 1,400 shall be awarded for a maximum duration of twenty-four (24) months. **Payments shall be made exclusively in euros (EUR), on a monthly basis at the end of each month, commencing in October of the first academic year (M1), and shall be transferred to an EU bank account held in the name of the scholarship-holder.**

The monthly allowance shall be calculated on a pro-rata basis, in accordance with the actual number of days during which the scholarship-holder is actively participating in the Master's programme (e.g., EUR 1,400 / 30 days = EUR 46.67 per day). Eligible periods include study, research, internship activities, thesis preparation and thesis defense, in full compliance with the academic requirements of the Joint Master's programme. During such periods, the scholarship may be awarded only to full-time students and exclusively for periods of active participation.

The living allowance shall be paid solely in relation to the number of days spent in the host country carrying out approved academic activities. Payment may only commence upon the scholarship-holder's physical arrival at the host institution and formal enrolment. Upon arrival at both the M1 and M2 host institutions, the scholarship-holder must sign a 'Certificate of Arrival' confirming the start date of academic activities and submit compulsory monthly reports evidencing active participation in the programme.

Scholarship payments shall cease at the end of the M2 academic year and, in any event, no later than three (3) months after the official end of the relevant EMJM intake. Under no circumstances shall the total number of payments exceed the maximum number of instalments foreseen for a 120-ECTS academic programme, namely twenty-four (24) monthly payments.

Any period during which a scholarship-holder voluntarily joins the programme prior to the official start date shall not be considered part of the EMJM course duration. This provision shall also apply in cases of late arrival to the programme.

Scholarship payments may be suspended or terminated if the scholarship-holder is expelled or dismissed from the programme, is refused entry into the country of mobility by the competent national authorities, or withdraws from the programme at his or her own request.

Scholarship-holders undertaking academic activities in a partner country outside the European Union (for example, for the purpose of completing a Master's thesis or internship) shall be eligible for the living allowance for a maximum period of three (3) months only.

The monthly living allowance will not be paid for periods when the scholarship holder is in their country of residence, except during official academic holidays established by the host institution

By signing this Agreement, the scholarship-holder formally declares that he or she has never received, and is not currently receiving, any other scholarship funded by the European Union, Erasmus Mundus or EMJM programmes, and that he or she is not a former Erasmus Mundus Master's or Doctoral programme beneficiary.

8.4. Money transfers

Payments are only made to an EU bank account held by the scholarship-holder. Any change of bank account must be reported immediately to the PlantHealth Secretariat by sending the new EU-bank certificate and filling in a new bank account form and with at least one-month notice. Scholarship transfers require proof of enrolment, a signed '*Certificate of Arrival*', and a signed Student Agreement.

Art. 9. COMPLAINTS AND AMENDMENTS

Complaints may be submitted through the Student Representative to the PlantHealth Board. Complaints specific to a partner institution must follow that institution's procedures. Any amendments must be made in writing and signed by both parties.

Art. 10. RESPONSIBILITY LIMITATION

The PlantHealth Consortium is not responsible for accidents, illness, injury, loss or damage to people or property arising during participation in programme activities.

Art. 11. CONSENT FOR USE OF STUDENT'S IMAGE

By signing this Agreement, the student authorizes the Consortium to use photographs, audio/video recordings and images for communication, dissemination and educational purposes connected to EMJM PlantHealth.

Art. 12. DATA PROTECTION

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

Personal data will be processed by the Consortium partners and the EACEA for purposes related to programme administration and scholarship management (when applicable), in accordance with GDPR: http://planthealth.upv.es/privacy_policy and <https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/erasmus-esc/index/privacy-statement>.

Such personal data shall be processed for the purposes of the implementation, management and follow-up of this Agreement by the Partner Institutions, the European Education and Culture Executive Agency (EACEA) and the European Commission, without prejudice to the possibility of transferring such data to bodies responsible for inspection, control and audit, in accordance with applicable European Union legislation. Where strictly necessary, personal data may also be communicated, on a need-to-know basis, to third parties involved in the management and administration of the PlantHealth Project.

The student may, upon written request, exercise the right of access to his or her personal data and request the rectification of any inaccurate or incomplete information. Any questions or requests relating to the processing of personal data should be addressed to planthealth@upv.es

Art. 13. FURTHER INFORMATION

Additional details are provided in the PlantHealth Student Guide.

Art. 14. DURATION AND APPLICABLE LAW

This Agreement is valid until the end of the student's second academic year unless terminated earlier.

For scholarship-holders, early termination results in cessation of scholarship payments and potential reimbursement of undue amounts.

Spanish law applies. In case of dispute, Spanish courts have exclusive jurisdiction.

STUDENT AND MASTER'S COORDINATOR DECLARATION

I acknowledge that I have read, understood and agree to comply with all articles of this Agreement.

Signed in _____, on _____

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