

EU-Asia academic cooperation through Erasmus+

What is Erasmus+ ?

Erasmus+ is the European Union (EU) programme for education, training, youth and sport for the period 2014-2020. Erasmus+ funds academic and youth mobility and cooperation between Europe and other regions in the world, including Asia.

Erasmus+ supports activities that are closely matched with the EU's priorities for cooperation policy with these regions.

Asian countries can take part in Erasmus+ as Partner Countries in four types of projects in the higher education sector, and in youth cooperation projects. This brochure looks at the involvement of the following Asian countries: Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Cambodia, China, DPR Korea, India, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Maldives, Mongolia, Myanmar, Nepal, Pakistan, Philippines, Sri Lanka, Thailand and Vietnam. A separate factsheet looks at the five Central Asian republics.

In the last year of the programme, we can see how popular these initiatives are with countries from the region.

International Credit Mobility

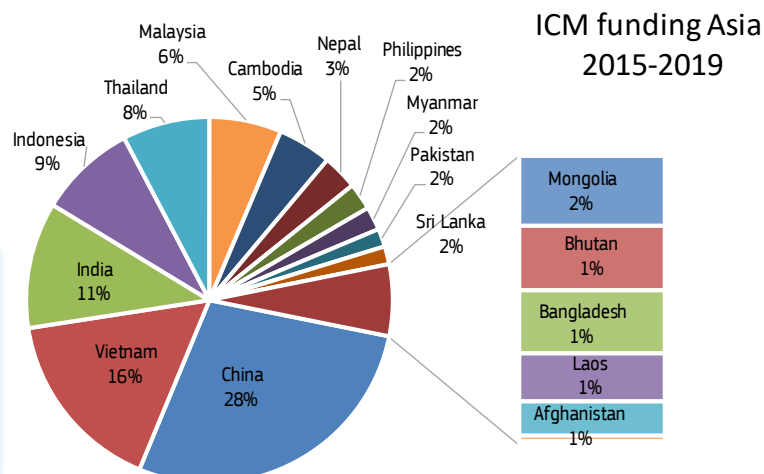
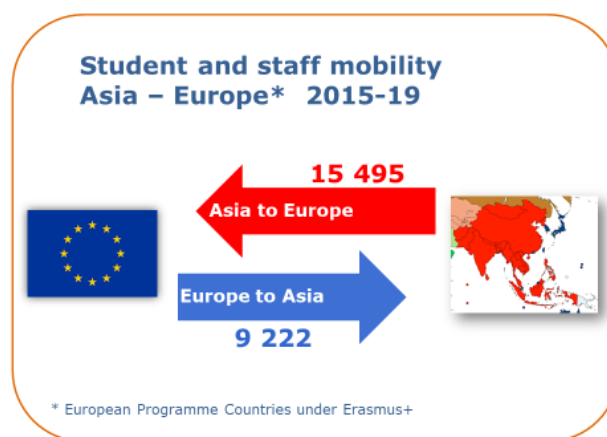
For over 30 years, students and staff have moved between European universities in the Erasmus programme. Since 2015, Erasmus+ has also allowed short-term mobility between Europe and other parts of the world for students, researchers, and staff, known as 'International Credit Mobility' (ICM for short). This two-way mobility allows students to study in a foreign university for **3-12 months** (2-12 months in case of traineeships) and obtain credits which are then recognised at the sending institution as part of their degree. A grant for staff mobility is also possible for **5-60 days**.

There are distinct budgets for different regions of the world that are divided between all the European countries. European institutions make up bilateral partnerships with Asian universities and apply on behalf of their partners.

The budget for Asia makes up **some 15% of the entire international mobility budget**. Between 2015 and 2019 this resulted in 2 362 projects for bilateral partnerships that organise **mobility for over 24 800 students, researchers, and staff**.

The Ca' Foscari University of Venice (UNIVE), Italy, has an agreement (IIA) with the University of Hanoi (HANU) in Vietnam. Under the agreement, 8 students and 5 staff members have travelled to study, to teach and train at Ca' Foscari and 2 staff members have travelled from Ca' Foscari to Vietnam. The agreement focused on mobility in the area of languages, management and tourism.

Erasmus+ student and staff mobility between Europe and Asia countries (2015-19): 2 362 projects, almost 25 000 people moving,



Erasmus Mundus Joint Master Degrees

Erasmus Mundus Joint Master Degrees (EMJMDs) award full-degree scholarships to Master students from around the world covering tuition, travel, and a living allowance. The programmes last from one to two years during which students study in at least two different European countries. Upon graduation, they are awarded a joint or double degree, or multiple degrees.

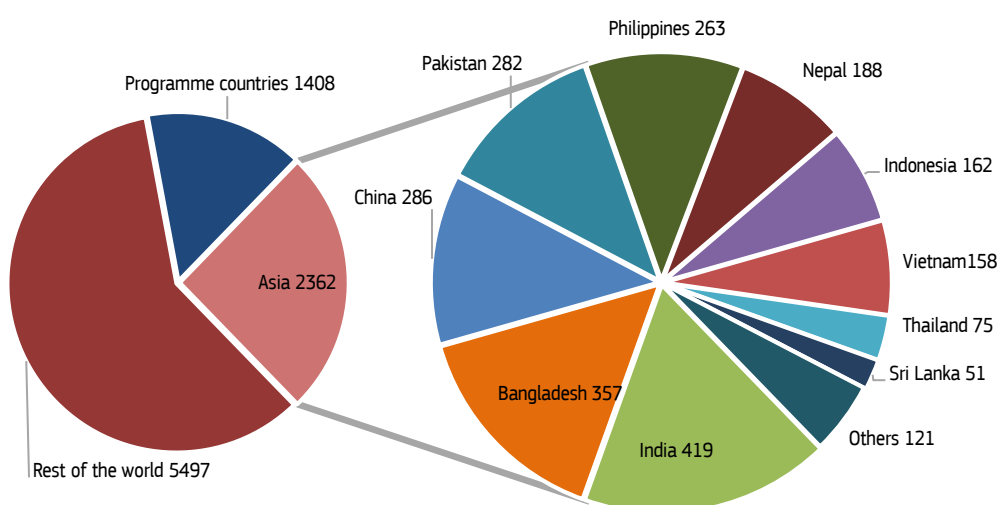
Students can apply to these programmes even if the university where they studied is not involved in any of them. They have to look for the available programmes in the EMJMD Catalogue and apply directly to the programme coordinator: https://eacea.ec.europa.eu/erasmus-plus/library/emjmd-catalogue_en

Asian institutions can also be part of the consortia that deliver these programmes, as Full Partners, which means they officially award degrees, or as Associated Partners, where they participate in the programme in some kind of capacity, but do not award the actual joint degree.

Asian partners

From 2014 to 2018, **126 institutions from Asia were involved in 67 of the 153 selected EMJMDs**. Of these, 116 Asian institutions took part as associated partners in 64 of the EMJMDs, and 14 Asian universities as full partners in 10 of the projects.

Erasmus Mundus scholarships awarded to Master students, 2014-2019



International Master of Science in Environmental Technology and Engineering - IMETE+

The [programme](#) trains people to apply and develop environmental technologies, with a strong focus on multidisciplinary and problem-based technology development. It offers a wide range of optional study fields in an international environment.

Thesis research can be conducted at one of the partner institutions, or in cooperation with associated partners from all over the world. Among them there are Asian institutions such as the Institute of Urban Environment at the Chinese Academy of Science and the Zhejiang University in China, the Institute of Environmental Science and Technology in Vietnam and the Asian Institute of Technology in Thailand.

Erasmus Mundus and Asia, 2014-2018



2365 scholarships
for Asian Master students



126 institutions
from Asia

EUROAQUAE +

The [programme](#) is dedicated to international participants interested to develop their professional life within the water sector. The consortium is coordinated by the University Nice Sophia Antipolis and is offered in cooperation with 14 leading international universities, including the North China University of Water Resources and Electric Power, the Hohai University in China and the Indian Institute of Technology Madras. 27 world leading companies and organisations from the water and IT domains cooperate as well as associated partners.

In semester 4, participants conduct their master thesis either as an internship with an industrial partner or with an academic partner of EuroAqua+ consortium.

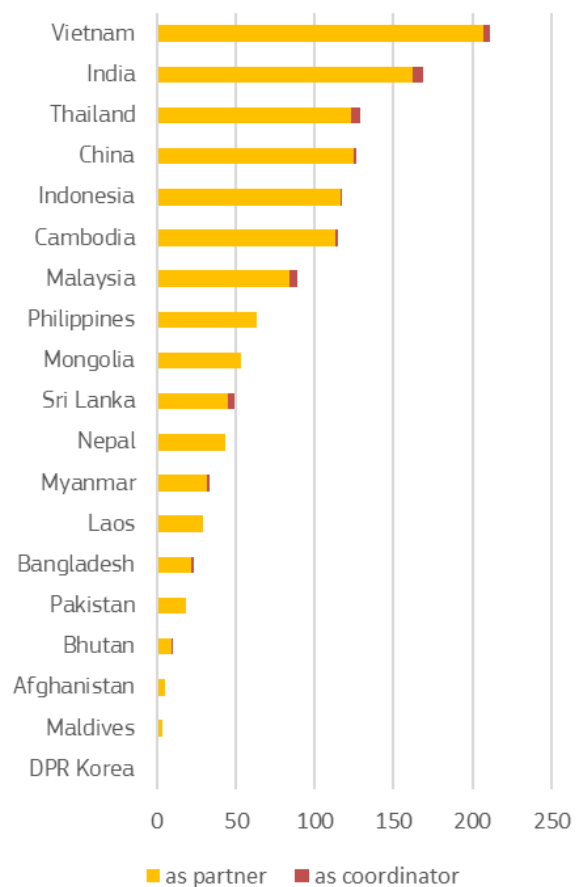
Capacity Building in Higher Education

There are two types of Capacity Building in Higher Education (CBHE) projects, which all last from two to three years. Joint projects are aimed at modernising and reforming higher education institutions, developing new curricula, improving governance, and building relationships between higher education institutions and enterprises. Structural projects can also tackle policy topics and issues, preparing the ground for higher education reform, in cooperation with national authorities.

Capacity building projects can be addressed to a group of Asian countries or a single country and they can also be cross-regional and include partners both from different Asian regions. So far, institutions from the Asia take part on 1300 occasions in 228 projects for the region.



Asia: participation in CBHE
2015-2019



Promoting Energy Efficient Lighting Education in Nepal and Bhutan

This joint [project](#) involves universities from these two Asian countries, Finland, France and Greece to raise awareness of energy-efficient lighting, design courses and train staff. Final beneficiaries will be the graduates with careers in professionals in the building industry chain, lighting industry equipment producers and lighting efficiency service providers, and government officials, energy regulators, and NGOs.

ADVANCE: Advancing university financial management practices in Southeast Asia

Internationalisation and modernisation with in higher education institutions requires a shift in financial management and income diversification. This [project](#) involves all relevant stakeholders in enhancing human, organisational and technical capacities in this domain, promoting accountability and transparency through systematisation and promotion of good practice. Indonesian, Thai and Malaysian universities work together with counterparts from Austria, Germany and Spain.

Jean Monnet Activities

Jean Monnet (JM) activities aim to develop EU studies worldwide. For over 25 years they have been supporting Modules, Chairs, and Centres of Excellence to promote excellence in teaching and research on the European integration process at higher education level. The programme also supports policy debate with the academic world and a number of associations in the domain of EU studies.

Out of a total of 1 500 successful applications to Jean Monnet between 2014 and 2019, 31 are Asian projects managed by institutions from Cambodia, Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Thailand, Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan and Iran. Although a JM Institution has yet to be established in the region, there have been **7 JM Chairs, 16 JM Modules, 5 Centres of Excellence, 1 project and 1 JM Network.**

ASEAN-EU in Dialogue, Learning from One Another

This [Jean Monnet Centre of Excellence](#) builds on the existing infrastructure at the Asia-Europe Institute (AEI) at University of Malaya. The proposed objectives are to promote ASEAN-EU studies and to foster an ASEAN-EU policy discourse in Malaysia that translate into policy recommendation. It also aims to build capacity for and among the next generation of students and young researches in the field of comparative regionalism and EU studies.

Capacity Building in the Field of Youth

Capacity Building projects in the Field of Youth cover a range of activities that encourage cooperation between organisations active in youth empowerment, education of youth, youth training, and other relevant socioeconomic sectors in Programme and Partner Countries from different regions of the world. The projects aim to recognize and improve youth work, non-formal learning, and volunteering, and consequently link this to education systems and the labour market.

“The Young side of the Moon”

Asian partners from India and Vietnam

The [project](#) prepares youth workers to take on leadership roles in their local and global communities as agents and multipliers for sustainable co-development and growth. The subject areas of the project were addressed according to a creative approach experimented by PRISM, which links topics with song themes on the classic rock album “The Dark Side of the Moon”. by Pink Floyd. Economic Crisis (*Money*), Crisis of cultural values (*On the run / breathe*), Migrations and Inclusion (*Us and them*), Environment (*Eclipse*). The project included different mobility activities of youth workers and among them some job-shadowing activities. The activities were seen as a reciprocal opportunity for practical learning experience, exchange good practice, acquire key competences and build long-term partnerships.

Projects selected

During the selection periods between 2014 and 2019, [138 projects](#) have been approved with partners from a range of Asian countries: Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Cambodia, China, India, Indonesia, Malaysia, the Maldives, Mongolia, Myanmar, Nepal, Pakistan, Philippines, Sri Lanka, Thailand and Vietnam. A number of organisations from industrialised countries in the Asia-Pacific region (Australia, Japan, Hong Kong, Republic of Korea, Taiwan) are also involved.

Youth Capacity Building projects for Asia, 2014-2019



138 projects



471 organisations

from Asia involved

“Advocacy for Street based Youth work and networking Action”

Asian partners from Cambodia, Philippines, Vietnam:

The [project](#) proposes support for marginalized groups in each country through the Social Street Work, approach based on educational relations and non-formal educational action. By meeting youngsters in their on their own life area, Social Street Work builds up an educational relationship based on trust that favours emancipation and citizenship.

Facing the Gap

Asian partner: Drama (Beijing) Education Consulting, China

The Hungary-managed [project](#) aimed to develop and advocate the use of drama and theatre in youth work. The project built on the importance of opening spaces through artistic creation where young people have the freedom to face the burning problems of our times and reach new understandings, to take responsibility for their thoughts and action. The project partners worked with young people on artistic initiatives based on a play written specifically for the project.

More information:

Erasmus+ website: http://ec.europa.eu/programmes/erasmus-plus/node_en

Erasmus+ projects & results: <http://ec.europa.eu/programmes/erasmus-plus/projects/>

Erasmus+ funding opportunities: http://eacea.ec.europa.eu/erasmus-plus/funding_en

Erasmus Mundus Students and Alumni Association: www.em-a.eu

Study in Europe: <http://ec.europa.eu/education/study-in-europe/>