

Aurora – Towards Modern and Innovative Higher Education

CALL FOR APPLICATIONS

For Erasmus Mundus mobilities starting in autumn 2014
Application deadline 11 December 2013, 14:00 (GMT +2)

Erasmus Mundus Aurora partnerships launch a Call for Applications on 24 October 2013 for mobilities starting in autumn term 2014. Grants are available for study, research and professional visit purposes at all mobility levels. Application deadline is 11 December 2013, 14:00 Finnish time (GMT +2) and application enclosures need to be sent by 18 December 2013, 14:00 Finnish time (GMT +2).

Erasmus Mundus (EMA2) Aurora consists of two consecutive years' financed projects: Aurora – Towards Modern and Innovative Higher Education (Aurora I) and Aurora II – Towards Modern and Innovative Higher Education (Aurora II). The projects have a joint Call for Applications and all eligible applications are assessed in both projects. Project specific information (e.g. members of the consortia and the number of available grants) is listed separately below. Aurora awards scholarships for EU citizens to Russia, and for citizens of Russia to EU.

Erasmus Mundus is an EU-funded cooperation and mobility programme in the field of higher education that aims to enhance the quality of European¹ higher education and to promote dialogue and understanding between people and cultures through cooperation with Third-countries. The project promotes institutional development in the field of international cooperation and internationalization of partner universities by awarding grants for students, researchers, teachers and other staff.

Applications are welcomed at all mobility levels from undergraduates to staff applicants. Available scholarships are from 1 to 34 months, depending on the mobility level and purpose. Purpose of the mobility can be non-degree studies (exchange studies) or degree studies (studies leading to a degree). The applicants applying for non-degree studies in undergraduate and master level apply to studies either for one semester or for full academic year. All the undergraduate and master mobilities must start in autumn semester 2014 according to the Host University's academic calendar. The exact dates are announced in Grant Decision. The doctorate and post-doctorate mobilities must start latest in December 2014. Staff mobilities are recommended to start latest in December 2014, but can also take place at any time during the projects eligibility period.

Timetable of the Call

<p>24 October 2013: Online application system is opened.</p> <p>11 December 2013, 14:00 (GMT +2): Online application system is closed.</p> <p>18 December 2013, 14:00 (GMT +2): Deadline for submitting the required enclosures.</p>

¹ In this Call for Applications term "European" refers to Member States of European Union or nationals of European Union Member States.

Erasmus Mundus Aurora II – First Call for Applications

The Aurora II mobilities must end by 31 May 2017.

Applications are welcomed to all partner universities:

European Universities	Russian Universities
Humboldt University Berlin (Germany)	Higher School of Economics
Masaryk University (Czech Republic)	Immanuel Kant Baltic Federal University
University of Bologna (Italy)	Kazan Federal University
University of Groningen (The Netherlands)	Mari State University
University of Latvia (Latvia)	Northern (Arctic) Federal University
University of Leuven (Belgium)	North Eastern Federal University
University of Tartu (Estonia)	North-Ossetian State University
University of Turku (Finland)	Novosibirsk State Technical University
University of Warsaw (Poland)	Pacific National University
	Russian State University for the Humanities
	St. Petersburg State University of Economics and Finance

Duration and Value of Erasmus Mundus Aurora II Grants:

Mobility Level	Students, researchers and staff of European partner universities (TG1)	Students, researchers and staff of Russian partner universities (TG1)	Other EU citizens (TG2)	Other Russian (TG2)	Russian citizens in vulnerable situations (TG3)
Undergraduate	min./ max. 1 semester	min./ max. 1 semester	---	---	min. 1 semester max. academic year
Master	min. 1 semester max. academic year	min. 1 semester max. 22 months	min. 1 semester max. academic year	min. 1 semester max. 22 months	min. 1 semester max. 22 months
Doctorate	6–10 months	6–34 months	6–10 months	6–34 months	6–34 months
Post-doctorate	6-8 months	6-10 months	6-10 months	6-10 months	6-10 months
Staff	1 month	1-2 months	1 month	1 month	---

There are no exceptions to the minimum duration of the mobility period. Due to availability of mobility funds and based on the recommendation of the Host University, the applicant may be awarded a grant for a period shorter or longer than s/he has applied for (not under the minimum duration). Russian TG1 and TG2 Master level mobilities are mainly degree studies (22 months).

Preference is given to eligible applicants according to the following table:

Mobility Type	Number of Grants
Undergraduate	0–46
Master	0–37
Doctorate	0–41
Post-doctorate	0–8
Academic and administrative staff	0–20

Total number of the awarded grants in each mobility type is dependent on the number of received applications and the length of applied mobilities. The final decision on the nominated grantees is subject to Selection Committee's decision.

Erasmus Mundus Aurora I – Second Call for Applications

The Aurora I mobilities must end by 31 May 2016
Applications are welcomed to all partner universities:

European Universities	Russian Universities
Humboldt University Berlin (Germany)	Higher School of Economics
Masaryk University (Czech Republic)	Immanuel Kant Baltic Federal University
University of Bologna (Italy)	Kazan Federal University
University of Deusto (Spain)	Northern (Arctic) Federal University
University of Groningen (The Netherlands)	North-Ossetian State University
University of Latvia (Latvia)	Novosibirsk State Technical University
University of Leuven (Belgium)	Pacific National University
University of Tartu (Estonia)	Russian State University for the Humanities
University of Turku (Finland)	St. Petersburg State University of Economics and Finance
University of Warsaw (Poland)	Udmurt State University

Duration and Value of Erasmus Mundus Aurora I Grant:

Mobility Level	Students, researchers and staff of European partner universities (TG1)	Students, researchers and staff of Russian partner universities (TG1)	Other Russian and EU citizens (TG2)	Russian citizens in vulnerable situations (TG3)
Undergraduate	min / max.1 semester	min / max.1 semester	---	min. 1 semester max. academic year
Master	min. 1 semester max. academic year	min. 1 semester max. academic year	min. 1 semester max. academic year	min. 1 semester max. 22 months
Doctorate	6–10 months	6–10 months	6–10 months	6–10 months
Post-doctorate	6-10 months	6-10 months	6-10 months	6-10 months
Staff	1-2 months	1-2 months	1-2 months	---

Aurora Call for Applications for mobilities starting in Autumn 2014 22.10.2013

There are no exceptions to the minimum duration of the mobility period. Due to availability of mobility funds or the recommendation of the Host University, the applicant may be awarded a grant for a period shorter or longer than s/he has applied for (not under the minimum duration).

Preference is given to eligible applicants according to the following table:

Mobility Type	Number of Grants
Undergraduate	0–20
Master	0–32
Doctorate	0–27
Post-doctorate	0–14
Academic and administrative staff	0–16

Total number of awarded grants in each mobility type is dependent on the number of received applications and length of applied mobilities. The final decision on nominated grantees is subject to the Selection Committee's decision.

The Amount of Aurora I and Aurora II grants

Aurora I and Aurora II grants consist of four parts:

1. *Travel costs*: return ticket to the Host University according to Erasmus Mundus guidelines
2. *Insurance costs*: grant holders are insured by Aurora (health, travel and accident)
3. *Visa*: costs related to visa are reimbursed according to Erasmus Mundus guidelines.
4. *Subsistence allowance*:

Mobility Level	Amount of Subsistence Allowance
Undergraduate	1 000 EUR / month
Master	1 000 EUR / month
Doctorate	1 500 EUR / month
Post-doctorate	1 800 EUR / month
Staff	2 500 EUR / month

Aurora grantees are exempted from tuition fees to the Host University. Aurora projects will cover grant holders participation costs to the Host Universities, according to the agreement described in the Memorandum of Understanding between partner universities and available funding.

Internships for accepted grantees: Aurora recognizes the importance of the interaction between higher education and the labor market and surrounding society, in order to promote knowledge transfer and graduates' employability. Therefore, selected grantees in the undergraduate, master and doctorate levels have a possibility to include a paid or unpaid internship period of maximum 3 months in the grant period. The internship needs to

take place in the Host Country, and it must be preceded by a study period of minimum six months at the Host University. The rules of the maximum length of the mobility must be respected. The grant period will be continued automatically, if the internship takes place in either Partner University or Associate Partner of the project. *The internship grants will be awarded for accepted applicants in a separate call for applications launched during autumn 2014.*

WHO CAN APPLY FOR AURORA I AND AURORA II GRANTS

European students and researchers

To be eligible to apply, European applicants in undergraduate, master, doctorate and post-doctorate level, referred to as “students”:

1. Must be a citizen of one of the EU countries;
2. Must belong to one of the two Target Groups (TG) presented below;

Target Group	Beneficiaries in TG	Mobility levels available
TG1	Students registered at one of the European Aurora Partner Universities at the time of submitting application	undergraduate, master, doctorate, post-doctorate
TG2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students registered at a higher education institution (not Partner University) of any EU country; or • Students having obtained a university degree or equivalent from a higher education institution of any EU country 	master, doctorate, post-doctorate

3. Must have sufficient knowledge of the language of the courses or the language spoken in the hosting country;

4. Undergraduate students must have successfully completed at least one year of studies at first higher education level at the time of submitting the application.

N.B. In order to prevent brain drain, Aurora is committed to select undergraduates before their last year of studies or to support their connection to the Home University by other means. Neither European nor Russian applicant can benefit from more than one grant from the same Aurora project (Aurora I or Aurora II). Undergraduate, master, doctorate or post-doctorate applicants cannot benefit from a second scholarship for the same type of mobility under another EM ECW/EM Action 2 project.

Russian students and researchers

To be eligible to apply, Russian applicants in undergraduate, master, doctorate and post-doctorate level, referred to as “students”:

1. Must be a citizen of Russian Federation;

2. Must belong to one of the Target Groups (TG) presented on the following table;

Target Group	Beneficiaries in TG	Mobility levels available
TG1	Students registered at one of the Russian Aurora Partner Universities at the time of submitting application	undergraduate, master, doctorate, post-doctorate
TG2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students registered at a Russian higher education institution (not Partner University); or • Students having obtained a university degree or equivalent from a Russian higher education institution 	master, doctorate, post-doctorate
TG3	<p>Russian citizens who are in particularly vulnerable situations, for social and political reasons. For example:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. having a refugee status or asylum beneficiaries (international or according to the national legislation of one of the European recipient countries) or 2. it can be proved that they have been the object of unjustified expulsion from university on racial, ethnic, religious, political, gender or sexual inclination or 3. they belong to an indigenous population targeted by a specific national policy or IDPs (Internally Displaced Persons) 	undergraduate, master, doctorate, post-doctorate

3. Must have not resided nor carried out their main activity (studies, work etc.) for more than a total of 12 months over the last five years in any of the EU countries at the time of submitting application. **N.B.** This rule does not apply to TG3 applicants;

4. Must have sufficient knowledge of the language of the courses or the language spoken in the hosting country;

5. Undergraduate students must have successfully completed at least one year of studies at first higher education level at the time of submitting the application.

N.B. In order to prevent brain drain, Aurora is committed to select undergraduates before their last year of studies or to support their connection to the Home University by other means. Neither European nor Russian applicant can benefit from more than one grant from the same Aurora project (Aurora I or Aurora II). Undergraduate, master, doctorate or post-doctorate applicants cannot benefit from a second scholarship for the same type of mobility under another EM ECW/EM Action 2 project.

Academic and administrative staff (European or Russian)

In order to be eligible to apply, academic and administrative staff, referred to as “staff”:

1. Must be a citizen of one of the EU countries or Russian Federation;
2. Must belong to one of the two Target Groups (TG) presented below;

Target Group	Beneficiaries in TG
TG1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Russian staff</i>: must work in or be associated to one of the Aurora Partner Universities in Russia • <i>EU staff</i>: must work in or be associated to one of the Aurora Partner Universities in Europe
TG2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Russian staff</i>: must work in or be associated to a higher education institution (not a Partner University) in Russia • <i>EU staff</i>: must work in or be associated to a higher education institution (not a Partner University) of any EU country

3. The mobility assignment must be based on partnership agreements between the members of the partnership;

4. The Home and Host Universities and the individual staff must agree on the programme of lectures to be delivered by the visiting staff, on the research activities or on the type of training to be followed;

The mobility of staff should contribute to professional development of grantees. It should aim to consolidate and extend the links between departments and faculties and to prepare for future cooperation projects between the universities. The staff mobility is also expected to lead progress in the application of ECTS and develop recognition of studies and qualifications. Preference is given to staff mobilities that support the Consortia's theme University-Business Cooperation and share a contribution to the organization of international relations, career and innovative services.

N.B. Neither European nor Russian applicant can benefit from more than one grant from the same Aurora project (Aurora I or Aurora II).

HOW TO APPLY

When applying, please follow the four steps below in given order:

1. Study and Research Opportunities

Please check the available study fields and available research fields for applicants from Aurora project's web pages from the section Study and Research Opportunities.

2. Programmes and study periods

Please see the partner university websites to see the programmes they offer. Doctoral, postdoctoral or staff level exchanges should check the recommended starting date from the applied Host University before entering the online application system.

Students (undergraduate, master and doctorate level): As a student you are asked to determine the purpose of your studies, whether you want to study non-degree or full degree studies. The purpose of the mobility needs to be decided prior to applying.

3. Enter the Application Form

The online application form opens on **24 October 2013**. You can find the instructions and the link to the application form at www.utu.fi/em-aurora. Please select the section Applicants.

N.B. Internet Explorer does not support the application form, please open the online application form with other browser than Internet Explorer.

In the electronic application form you are requested to fill in a Study plan (ECTS Learning Agreement) or summary of Research Plan / Teaching Plan. In addition, make sure you have the information on your previous studies at hand before starting. The application system provides you with an application number (reference number) – please remember to keep it for future reference.

Online application form closes on **11 December 2013, 14:00 Finnish time (GMT +2)**.

4. Send the enclosures

Your application will not be processed, unless you have completed the application form and submitted all the required enclosures. All enclosures must contain your name and the reference number of your application.

All the enclosures must be submitted in English, except for original certificates and transcripts in original language. The required enclosures for each mobility type can be found on following table:

Undergraduates	Masters	Doctorates	Post-doctorates	Staff
Copy of official ID (e.g. national or international passport, ID card)				
CV (preferably in Europass format)				
Motivation letter (preferably host specific)				
Certified copy of degree certificate qualifying access to applied study level in original language and its certified English translation (<i>Only Master and Doctorate level applicants graduating by 15.7.2014: Home institution's certified proof of graduation date substitutes degree certificate. Degree certificate copy must also be sent by 15.7.2014</i>)				
Certified copy of academic transcript in original language and its certified English translation				Letter of Support by Home
			Letter of Support by Host	Letter of Support by Host (if Host requires)
Learning Agreement(s) approved by the Home University (non-degree students only)		Research plan		Research / Teaching / Working plan
Language Assessment Sheet or internationally recognized language test certificate (e.g. IELTS)				Language Assessment Sheet or internationally recognized language test certificate, e.g. IELTS (if Host requires)
Recommendation letter	Recommendation letter or acceptance letter issued by the Host University		Recommendation letter	
Proof of Socio-Economic Disadvantage (if applicable)				
Proof of TG3 Status (TG3 applicants only)				
School Leaving Certificate (TG3 applicants only)	School Leaving Certificate (only TG3 applicants not having degree from RU HEI)			

More information on enclosures:

Degree certificate and its certified English translation

- Masters: Degree certificate refers to the highest university degree obtained, minimum bachelor's degree or equivalent.
- Doctorates: Degree certificate refers to the highest university degree obtained, minimum master's or specialist degree.
- Post-doctorates: Degree certificate refers to the highest education degree obtained, minimum doctoral degree or equivalent.
- Staff: Degree certificate refers to the highest education degree obtained.
- Russian Target Group 2 Master, Doctorate and Post-doctorate level applicants: If the highest degree certificate has been issued by other than a Russian HEI (Higher Education Institution), the applicant must *also* submit a *degree certificate and its certified English translation and an academic transcript obtained from a Russian HEI*.
- European Target Group 2 Master, Doctorate and Post-doctorate level applicants: European TG 2 applicants who are not registered in a European HEI (Higher Education Institution) must also submit a university degree certificate and its certified English translation and an academic transcript obtained from a HEI of any European country.
- Degree certificate's certified English translation can be certified by Home University's international office.
- Diploma Supplement is not accepted as a certified English translation of the degree.

Target Group 3 applicants: Target Group 3 undergraduate applicants must submit a *school leaving certificate*. In addition, Target Group 3 master applicants, who have not obtained a university degree in a Russian HEI must submit a *school leaving certificate*.

Academic transcript and its certified English translation: Russian students may send either an official academic transcript or a typed copy of the Student Record Book certified by the Home University. In order to be accepted as Academic transcript's certified English translation Diploma Supplement must contain the list of completed courses.

CV: All applicants are recommended preferably to use Europass CV format. Post-doctorate applicants should provide a list of their scientific publications on CV.

Language certificate: to be eligible, all applicants need to send at least a language assessment sheet by the deadline for enclosures. Institutional language certificate is not accepted as a language certificate. Language Assessment Sheet must be signed by applicant, teacher and for TG1 Applicants also by the Home university's Aurora coordinator.

Learning Agreement must be provided to each university applied for and it must be signed by the applicant, the Home university's departmental (academic) representative and for TG1 Applicants also by the Home university's Aurora coordinator (institutional).

Letter of Support by Home: Please remind the referee to sign the Letter of Support.

Letter of Support by Host: when contacting any academic representative of the Host University in order to obtain Letter of Support by Host, please present your CV and your research / teaching / working plan. Please remind the referee to sign the Letter of Support.

Motivation letter: Motivation Letter is a short essay where you can introduce yourself and explain why you want to study in the programme. The maximum length is one page. Remember that it is preferable to write a specific Motivation letter per Host University.

Research plan: Doctorates and post-doctorates must submit at least a summary of the research plan in English. Their full research plan may be written in the language(s) of instruction(s) at the Host University.

Staff applicants Research / teaching / working plan: depending on the purpose of the exchange, applicant should provide either research, teaching or working plan.

Recommendation letter: Please remind the referee to sign the Recommendation letter.

How to send my enclosures?

- Send your enclosures in one pdf file. Do not send any word or jpg documents. The Coordinator will not download enclosures from any servers;
- Multi-page enclosures (e.g. Learning Agreement or Language Assessment Sheet) must be in the correct order;
- Give your reference number in the subject field of your e-mail.

The required enclosures must be submitted via email at the latest by **18 December 2013, 14:00 Finnish time (GMT +2)**. Please send your enclosures to: ema2.enclosures [at] utu.fi and enter your reference number to the subject field. Enclosures must be sent to the correct e-mail address. When contacting the coordinator, please follow the rule:

- **ema2.enclosures [at] utu.fi** address is **only for enclosures**. No other correspondence. After sending the enclosures, you will receive an automatic confirmation that the coordinator has received your message.
- **aurora.admissions [at] utu.fi** address is **for guidance**. Please send all the questions concerning application or enclosures to this address. Do not send enclosures to this e-mail address.

Late enclosures will not be processed for any reason. Therefore, please send the application enclosures as soon as possible after you have filled in your electronic application form. Please advise your referees to do the same, and give them the mailing address as well. Save the original application documents after you have emailed them to the Coordinator. The Consortium will examine the validity of application enclosures of accepted applicants. If you become selected for the grant, original application material must be presented to the hosting university. Any false or incorrect information will lead to rejection of the applicant.

SELECTION PROCESS

The Coordinator previews the electronic applications and the requested documents. All applications that are considered eligible are forwarded to both the Home and Host Universities. Home and Host Universities further assess the eligibility of applicants and take into consideration the applicants belonging to the ethnic minority or being a disabled or economically challenged applicant.

The selection criteria:

- Academic performance of the applicants
- Study /research motivation
- Study plan
- Language skills
- Gender balance is respected
- Host university's additional information on staff mobility applications.

The Selection Committee, chaired by a representative of the University of Turku, consists of one representative from each Partner University. The Selection Committee makes the final nomination within each category and mobility flow, based on the following administrative and academic criteria:

- Host University is willing to accept the applicant for the time s/he has applied for or can suggest another time for mobility. Rejections are justified based on academic reasons (e.g. language requirements, eligibility to attend the selected courses, places available);
- Overall equal geographical presentation of Host/Home Universities in the mobility scheme as a whole;
- Relevance of the mobility to both Home and Host University (reviewed by these institutions, preference given by the applicant);
- Disabled or economically disadvantaged applicants are preferred;
- Preference will be given to eligible applicants who have not previously received EM ECW/EMA2 grant from any projects.

The decision of the Selection Committee is a subject to the Host University's approval. If the applicant has given incorrect or misleading information in the application, it can be a reason to withdraw the grant.

Preliminary timetable

1. Decision on the awarded applicants is made in March 2014.
2. The Coordinator (University of Turku) will notify all the applicants on the result of the selection by email latest by 30 April 2014. Application numbers of the selected applicants and the reserve candidates are also published on the Aurora website. The selected grantees must confirm their acceptance in writing by 20 May 2014. The result of your application can be:

- *Grantee.* You are awarded a grant to one of your Host University preferences. Please note, that the time and duration of the mobility might be different from what you have applied for. You will receive information from the Coordinator on what to do next.
 - *Reserve list.* You are not granted, but your application is on reserve list. You might still get a grant if selected grantees cancel their mobility. You will be notified if a possibility for grant emerges.
 - *Rejected.* Your application was not accepted by any of your Host University preferences due to the academic reasons. If you want to know the exact reasons for rejection of your application, please contact the Coordinator.
3. Appeal Process: if a non-selected applicant thinks that a mistake has been made in the selection procedure, s/he has the right to submit an application for the rectification of the decision to the Aurora Consortia within 14 days from the time of being notified of the results. An appeal would be justified in a case where there is concrete evidence of a mistake or unfair treatment in processing the application. Applications lacking requested enclosures do not justify an appeal. The Application for Rectification must include detailed grounds for the rectification. The Applications for Rectifications will be processed by the Appeal Committees of both Aurora projects.

Information about applying is also available on the Aurora website for applicants: www.utu.fi/em-aurora > Applicants

European Union is not responsible for the contents of this Call for applications

More information:
www.utu.fi/em-aurora
aurora.admissions@utu.fi

