

A HANDBOOK OF THE

Erasmus Mundus

SCHOLARSHIP

WHAT'S
INSIDE?

INPUTS FROM
OVER 15 ERASMUS+
SCHOLARS

LINKS TO
USEFUL
RESOURCES

EMJMD SOP
QUESTION BANK

BONUS
TIPS FROM
SCHOLARS

ISSUE N° 01



Erasmus+
Enriching lives, opening minds.



CONTENTS



The Erasmus Joint Master's Degrees (EMJMDs)	3
The Erasmus Mundus Association, Nigeria (EMA-NG)	4
The Erasmus Mundus Scholarship	6

Application Documents	7
Additional Document	9

Preparing for International Scholarships	10
---	-----------

- Before the Scholarship Application

Selecting the right EMJMD program	11
--	-----------

- Steps to Application

Writing a Competitive CV	14
---------------------------------	-----------

The Ideal Recommendation Letter	15
--	-----------

- Sample Request for a Recommendation Letter

Writing a Winning Statement of Purpose	17
---	-----------

- Some Dos and DON'Ts in writing the EMJMD SOP
- Tips for Writing a Statement of Purpose for People Changing Courses or Career

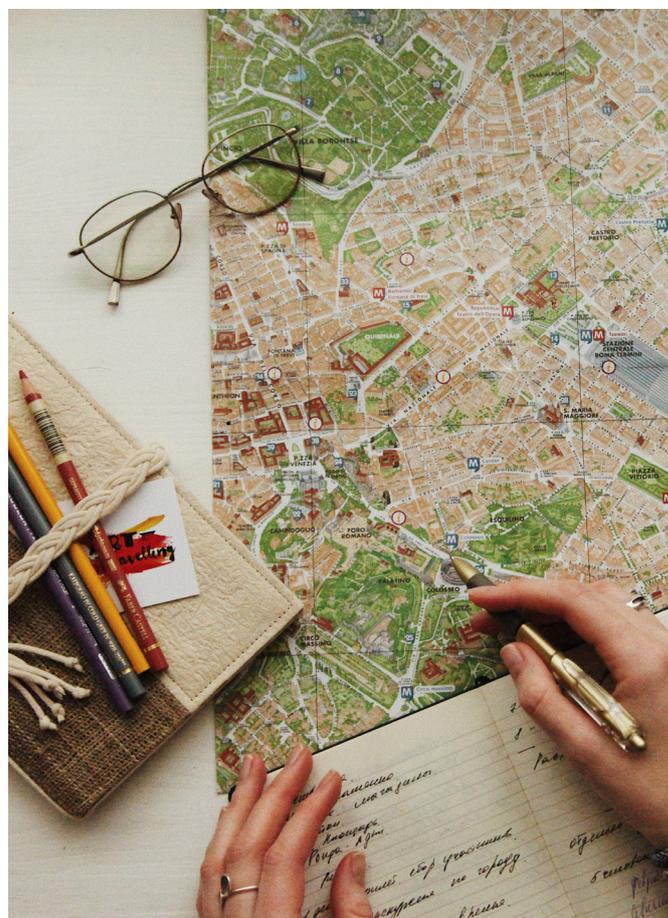
Acing EMJMD Interviews	21
-------------------------------	-----------

Some Useful Links	22
--------------------------	-----------

Creating an Excellent Video SOP	23
--	-----------

- Some Video SOP Samples

After Submissions	25
--------------------------	-----------



The Erasmus Mundus Joint Master Degrees (EMJMDs)

Erasmus Mundus Joint Master Degrees (EMJMDs) are two-year (120 ECTS) Master programs sponsored by the European Commission and coordinated majorly by European Universities. They are open to students from all over the world and offer a number of scholarships to top applicants.

The application period varies per program, but normally begins by September, October, November or December of the year before the selection is made, and typically run for 3 months, with deadlines in December, January, February or March of the year selection is to be made. The successful completion of the study program will lead to the award of either a **Joint Degree** (i.e. single degree certificate issued on behalf of at least two higher education institutions of the EMJMD consortium) or **Multiple Degrees** (i.e. at least two degree certificates issued by two higher education institutions of the EMJMD consortium).

Over 100 distinct EMJMD programs are usually open for application every year. These programs pervade almost all fields of human endeavour such as; Science, Technology, Engineering, Medicine, Environment, Agriculture, Arts, Humanities, Social Sciences etc., and prospective applicants have the opportunity of applying to a maximum of three (3) during each intake. In applying to an EMJMD program during the first call (usually from October to mid-January for most programs), you automatically apply for an EMJMD scholarship.

The beauty of EMJMD programs lies in the mobility schemes and multicultural integration they offer. Basically, participants get to study in at least two world-class institutions in different European countries, thereby learning new cultures, languages and establishing an international network in the process.

Each program comprises a conglomeration of institutions within and in some cases, outside Europe, called the “Consortium”. In addition, Partner Universities, as well as Industries, also take part to facilitate student mobility and industrial exposure. Virtually all EMJMD programs are taught in English, and as such, a good command of the language is an essential requirement for both admission and scholarship.



"Be positive, intentional, and never give up; the result is worth it."

— Odunola Oladeji



The Erasmus Mundus Association, Nigeria (EMA-NG)

The Erasmus Mundus Students and Alumni Association (EMA), Nigerian Chapter is a network for Nigerian students and alumni of all Erasmus Mundus Joint Master's Degree (EMJMD) Programmes. EMA Nigeria was created in the year 2017 under the auspices of Erasmus Mundus Association (EMA). It aims to create awareness on the availability of EM Master's international academic opportunities and youth development through the provision of Erasmus Mundus scholarships. This is achieved using different platforms (social media, webinars, etc.) to reach our audience. EMA Nigeria Chapter offers prospective scholarship applicants with important information and guidance on the application process based on the expert knowledge and experiences of scholars and alumni.

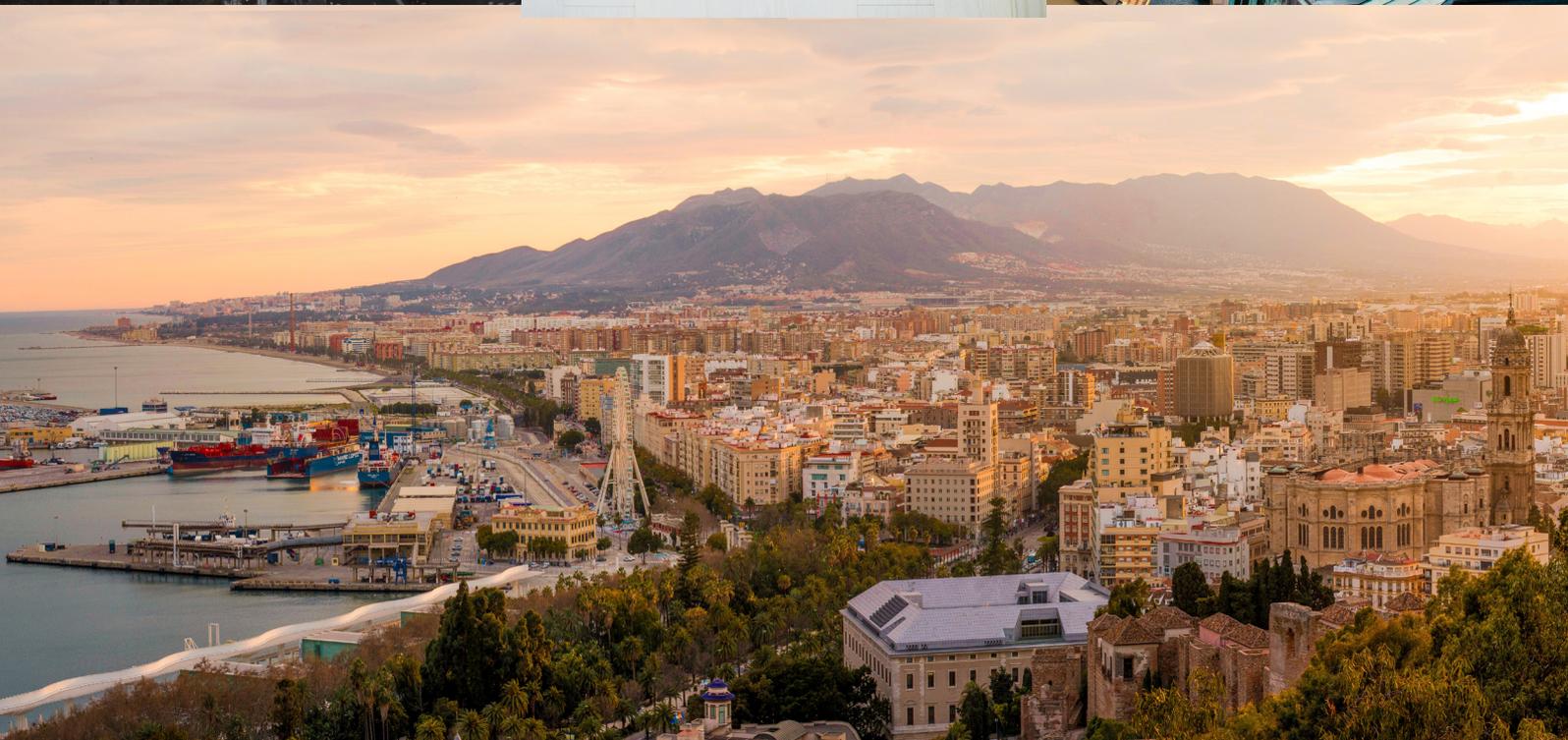
Our Mission

Inform, sensitize, motivate, engage, and support prospective applicants from Nigeria seeking to undertake a master's degree program in Europe as an Erasmus Mundus Scholar.

Objectives

- Supporting applicants seeking to apply for an Erasmus Mundus Master's Program
- Enhance linkage of motivated applicants with current scholars and alumni, thus leading to award-winning applications.
- Linking selected Nigerian awardees across all Erasmus+ programs each year and providing them with first-hand information before their departure to Europe
- Enhance active participation of Erasmus Mundus Scholarship holders in advancing the objectives and activities of the association
- To become the top-ranked country in Africa with the highest number of yearly scholarships, and ultimately become one of the top-ranked countries with the highest number of yearly scholarship allocation worldwide.

***All EMA activities are performed by members on a voluntary basis.



• • •
"The beauty of EMJMD programs lies in the mobility schemes and multicultural integration they offer"



The Erasmus Mundus *Scholarship*

Each EMJMD Consortium receives a certain amount of grant from the EU that is lumped for a duration of 2-5 years or intakes. The grant varies from program to program and is the major determining factor in the allocation of the number of scholarships (usually ranging from 13 to about 25 or more in rare cases) that would be available per intake. Two different types of EMJMD scholarships are awarded:

- Scholarship for Programme country students (i.e. students from EU member states, Iceland, Norway, Liechtenstein, and Turkey or those who have resided or carried out their main activities in any of these Programme countries for at least 12 months over the last 5 years from the submission deadline)
- Scholarship for Partner country students (i.e. students from non-EU countries) Nigerian students belong here.

EMJMD Scholarship is a full-ride scholarship and thus covers all forms of cost that would otherwise be incurred

by the participant. Generally, up to **35,000 EUR** worth of scholarship is available for program country students, while up to **49,000 EUR** is available for partner country students (Erasmus+ Programme Guide, 2016). The breakdown is shown in the chart below:

To view the complete list of the EMJMD programmes, click here:

[EMJMD CATALOGUE](#)



"Always give your best, and stay optimistic"

- Sonoiki Doyinsola Simbiat



Application Documents

Before the start of your application, the following documents must be obtained.

First Degree Certificate

This is the certificate issued by your institution upon graduation which states your class of degree, course of study and other essential information. For recent graduates who may not have their degree certificates ready, you can apply with your “Notification of Result”. However, upon a successful application, you would be required to provide your degree certificate.

Academic Transcript of Records

This is a certified document from your undergraduate university which contains the list of all courses taken, their corresponding credit points and grades, and the final Cumulative Grade Point Average (CGPA). Universities usually issue the student’s copy which can serve for all application purposes. If required, the university can be requested to send the official copy via post to the requesting consortia.

Statement of Purpose (SOP)

For every scholarship application, the statement of purpose or motivation letter is one of the most critical documents that

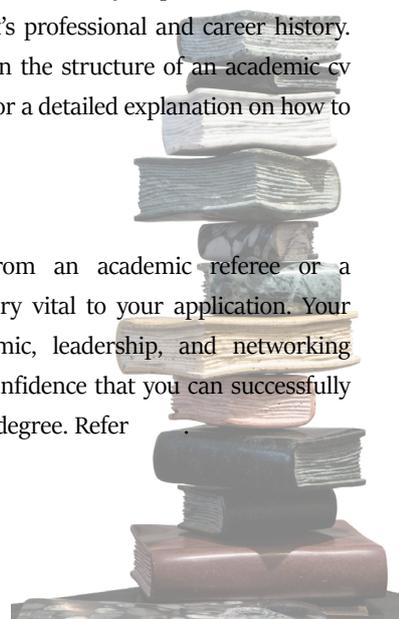
determine applicants’ preparedness for international study. The SOP highlights the passion, experiences, skills, goals, and ambitions of the applicant. Thus, it is important to start early to organize your statement. Go [here](#) for scholarly tips on how to draft your winning SOP.

Curriculum Vitae (CV)

An academic curriculum vitae is usually required. This shows at a glimpse, the applicant’s professional and career history. Note that there is a difference in the structure of an academic cv and a professional cv. Go [here](#) for a detailed explanation on how to prepare a cv for application.

Recommendation Letters

Recommendation letters from an academic referee or a professional referee are very vital to your application. Your referees highlight your academic, leadership, and networking capabilities and express their confidence that you can successfully complete a demanding masters degree. Refer



English Proficiency Certificate

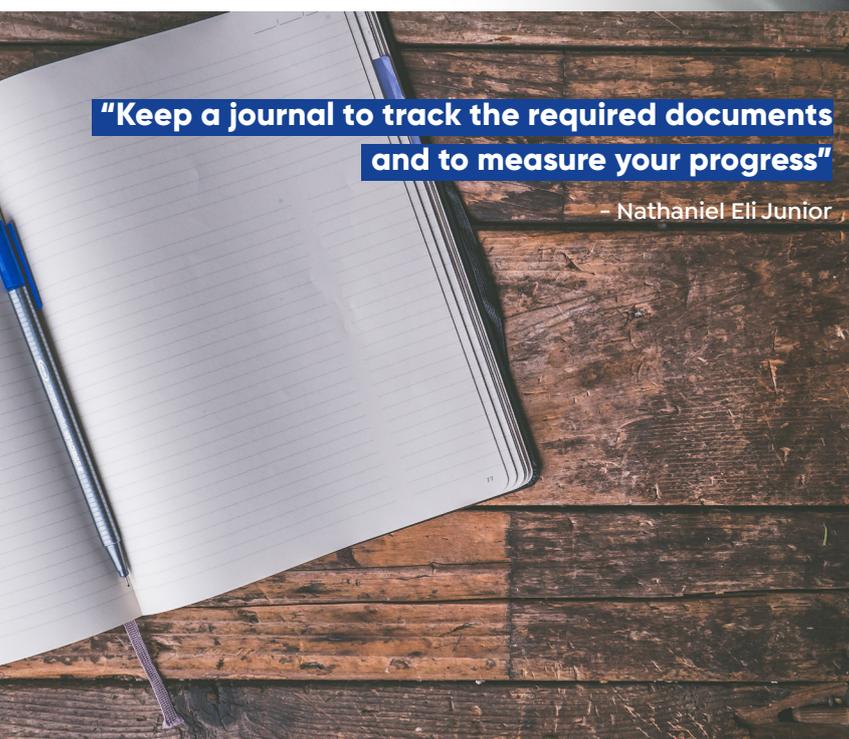
This is a compulsory document for most scholarship applications. Various E.M. programmes require an English certificate (TOEFL or IELTS) to assess the level of your command of English. However, some programs may accept proof of English proficiency from the previous institution of study. Where the English test is required, it is recommended that you write any of these two standard English exams which are better recognized. Please note that the test institutions may have a tight examination schedule, and sometimes, sitting for and obtaining the results of the exam can take up to 4 months. Endeavour to plan in advance.

Proof of Residency

This might be your first time hearing about this, do not fret! It is as simple as it sounds. The proof of residency is a document submitted to the scholarship board to ascertain that the applicant currently resides in the country from which the application was submitted. This document which (although not required by all Erasmus programmes) contains information about your name and permanent address must not be older than a year at the time of submission. It can be obtained from a high court, workplace or a state agency like [LASRRA](#) for Lagos State residents. For some programs, however, utility bills such as Electricity bills (clearly stating the applicant's name and permanent address) or a signed letter from the community chairman in your local residential area could serve in replacement.

You can also swear an affidavit at a notary public stating your full name and address with an attached passport photo (This should have a seal and a signature). Click the box below to see templates for the Proof of Residency Certificate:

[POR Templates](#)



"Keep a journal to track the required documents and to measure your progress"

- Nathaniel Eli Junior

International Passport

The international passport is the official Identity Document of every applicant. The processing period for this document varies, so it is best practice to apply for and obtain it at least one month before the start of applications.

...

"Please note that the test institutions may have a tight schedule... Endeavour to plan in advance."

Fun Fact

Erasmus is an acronym for European Region Action Scheme for the Mobility of University Students. It also turns out that this acronym was chosen since it coincides with the name of the well-known theologian, philosopher and humanist, Erasmus of Rotterdam; very curious...

Additional Document

Publications/Conferences

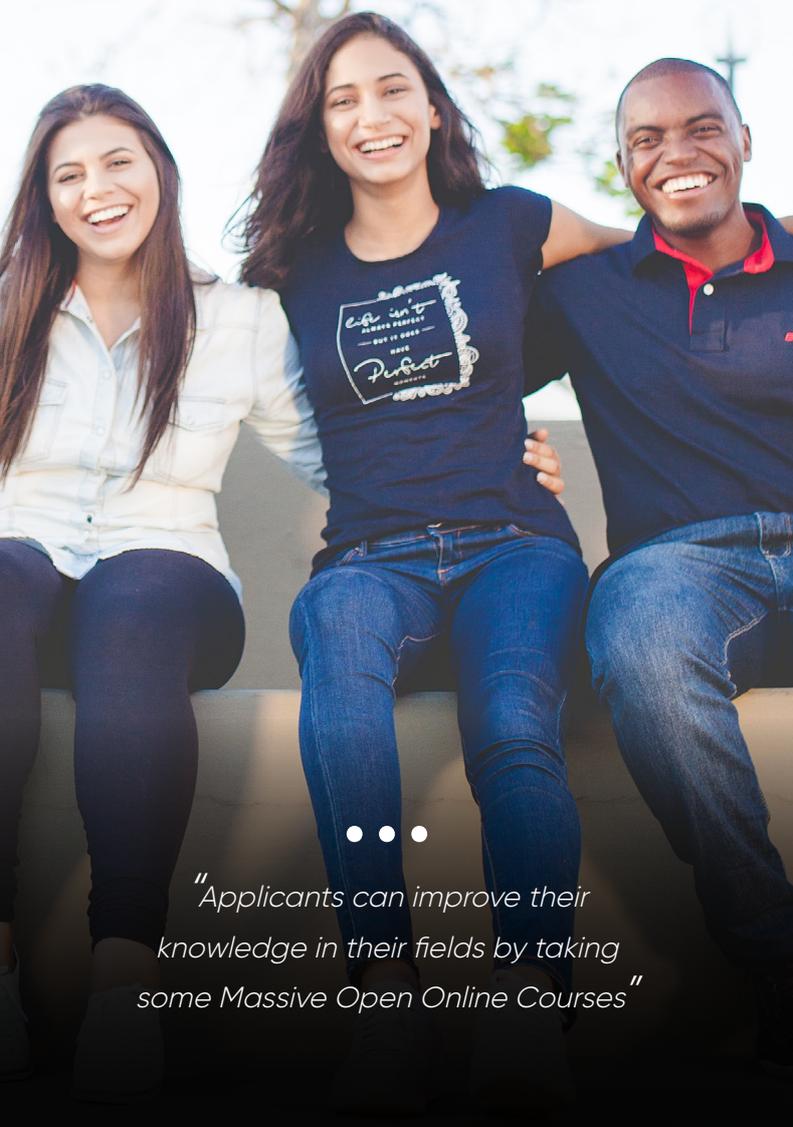
Some Erasmus Mundus (E.M.) programmes are research-intensive or research-based, and so, having publication(s) in reputable journals will provide a good indication of your research experience and proficiency that will help boost your chances of selection. In most cases, an application will be allotted extra points for the number and quality of publications attached. To create a competitive application through the use of publications, here are some tips:

How do I get a publication?

For undergraduate (especially for STEM – Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) students, the final year project offers a major opportunity to produce a publication. Undergraduate students in the final year of study, have a greater chance of publishing their final year research work. Hence, it is important to carry out quality and relevant research in the final year project. Before commencing, it is important that the student discuss his/her intention of publishing the project with the project supervisor and work closely with them to get quality research. Non-final year students can get credit as co-authors by volunteering to assist lecturers (by contributing resources or assisting in laboratory or fieldwork) who are currently researching in their field. Even where the student is not co-authored, such acts are good means of developing research skills and building substance for a sterling letter of recommendation from the lecturer.

What if I do not have a publication?

Applicants who do not have publications must endeavour to build on other aspects of their application. For instance, someone who has a project on GitHub as a software developer or other personal projects related to the intended field of study could include that in the application with proofs such as web links. Furthermore, applicants can improve their knowledge in their fields by taking some Massive Open Online Courses (MOOCs).



"Applicants can improve their knowledge in their fields by taking some Massive Open Online Courses"



“Do whatever it takes to build a strong profile, it makes you pretty competitive. Don’t forget to work and pray”.

- Ibeabuchi, Kingsley O.

Submitting A Winning Application

Preparing for international scholarships:

It is no doubt that one of the significant ways to the acquisition of knowledge and skills in your career path is by applying for international studies, especially advanced degree programs. One of the challenges students face in achieving this feat is funding their studies. This, however, can be achieved through any of the following:

- Scholarships (local and international)
- Student loans
- Student grants
- Jobs such as teaching or student assistantship

We shall dwell upon applying for international scholarships. The application procedure requires a long period of preparation.

Before the Scholarship Application

When you have made up your mind to study abroad, there are quite a few things you need to start getting in place.

- **Academic Grade:** Preparations begin from the undergraduate studies; this involves deliberate academic hard work to achieve high Cumulative Grade Points Average (CGPA). Though some awarding institutions or scholarship boards are not particular about first-class degrees, it is best to have a strong CGPA as this will give you an edge in your applications.
- **Extra-curricular activities:** It may sound awkward, but engaging in extracurricular activities tells the scholarship board that you have the tenacity to combine academic excellence with other activities that are progressive. For instance, engaging in clubs or career-oriented service groups.
- **Training/Symposia/Conferences:** It is important as a student to attend training programs and conferences that are related to your career interest. This will further hone your exposure in your chosen career.

- **Chart a career plan according to your passion:** It is pertinent to have a career plan or direction especially one that relates to the course you are applying for. Many schools and scholarship boards want to see how the course you are applying for will have a significant impact on your career. It is important to discover your career path and direct your energy into your career goals. Look for possible career options within your current field and seek mentorship when in doubt.
- **Mentorship/Referee:** The power of mentorship cannot be overemphasized. Hence, as an undergraduate, it is good to discover an individual within your field who can guide you in making career choices. During your undergraduate study, it is advisable to build a strong relationship with lecturers who will be willing to give you numerous reference letters throughout your scholarship applications.
- **Email address:** You need a professional email address. Avoid informal addresses like kikibabyluv@hotmail.com or badboyvic1993@yahoo.com. These are not ideal for any program.
- **Volunteering:** Learn to volunteer in your field. This will boost your experience and network base in addition to acquiring adequate knowledge which will enhance your profile.

Selecting the right EMJMD program

The Erasmus Mundus Joint Master's Degree is a repository of different programmes catalogued under the Erasmus+. These programs are decentralized to fit in multidisciplinary fields and qualifications. Currently, there are well over 100 programs listed in this catalogue and with the EU validation, additional programmes are included annually.

An interesting bit about the Erasmus Mundus Scholarship is that you are eligible to apply to a maximum of 3 programmes, all of which will be independently assessed.

There is no hard and fast rule to this; in choosing an EMJMD program, due diligence must be given. Prospective applicants must incisively scour the websites of the different programmes for information such as the eligibility/application requirements, the program objectives, and most importantly, the programme content. Knowing the modules and objectives of the programme will allow you to assess the compatibility of your educational background/experiences and career objectives with that of the prospective program. This is particularly important also as program contents usually are not obtainable from the program



"Always look for every opportunity to volunteer; it boosts your profile."

- Sodiq Oguntade

names. Applying for a master in smart cities and communities with a background in soil science would be a total waste of one's time.

It is also key to note the program funding duration. That is the specific duration to which the programme still holds funding from the EACEA. Before applying, be certain that the funding is valid for at least, the next academic year. An updated catalogue with funding durations for programmes is published annually, usually in September.

Also, prospective applicants might be interested in checking out the consortiums – comprising two or more Higher Education Institutions – and/or the research institutions and industrial partners associated with the particular programmes of interest, to see if they resonate with his/her preferences.

It is advisable to keep an eye out for new additions to the catalogue. These programmes usually have relatively lesser numbers of applicants and hence, lesser competition than other existing ones. Applying to such programmes might increase one's chances of getting selected. Also, bear in mind that before you select any of these programs, they must be coherent with your background and qualifications.



...
"Keep an eye out for new additions to the catalogue. These programmes usually have lesser number of applicants and hence, lesser competition"

Steps to Application

First, access the EMJMD course catalogue by doing a google search or through this link

[EMJMD CATALOGUE](#)

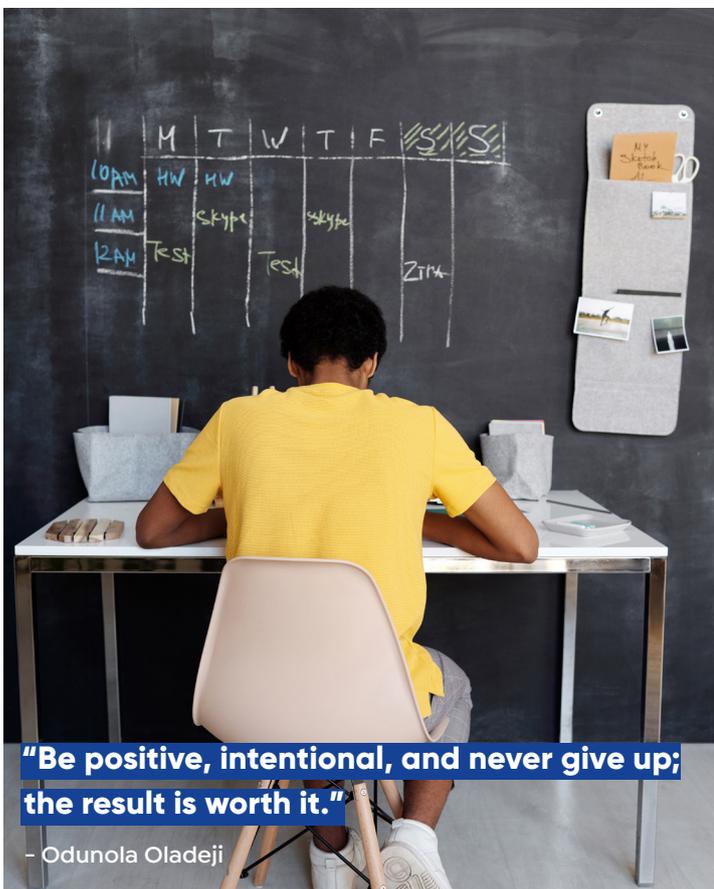
This takes you to a page with all available programs for that year, listed in alphabetical order. The list often contains two links or unique identifiers for each program, namely:

Full Title of the Program: This takes you to a page that shows the grant available, the participating higher education Institutions (consortium) and summary of the program. Reading through this will give a quick insight into whether or not the program suits your interests and background.

Acronym of the Program: This takes you to the program's official website where you can get complete information about the program, requirements, course contents, selection procedure, deadlines, and the link to the application portal. Carefully go through both links to understand what the program entails before making your choice(s).

In case of unclear points even after going through the links, you can access the program's social media pages (usually on the program's website) to learn more. Also, you can reach out to past or present scholars of the program who are willing to respond to your questions. ***It is pertinent to note that a single application is usually sufficient for both admission and scholarship.***

After a successful program selection phase, you are well on your way to begin the next step in your application journey.



"Be positive, intentional, and never give up; the result is worth it."

- Odunola Oladeji

Fun Fact

Spain is the most popular Erasmus+ study destination. Spain receives most of Erasmus students at its universities. Each year, Spain receives approximately 60,000 Erasmus students from all over the world. Germany and France follow after.



**"To get the best out of any experience,
learn to give."**

- Michael Ojo



Writing a Competitive CV

Curriculum Vitae is an essential document in the world of professionals and academicians. Like a professional CV, an academic CV has its characteristic unique features that underpin the purpose. CVs differ across jobs, professionals and careers but in general, they have some essentially universal components. The goal of this section is to walk the prospective applicants through the rudimentary of crafting a competitive CV that would stand out. In the subsequent paragraphs, important points needed for prospective applicants to organize a compelling academic CV are discussed.

Every CV is disaggregated into certain features like the profile, name and address, work history, developed skills (soft and hard skills), educational background, certifications, awards and honours, professional memberships, publications, extra-curricular activities, and leadership positions occupied previously or currently.

Notably, in writing an academic CV, unlike a resume, it is not delimited to one page but two-pages conventionally. However, some scholarship bodies may accept a 3-page CV. This gives prospective applicants the liberty to better express themselves.

At first glance, the scholarship committee is interested in a well-detailed and organized CV that delineates applicants' education, experiences, skills, publications, awards and so on.

Critically, the statement of purpose and the curriculum vitae are the main determining documents for winning a scholarship and should be carefully organized. Prospective applicants who are yet to draft a CV or are not confident about the strength of their CV to attract the dream scholarship can carefully follow the steps highlighted below in rebranding their CV.

Profile: This is just a summary brief of who you are, interest and or career objectives. A short paragraph is enough to do justice to this. In an academic CV, the length does not necessarily translate to a winning CV.

Educational Background: In this section, highlight your educational background starting with the most recent. Unless otherwise stated, secondary school and elementary school are not necessary if there are certifications, workshops and training experience. This is one of the most important sections captured in an academic CV. The scholarship committee wants to match your diligence and excellence with your academic history.

Skills: What are your unique selling points? What are those skills that you have consistently honed over the years? Prospective applicants should carefully detail out their technical and transferable skills and be original with it. A careful drift to avoid a common pitfall is to ensure consistency and coherence in highlighting your skills.



Experiences: Here, the scholarship committee is interested in assessing your bite in acquiring knowledge and experience in your related field. Also, your contribution to community development and social engagement is essential to receive an award letter. Volunteering also plays a very important role. Prospective applicants should not be tempted to regurgitate all their experiences without paying attention to its relevance to the application. Regularly, reviewers are interested in related experiences like a research-based internship in a related field and perhaps volunteering. Applicants should also take time out to highlight the job description or possibly flaunt their impact or achievement during the mentioned role. Make use of action words when listing your responsibilities (Eg. Facilitated, Improved).

Meaningful Internships: This is a very vital sought out experience by most scholarship boards. Note the word "meaningful". For prospective applicants, it is important to engage in internships related to the intended field of your postgraduate study, whether paid or unpaid. This will boost your chances and bring you closer to securing a spot. It may be helping out a lecturer or a graduate student who is carrying out research (in case you do not secure an internship in the industry), or volunteering for an organization. It will count in the end. If you are privileged to be exposed to foreign internships or exchange programs, by all means, jump at

it. International experience will boost your profile greatly.

Additional Experiences: There are major boosters that can attract the attention of the reviewers. These include a repository of leadership experience, awards and honours, projects and publications, and extracurricular activities. The latter could mean your participation in sports activities, music and art, civil engagement and so on.

On this background, a comprehensive CV with the aforementioned features will be irresistible for the scholarship committee.

Most programmes require that CVs are structured to conform to the European standard commonly known as the “Europass”.

Visit this link to learn more, and create a europass CV:



The Europass CV



The Ideal Recommendation Letter



An important part of scholarship applications is the submission of recommendation letters from academic or professional referees. These letters are important as they help the scholarship board to authenticate applicants’ capabilities and skills. Before requesting a recommendation letter, it is important to inform the proposed referee about what qualities the board is interested in and how the letter should be structured to portray your best image. Choosing a suitable referee should be on these bases:

- Choose a referee that is up-to-date with the use of technology. You don’t want to be recommended by someone who isn’t technology savvy enough to check his/her mailbox; he/she may miss out on important deadlines.
- Choose someone who knows you and can speak confidently about you.
- Ensure your referee is willing to write well about you and if possible, send him/her a mini recommendation letter highlighting key areas for the referee to use (example below).

For some scholarship programs, applicants are required to submit the acquired recommendation letter themselves. In such a case, it is

reasonable to obtain as many recommendations as possible and choose the most suitable one that aligns with your statement of purpose or motivation letter. In situations where the recommendation has to be submitted by your referee then selecting a referee should be on the basis stated above.

Key points to note and consider before setting out to choose a referee are:

- Learn how to construct an official email for communicating with your referee
- State your key achievements, volunteer and work experience, leadership experience and more importantly hard and soft skills.

Finally, take responsibility and keep your referee informed once your application is complete. You can do so by:

- Following up on your referees and doing so politely. Carry them along in the process; before, during and after your application.
- make sure you do not pester your referee
- pay attention to deadlines and inform them about it.
- showing gratitude within your capacity because the person is vouching for your academic, social and moral capacity.



.....
• • •
"When choosing a referee, choose someone who knows you and can speak confidently about you"

Sample Request for a Recommendation Letter

"Subject: Request for a Scholarship Recommendation Letter"

"Dear Prof...."

Good day, sir. I am writing to request a recommendation letter for a scholarship I look forward to applying for. It is the Erasmus Mundus Joint Masters Scholarship in the field of Marine Biology and Aquatic Medicine. Over the past 4 years, I have carried out 3 major pieces of research on bio-genetics of Clarias spp and the cytotoxic effect of copper residue. Also, I have worked in 2 institutions on the conservation of aquatic wildlife in 2017 and 2019 where I served as the project team lead in salvaging 25,000 water turtles.

Due to my passion for marine life, I volunteer in PINWIL where we manage the disposal of waste in water bodies. I look forward to acquiring this scholarship for me to develop my knowledge and skills in marine genetics and develop gold standards for toxicity and genetic mutations.

Furthermore, I am skilled in data analysis and visualization coupled with my ability to engage in critical thinking to solve problems. As president of my student-faculty in 2015, I have been able to apply servant leadership and apt listening ability to execute sustainable projects.

With these few points, I look forward to your response. Thank you and God bless"

*Yours sincerely,
Adekunle Chukwudi Nasir*



"In life, you will win some and lose some, nonetheless, all you need is a single YES to cancel all NOs".

- Chiagoro Ahaotu



Writing a Winning Statement of Purpose

A statement of purpose or a motivation letter is your first introduction to the admissions or selection team. It must be compelling and also highlight key information about you including but not limited to your interests or motivation, your achievement, previous experiences, leadership and volunteers what you hope to gain from the course and your post-study plan. Writing an EMJMD statement of purpose is an opportunity to make a case for yourself and show beyond every reasonable doubt that you are the best applicant for the program. It is the most important part of your application, particularly for those consortia that do not conduct interviews. So, you may want to give it your best shot. It is fundamental to portray yourself in a convincing light to the reviewers.

**"Your SOP is your voice;
use it well."**

- Ayanwale O. Abraham

A crucial point to note when writing an EMJMD statement of purpose is that the reviewers require a statement anchored on both academic and professional/leadership achievements. Unlike scholarships such as the Chevening, which focuses mainly on one's solid professional/leadership background, the Erasmus Mundus Scholarship is focused majorly on one's ability to combine passion and academic prowess to contribute to bridging the knowledge gap. Also, every course has different instructions or requirements for the statement of purpose; so read and keenly follow the instructions given.

It is important you draw a bridge and establish a link between your previous achievements and the goal(s) of the course/scholarship you are applying for. A reasonable way to merge both is to identify their relationship and highlight how it will inform your engagement in the course/scholarship. So, you have to attend to the following and show how they relate to the course.

- The motivation for applying
- Educational background and/or work experience
- Future and career path

Use the **Situation, Task, Action, Result (STAR) technique** to construct your SOP. This is typically used in interviews but it is very useful in developing a good flow in your SOP.

SITUATION: Is there a particular situation, need or problem in the world or your country that your course or career path can solve or contribute to?

- Link this problem to your motivation
- Have a strong start; you want to keep them engaged and intrigued from the very beginning
- Use statistics or a personal story to express the severity of the situation

TASK: What have you done about this problem or about your motivation? What goal were you trying to achieve?

- Talk about your undergraduate degree and link it up to your motivation
- Volunteering or work experience that improved your drive or motivation
- In a nutshell, what skills, knowledge or experience did you get from your undergraduate or work experience
- Ensure that everything you're talking about can be linked to the master's degree you're applying for

ACTION: What are you doing to achieve your goals or solve the problems you listed? This should be the master's degree you're applying for. Tie in all your experiences and motivation together with the course you want to study

- Talk about how these experiences have qualified you for the course
- How will the course be instrumental in solving the problem you mentioned earlier?
- Talk about the parts from the course you're most interested in e.g. An Internship opportunity the course offers can equip you with practical skills, a good network and an opportunity to learn from professionals
- Show excitement and passion in your writing
- Mention some peculiar things about the universities you'll be attending for your course e.g. Excellence in research and innovation, research facilities, student life, accommodation, publications, rankings etc.

RESULT: What will be the expected outcomes or benefits of you studying the course?

- Talk about the knowledge, practical skills, network that will be gained
- Talk about your post-study plans extensively; how will the course help you solve the problem you listed at the beginning.
- Be realistic with your future goals or the impact you hope to make
- Link the knowledge from the course and your career plans to a Sustainable Development Goal (SDG).

"You must be intentional in your activities leading up to that win."

- Olajide Akintayo

• • •
"Use the **SITUATION, TASK, ACTION, RESULT** technique to construct your SOP"

The above guidelines can be summed up in the following paragraphs:

PARAGRAPH 1 *Your motivation*

- What birthed your motivation for this field?
- What is/are the problem(s) whose solution(s) can be achieved by the program of interest?

PARAGRAPH 2 *Your academic background/work experience*

Your undergraduate and/or Master's degree course and your academic achievements:

- Academic track record
- Online courses including Massive Open Online Courses (MOOCs)
- Publications

Your professional achievements and their relevance to your motivation:

- Employment
- Volunteer opportunities

Your Leadership roles and how they have contributed to making you a perfect fit for the program:

- Headed a team
- Executed and achieve a target
- Birthed an organization or initiative
- Led a movement
- What practical skills do you possess that make you a standout candidate for the program?
- In the absence of work experience in the field of intended program, briefly talk about any relevant publication you have and how it contributes to the overall motivation/attainment of your goal
- Also in the absence of work experience in the field of intended program, briefly relate two to three undergraduate courses to the program objectives, either by experiment, theory or both.

PARAGRAPH 3 *Your goals and how the program will help you achieve them*

- What are your short and long term career goals?
- What practical skills do you hope to gain from completing the program?
- How will the degree/skills aid in the attainment of your career goals?
- Relate the above questions to solving the problems listed in the first paragraph

"Use automated grammar checkers to ensure an error free SOP"

PARAGRAPH 4 *Why have you chosen that program and at that consortium?*

Do your homework on the partner universities and countries and talk briefly about their research capabilities, their world-class faculty, enriching environment and how excited you are to maximize the benefits of these.

PARAGRAPH 5 *The close*

Finish with an affirmative tone, summarizing in two or three lines, why the program is the perfect advance for your career and why you should be considered among others.



Some DOs and DON'Ts in writing the EMJMD SOP

Dos:

- Read the program theme, be sure to understand the structure and content of the program
- Research about your field of interest to bridge what you have read from the program website with the gaps in your field
- Ensure you adhere to the guidelines and SOP prompts, if any
- Be confident but do not be arrogant
- Strictly adhere to the word and page limits
- If no word or page limit is clearly stated, try to keep your SOP within a page
- Ask for an incisive review from trusted friends; most preferably, scholars who are in your field and have secured scholarships

Don'ts:

- Don't bore the committee with unnecessary grammar, keep it simple but use a well-constructed active language
- Don't shoot yourself in the leg by writing some negative things about yourself. Stay positive till the end
- Do not play the pity game. It is not about empathy, it is about value. State your worth.
- Do not echo your CV. Only mention points you can relate to your motivation for choosing that program.
- Never plagiarize. It is not always easy to write an SOP but plagiarism can lead to immediate disqualification.
- Your experience and achievements can never be the same as someone else's. DO NOT LIE. It is easier to defend the truth in an interview. Highlight the little experience you have, build on it and use your knowledge from university, transferable skills and passion for learning in your write up.



Sofia Corradi



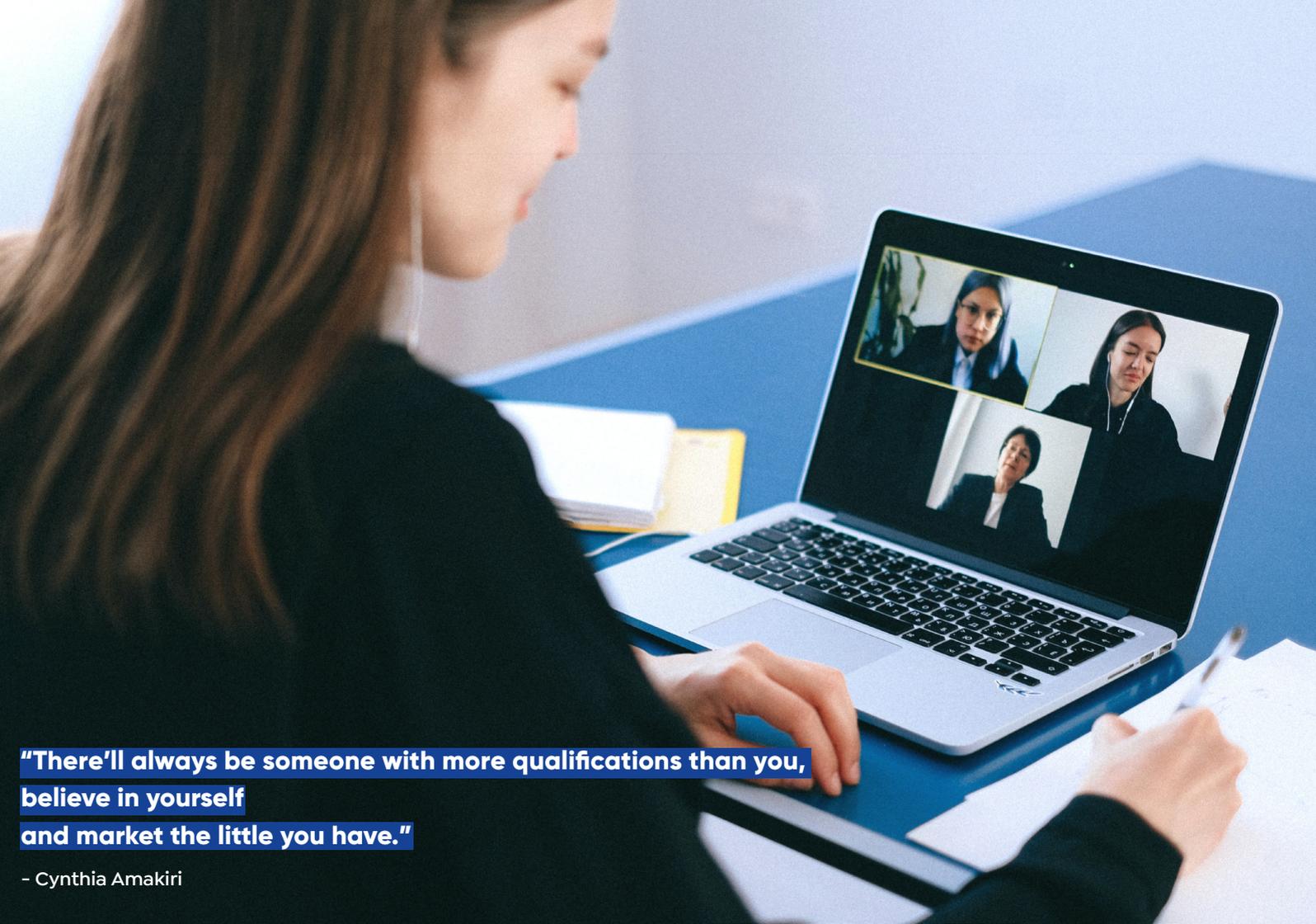
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Tips for Writing a Statement of Purpose for People Changing Courses or Career Paths

There are situations where you might choose to undertake a master's program in an area significantly different from that of your undergraduate study for the sake of changing career paths, perhaps. The personal statement is the perfect place to express why you may want to make that transition. Follow the general format already given for writing a personal statement but consider the following:

- Why exactly are you making this transition? You can base this off of the urgency of the needs, an innate passion, a gap that needs to be filled, a result of your current situation.
- What have you done to prove that you can succeed in this new field? Internships, volunteering, conferences, workshops, and online courses; every little thing helps, and if you haven't done much of these, use your transferable skills.
- Why are you the best candidate for this course and what will you bring to it?
- Lastly, a very well structured post-study plan.

It is not easy especially when you are switching to a more technical field, but it can be done.



“There’ll always be someone with more qualifications than you, believe in yourself and market the little you have.”

- Cynthia Amakiri

Acing EMJMD Interviews



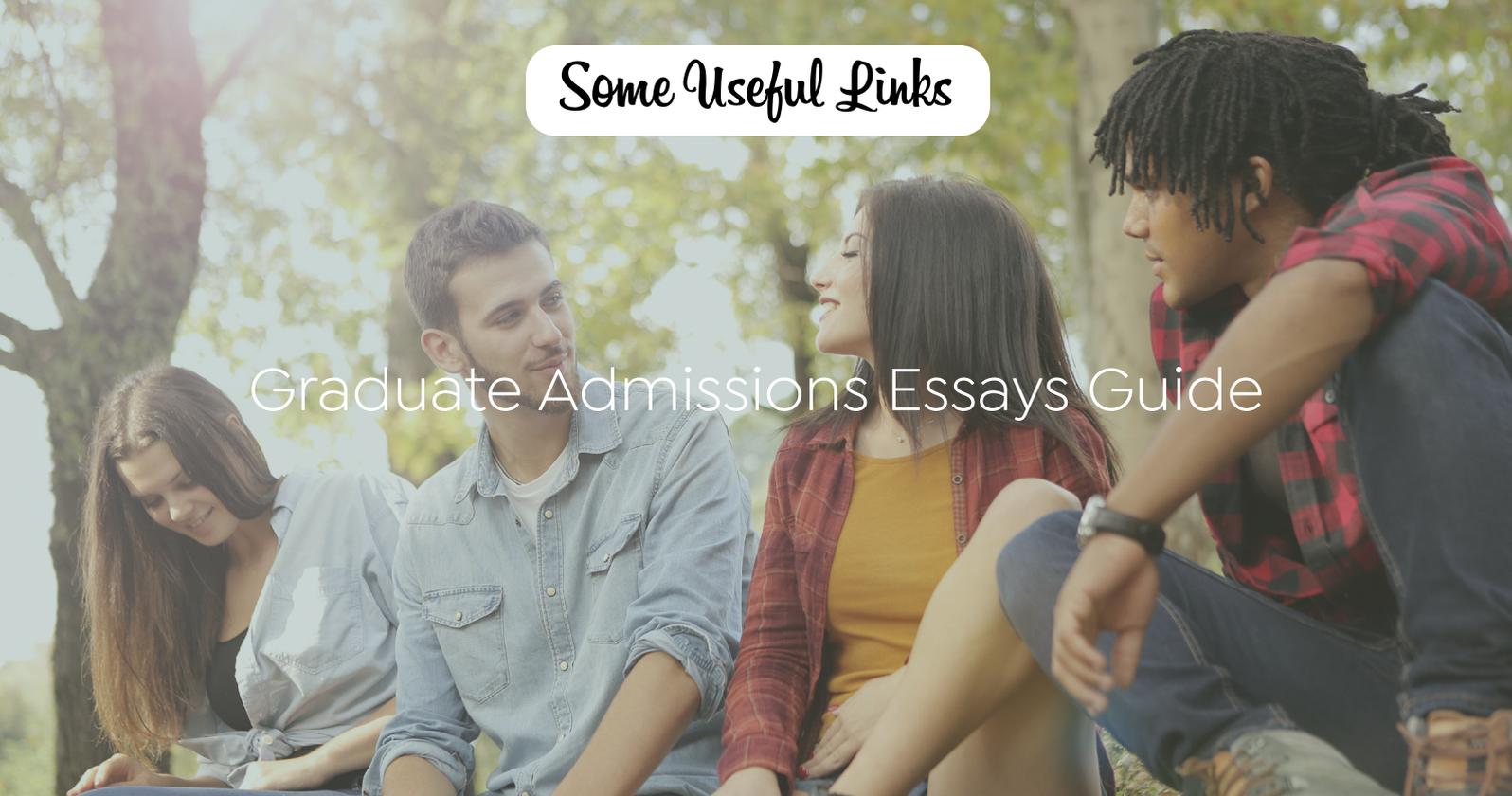
The interview is your second meeting with the selection team. They would have gone through your application before the interview so a few tips:

- Thoroughly read and understand your SOP. Do not cram it! This will help you answer questions better and prove to them that you are sure of yourself and what you want.
- Be Confident! Your interviewers need to know that you can complete the course and use the knowledge thereafter. If you're not confident, you will easily be forgotten; you definitely want to be remembered.
- Be polite. Talk about your achievements proudly not arrogantly. No one likes an overconfident person.
- Read and understand the course website. Read about your mobility, course structure, what they require from a potential candidate. This prepares you for a wide range of questions.
- Have a good and believable study plan. The programs under ERASMUS are very strategic programs. They need to know that you will use it to benefit your country and the world.
- Ask for help. Erasmus scholars are always ready to help. Search for scholars in your program on LinkedIn or contact Erasmus

Mundus Nigeria on Facebook and they will link you up with scholars that can give you possible questions or organise a mock interview.

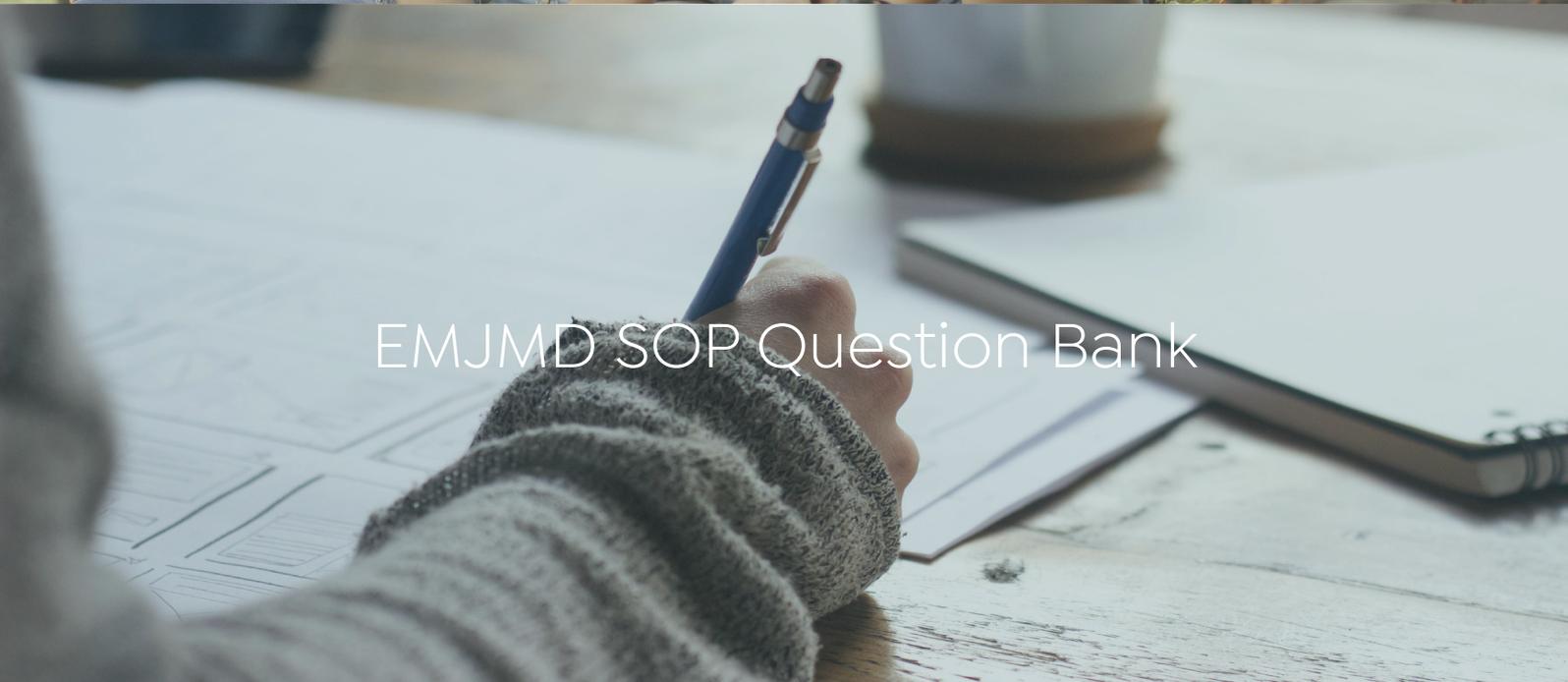
- Prepare questions to ask the interviewers after the interview. This sounds cliché when people say it but it helps. It turns the interview into a conversation, shows the interviewers that you are invested and that you prepared. However, please do not ask about the money.
- Be consistent with your point and avoid switching to unnecessary points, the interviewer might be interested in how firm you are.
- Please avoid vocabulary jargons, this could portray another meaning or lack of communication between you and the interviewer. Perhaps this might speak against you.
- Be concise in your explanation and master the art of using words applicable to your field.
- Be mindful of tenses, grammar and avoid ambiguous words

“Prepare questions to ask the interviewers after the interview.”



Some Useful Links

Graduate Admissions Essays Guide



EMJMD SOP Question Bank



A Scholar's SOP Experience, and Tips

Creating an Excellent Video SOP

"Be humble, there's always something new to learn.

Never give up."

- Asiwaju Samuel

The Video SOP gives you the platform to better showcase your unique personality, goals, and talents. It should be personal, engaging and most importantly, authentic to you. As grad school scholarship is a competitive industry, it is important to stand out to prospective reviewers.

This video is seldom requested for in addition to the traditional application requirements and will form part of the holistic admission approach. For some applicants, this might seem daunting, but with the right orientation, it could be a walk in the park.

General Video SOP Characteristics:

- Short length (Typically 2-3 minutes long)
- Video content is usually created in response to one or more essay prompts
- Uploaded to a drive or a video streaming platform (YouTube, Vimeo, etc.) with the shareable link entered in a field on the application portal.

Be sure to adhere to the basic [YouTube guidelines](#)

Examples of Essay Prompts for a Video SOP:

- Provide a summary of your professional background, qualifications, and experience
- Why have you chosen this masters course/track and what are your long-term career goals?
- What strengths can you bring to this program/school?

N/B:

- Keep your videos as concise as possible.
- Videos will not be evaluated based on production quality, however, you do not want your reviewers' attention divided due to the poor audio or video quality. Give them one less thing to worry about.

Creating the video transcript:

It is always good practice to have a written script for your video. Here is how:

- If you already have an SOP for the program (at this point in your application, you most likely will have one), congratulations, your work is 50% done! Now you might be tempted to convert this SOP to your video script, do not do that! Your SOP has its role to play, and so does your video. Extract key points from your SOP – points that answer the prompts.
- Leave out the cosmetics; the keyword here is conciseness. Do not provide certain personal details that can be gotten from your other application documents; just your name will suffice.
- Just as in your SOP, your opening is important. You could choose to open with your name: "Hi, my name is [XYZ], and I am studying [ABC]..." or you could choose to be a bit more creative. "The world is evolving, and with it, the challenges of cities...". Bottom line, you want your video to stand out. Be

creative but be subtle.

- After you have made a draft, review it until you are comfortable with what you have. A useful hack would be to time yourself while reading the script. With this, you can ascertain how long your video will be. Make necessary adjustments if need be but try to stay within the required limit.

Ready to get started?

So, you have your script good and ready, great! Next step, recording. Follow this link to see the recording guidelines:

[Recording Guidelines](#)

Here are some good video SOP samples.
Use them as a guide.

Video 1

Video 2

Video 3

Video 4

Video 5

Video 6

**"Simplicity is a learned virtue
that exalts the seemingly simple."**

- Magnus Onyiriagwu

**"Find your niche and crazily invest in it,
it will make room for you."**

- Jennifer Confidence

**"No amount of resource is too much in building an irresistible profile;
it is your greatest advocate and weapon."**

- Rafiu Oleyakin

Check your email!



After Submission

- “Do not put all your eggs in a basket”. Apply to as many institutions as you can. This increases your experience and chances of securing a scholarship
- Check your mails regularly for any feedback and do not relent even when you receive a rejection mail. Rejection emails should be looked at as a tool to make your next application stronger



**"Never assume a know-it-all.
Someone has been there before you;
seek guidance."**

- Omobamidele Gabriel

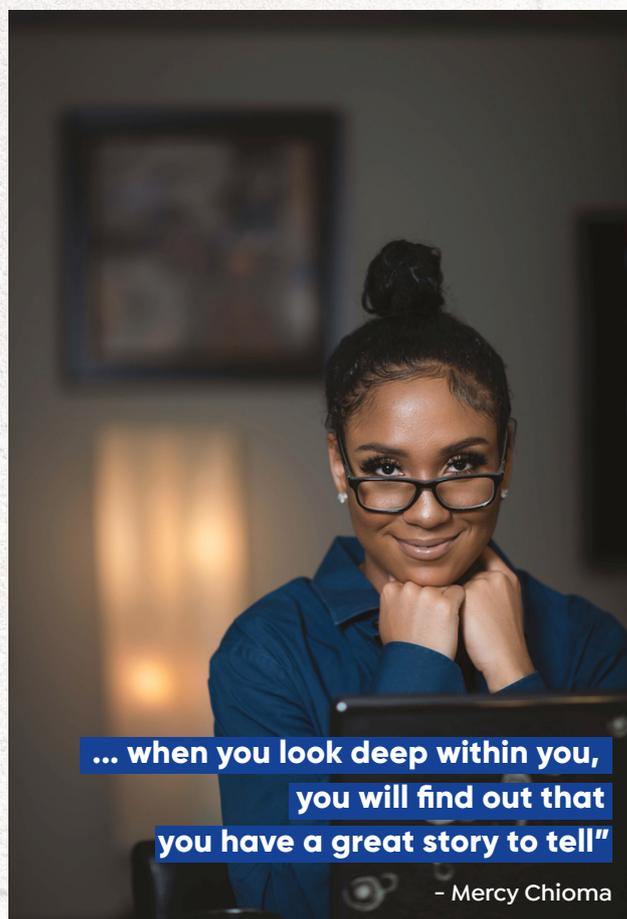
Glossary

- **Consortium:** A conglomeration of tertiary institutions that make up an Erasmus Mundus program. Within each Consortium exists a coordinating university which oversees all that pertains to that EMJMD program.
- **Programme Countries:** Countries that fall within the European Union (i.e. EU member states), North Macedonia, Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway, Serbia and Turkey
- **Partner Countries:** Countries from other regions of the world like Africa, America, Oceania, Asia, etc.
- **Programme Country Applicant:** An applicant whose nationality falls within one of the programme countries in 2 or an applicant who has lived, worked or studied in any programme country in the last 12 months (prior to the start of the application).
- **Partner Country Applicant:** An applicant whose nationality falls under other regions of the world.
- **Industrial Partners:** Industries associated with each EMJMD program and consortium that provide support as well as facilitate internship/thesis placement.
- **Partner Universities:** Other universities outside the consortium that offer support, mobility and internship/thesis placement
- **Intake:** the academic year an EMJMD is open to offering Erasmus scholarships
- **Self-funding:** Responsible for incurring participation and other costs of partaking in an EMJMD program.

- **Main List:** A list of applicants that are guaranteed an Erasmus Mundus scholarship during an intake
- **Reserve List:** A list of applicants whose Erasmus Mundus Scholarship status is pending and dependent on the withdrawal of an applicant from the main list.
- **Selected List:** A list of applicants who have met admission requirements, but are not qualified for an Erasmus scholarship, and are instead proposed for self-funding.
- **Rejected List:** A list of applicants who have not met admission requirements or are ranked beyond the maximum capacity limits of the EMJMD program.
- **EACEA:** Education, Audio-Visual and Culture Executive Agency is the agency in charge of handling Erasmus Mundus Scholarships. They are responsible for final verification and confirmation of awards, ensuring all EACEA rules are strictly observed, as well as disbursing EU grants to EMJMD Consortiums. Some common EACEA rules are:
 1. No more than three (3) applicants from the same Nationality (as partner country applicants) can be selected in an EMJMD program during an intake.
 2. A prospective applicant is only allowed to apply to a maximum of three (3) EMJMD programs during an intake.
 3. Each EMJMD Consortium cannot award more than 25% of the total grant received to program country applicants. This implies that the number of scholarships available for the partner country-category would normally be more than double the number for the programme country category.
- **ECTS** - The European Credit Transfer and Accumulation System is a structure of the European Higher Education Area for making study programs and courses comparable and transferable from one institution to another.
- **IELTS** - International English Language Testing System (www.ielts.org)
- **TOEFL** - Test of English as Foreign Language (www.toefl.org)

• • •

"Rejection emails should be looked at as a tool to make your next application stronger."



- Mercy Chioma

Tap the photos to access LinkedIn Profiles



Meet The Authors



Rafiu Oyelakin

A trained Civil Engineer with First Class honours from the Federal University of Technology, Minna. He is an enthusiast of Sustainable Infrastructure, Water Resources and Environmental Engineering. He is an awardee of the Erasmus Mundus Joint Master In Flood Risk Management (EMJM-FRM). He loves travelling, volunteering and intellectual discussions.



Michael Ojo

A Veterinary Medical Doctor who was selected for the Infectious Disease and One Health (IDOH+) 2020 batch. He loves brainstorming, travelling and cycling.



Sonoiki Doyinsola

A Soil scientist passionate about sustainable environment. She was selected for the International Master of Science in Soils and Global Change (IMSOGLO), 2020. She loves gisting.



Ibeabuchi, Kingsley O.

Holds a bachelor's degree in Plant Biology with First Class Honors from the University of Ilorin. He was selected for the Erasmus Mundus Master's Program in Plant Breeding (emPLANT), (2020-2022). Some of his hobbies include reading, watching movies and documentaries and solving practical problems amongst others.



Ayanwale O. Abraham

A trained medical microbiologist and a First Class graduate from the Federal University of Technology, Minna. He is passionate about Host's response to pathogens. He is currently an IDOH+ awardee for 2020 entry. Reading, music and sports are his hobbies.



Sodiq Oguntade

Holds a bachelor's degree in Applied Geophysics from the Federal University of Technology, Akure. He was selected for the Groundwater and Global Change- Impacts and Adaptation (GroundwatCH) 2020 batch. He loves writing, travelling and volunteering.



Asiwaju I. Samuel

A Software Engineer and Computer Scientist. He graduated from a federal University in Nigeria. He is passionate about ICT for sustainability and cloud computing. He loves reading and researching.



Cynthia Amakiri

A Medical Biochemist who is passionate about early detection and prevention of infectious diseases and cancer. She was selected for the Infectious Diseases and One Health program, 2020 batch. She loves reading and watching competition shows.

Tap the photos to access LinkedIn Profiles



Meet The Authors



Chiagoro Ahaotu

A graduate of Electrical and Electronics Engineering from Covenant University. He is passionate about Sustainable Energy. He was selected for the EMJMD masters in Renewable Energy in the Marine Environment (REM), 2020. He loves road trips and meeting new friends.



Nathaniel Eli Jr.

Holds a bachelor's degree in Electrical and Electronics Engineering from the University of Port Harcourt. He has an ardor for Green Energy and Creative Media. He is a scholar of the Decentralized Smart Energy Systems (DENSYS) master, 2020. He loves art, photography, and playing the guitar.



Mercy Chioma

Holds a bachelor's degree in Biochemistry. She has a deep passion for personal development, education, research, and project management. She loves to sing, watch movies, collaborate, and share experiences with people. Read her insightful article on "Charting a Career Plan" [HERE](#).



Odunola Oladeji

An Agricultural Economist and a current scholar of the European Interdisciplinary Masters in African Studies (EIMAS). His passion resonates around Sustainable Agricultural practices in SubSaharan Africa. He is interested in development and poised to exploring new landmarks.



Daniel, Success Ugochukwu

Holds a bachelor's degree in Forestry and Environmental Management and was selected for the Sustainable Forest and Nature Management (SUFONAMA - EMJMD) for the 2020-2022 cohort. He enjoys learning and exploring other languages and cultures and also has a great love for chess.



Akinyokun G. Thompson

A scholar and an Electronic and Electrical Engineering graduate of Obafemi Awolowo University. He is highly enthusiastic about energy sustainability and green economy, and takes interest in fashion, sports and motivational writing outside of work and academics.



Magnus Onyiriagwu

Holds a bachelor's degree in Forestry and Wildlife from the Federal University of Technology, Owerri. He was selected for the Sustainable Forest and Nature Management (SUFONAMA). Apart from his love for research, he has a spot for music and travelling.



Jennifer Confidence

A first class graduate of International Relations and Strategic Studies from Igbinedion University. She is currently involved in the global peace movement through her Organization, [Global Pillars](#). She was selected for the International Master in Security, Intelligence and Strategic Studies. She loves to watch documentaries and travel as well as learn new cultures.

Meet The Authors



Omobamidele Gabriel

An individual much concerned about raising the livelihood of the rural farmers – the major producers of the Nigerian staple crops – above the poverty line. He aims to achieve this through proper Crop Protection. He was selected for Plant Health in Sustainable Cropping Systems. He graduated from the Federal University of Agriculture, Abeokuta. He loves networking and meeting new people.



Olajide Akintayo

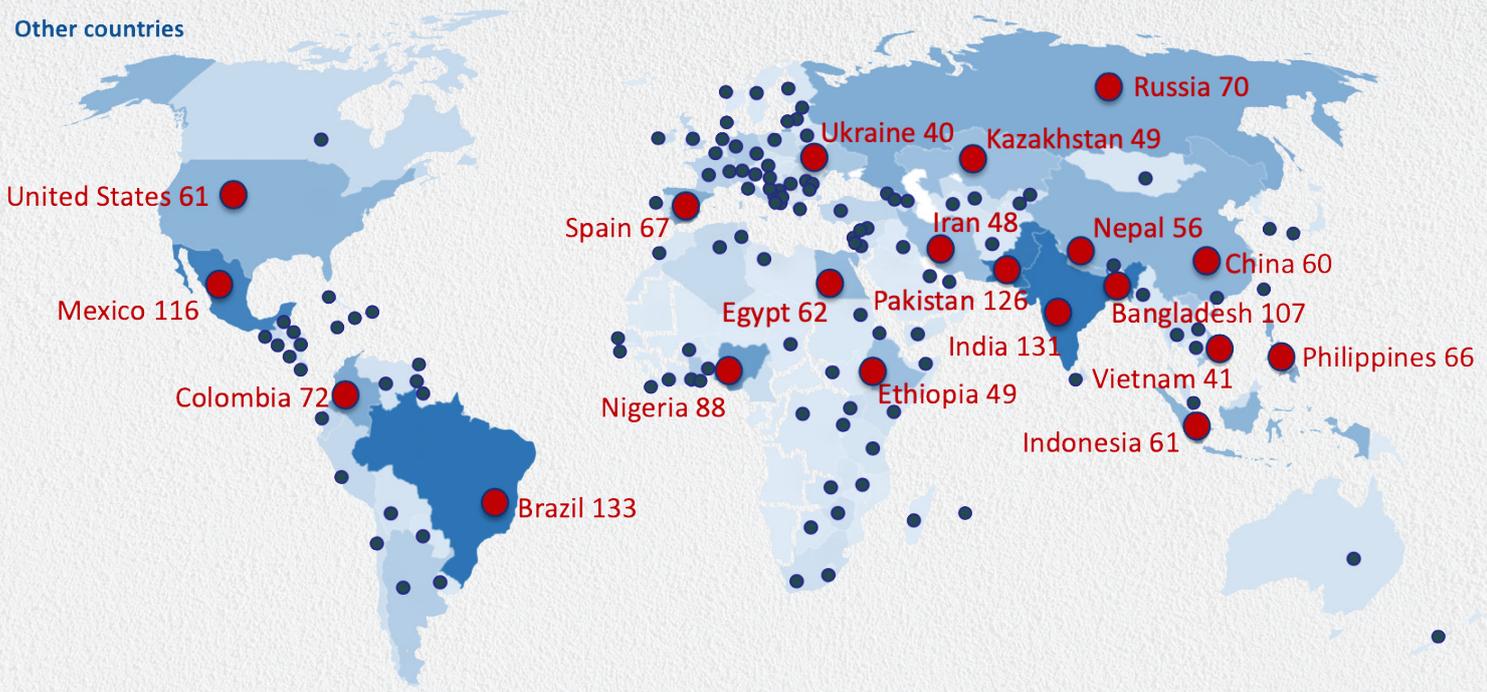
A Materials Engineer who holds a double master's degree in Functional Advanced Materials Engineering (FAME+) under the Erasmus+ label (2018-2020). During the past two years, he has been instrumental in facilitating the linkage between prospective applicants, current scholars, and the alumni body of the Erasmus Mundus Association (EMA)-Nigerian Chapter for scholarship application support, thus culminating into over 100 awardees within this period. In addition, he organizes an informal and continuous orientation process for all selected awardees before their departure to Europe. His interests include travelling, volunteering, football, networking, and socializing.

Fun Fact

In 2020, Nigeria had a double-fold increase in the number of selected awardees, rising from 44 in 2019 to 88 in 2020. This placed her 1st in Africa and 6th worldwide on the highest EM scholarship winners rank. A record high.

● Top 20 countries

● Other countries



Source: <https://www.facebook.com/EUErasmusPlusProgramme/photos/a.644957458888341/3340949915955735/>

How well do you know Erasmus+?

U Y V I N T E R V I E W Q S E E C S
 P A R T N E R C O U N T R Y D S A C
 M U L T I C U L T U R A L E B V T H
 V Y F Z X C O N S O R T I U M A A O
 Q H E U R O P A S S O Y Y R T D L L
 F A M G B B U B P A S S P O R T O A
 T R A N S C R I P T S U S P A P G R
 W E N J D E A D L I N E A E V A U S
 A M C K D O U B L E D E G R E E E H
 R E C O M M E N D A T I O N L K W I
 Q S A L Y M O B I L I T Y I P D R P
 A P P L I C A T I O N R L E M U T S

Find the following words in the puzzle.
Words are hidden → ↓ and ↘ .

APPLICATION
 CATALOGUE
 CONSORTIUM
 DEADLINE
 DOUBLEDEGREE
 EUROPASS

EUROPE
 INTERVIEW
 MOBILITY
 MULTICULTURAL
 PARTNERCOUNTRY
 PASSPORT

RECOMMENDATION
 SCHOLARSHIPS
 TRANSCRIPTS
 TRAVEL

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