Copernicus Master in Digital Earth (CDE) is a two-year full-time integrated Erasmus Mundus Joint Master (EMJM) programme.

The English language Master of Science is jointly offered to outstanding candidates. Students study Earth Observation and Geoinformatics in year one. Two Specialization Tracks provide a pathway towards excellence in GeoData Science & AI4EO as well as GeoVisualisation & Geocommunication in year two.

EM CDE: Call for Applications – Edition 4

We invite applications from candidates with a Geospatial background from Europe, designated Target Regions, and other International Areas.

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CALL OPEN: November 2, 2026 – January 22, 2027 (23:59 CET)

The 'Copernicus Master in Digital Earth – CDE' EMJM programme is open to all applicants who meet the academic admission requirements and additional selection criteria, regardless of their country of origin or residence. Applications are welcome from candidates worldwide, both within and outside Europe.

Co-funded by the European Union

All selected students benefit from a fee waiver for participation costs, ensuring full access to the programme's resources and opportunities. Erasmus+ EMJM scholarships provide additional financial support according to the programme's scholarship conditions and specific selection criteria.

ELIGIBILITY

The call for applications is open to all qualified candidates seeking admission to the 'Copernicus Master in Digital Earth' programme, provided they meet the established eligibility requirements. At the time of application, candidates must select their preferred specialization track.

Applicants are required to provide evidence of their academic qualifications, meet the programme-specific selection criteria, complete the online application form, and upload all required supporting documents. All applicants must comply with the applicable eligibility requirements. Detailed information on admission criteria and application procedures is available on the EMJM programme website: www.master-cde.eu/admission.

COHORT NUMBERS

The total number of available study seats in each category is presented in Table 1. The call for applications is open to candidates worldwide. Table 2 provides an overview of the countries eligible for participation in this European postgraduate Master of Science programme, in accordance with the Erasmus+ EMJM funding categories.

Tab.1: DISTRIBUTION of COHORT NUMBERS by FUNDING CATEGORY	
TOTAL number of study seats	**33**
Self-funded (self-paying) student – nominated for participation costs waiver ***Open to young graduates from Europe and beyond.***	12
Student - nominated for Erasmus+ EMJM scholarship ***Open to young graduates from Europe and beyond.***	14
Student nominated for Target region - IPAIII (Erasmus+ EMJM scholarship) ***Open to candidates from Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo, Montenegro.***	3
Student nominated for Target region - NDICI (Erasmus+ EMJM scholarship) ***Open to NDICI regions, please see list below.***	4

Tab. 2: EU MEMBER STATES, third countries associated to the Programme & PARTNER COUNTRIES
Edition 4: We offer 14 EMJM scholarships dedicated to "Europeans" or International candidates

Erasmus+ EMJM scholarships	**PROGRAMME COUNTRIES - Member States of the European Union (EU):** Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden
	PROGRAMME COUNTRIES - Third countries associated to the Programme: North Macedonia, Serbia, Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway, Türkiye
	PARTNER COUNTRIES: All other than Programme Countries

Erasmus+ EMJM SCHOLARSHIP for TARGET REGIONS, regrouped according to the EU's external action instruments; >>***We highly encourage target region candidates to apply!***<<

Edition 4: We offer 3 EMJM scholarships dedicated to Region 1		
IPA	**Region 1** (Western Balkans)	Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo, Montenegro
Edition 4: We offer 4 EMJM scholarships dedicated to Regions 6, 8, 9, 10, or 11		
NDICI	**Region 6** (Central Asia)	Afghanistan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan
NDICI	**Region 8** (Pacific)	Australia, Cook Islands, Fiji, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Micronesia, Nauru, New Zealand, Niue, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Timor-Leste, Tonga, Tuvalu, Vanuatu
NDICI	**Region 9** (Sub-Saharan Africa)	Angola, Benin, Botswana, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cabo Verde, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, Comoros, Congo, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Djibouti, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Eswatini, Ethiopia, Gabon, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Kenya, Lesotho, Liberia, Madagascar, Malawi, Mali, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mozambique, Namibia, Niger, Nigeria, Rwanda, Sao Tome and Principe, Senegal, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Somalia, South Africa, South Sudan, Sudan, Tanzania, Togo, Uganda, Zambia, Zimbabwe
NDICI	**Region 10** (Latin America)	Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Uruguay, Venezuela
NDICI	**Region 11** (Caribbean)	Antigua & Barbuda, Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Cuba, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Grenada, Guyana, Haiti, Jamaica, St Kitts and Nevis, St Lucia, St Vincent and the Grenadines, Suriname, Trinidad & Tobago

*Erasmus+ Programme guide p. 34-35: https://erasmus-plus.ec.europa.eu/programme-guide/erasmus-programme-guide & https://erasmus-plus.ec.europa.eu/programme-guide/part-a/eligible-countries

**Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance (IPAIII)

***Neighborhood, Development and International Cooperation – Global Europe Instrument (NDICI)

APPLICATION OPEN TO

The application is open to graduates holding a Bachelor's, Diploma, or Master's degree in a geospatial-related field. Applicants must satisfy both the university's general admission requirements for postgraduate studies and the programme-specific eligibility criteria, which further define the required academic qualifications. All criteria must be met for an application to be considered eligible. Detailed information is available at https://master-cde.eu/admission/eligibility-criteria/.

Applicants are strongly encouraged to carefully review the following guidance from the Selection Committee, which highlights key considerations regarding the evaluation and admission process:

> *The EMJM programme provides fully funded study opportunities, particularly for recent graduates and early-career professionals seeking to advance their expertise in Earth Observation and Geoinformatics (EO*GI). Applicants who already hold a master's degree are encouraged to consider applying as self-funded students, as the programme provides unique academic, professional, and networking opportunities that extend well beyond a traditional degree. Candidates nominated for self-funded admission will receive a waiver of participation costs and enjoy the same academic opportunities, mobility options, and support services as full Erasmus+ EMJM scholarship holders.*

Applicants seeking an Erasmus+ EMJM scholarship must comply with the eligibility requirements established by the Education, Audiovisual and Culture Executive Agency (EACEA), which oversees the implementation of the Erasmus+ programme. In awarding EMJM scholarships, the CDE consortium fully adheres to the applicable EACEA requirements and provides scholarship opportunities to both European and international students.

APPLICATION & SELECTION PROCEDURE

The admission process for the Erasmus Mundus Joint Master (EMJM) programme consists of two main phases. First, candidates apply and submit their online application to the EMJM programme and undergo the selection process. Following successful selection, the programme coordinates their registration and enrolment as Master's students at the partner universities.

The EMJM application and admission procedure comprises three key steps: (1) Application submission, (2) Candidate selection, and (3) Registration and enrolment at the partner universities.

(1) APPLICATION

Interested and qualified candidates are invited to submit their application through the online application system. The Programme Office and Selection Committee first assess applications to verify that candidates meet the eligibility requirements. The application process consists of two steps, which applicants must complete in accordance with the guidance provided in the application handbook.

(2) SELECTION

The selection procedure adheres to the minimum requirements established by the European Commission and the Education, Audiovisual and Culture Executive Agency (EACEA). It ensures a transparent and fair process, providing equitable treatment for all applications. All applicants are informed of the available appeal procedure.

The Selection Committee (SelCom) prepares a nomination proposal for eligible candidates. Applicants who are not selected are duly notified. Applications that do not meet the eligibility requirements are excluded from further evaluation.

> *The CDE consortium does not maintain a waiting list or reserve list. Selection and nomination are based on the outcome of the established evaluation and selection process. If a nominated candidate withdraws after nomination, the consortium will review the circumstances and determine the appropriate course of action in accordance with the applicable programme rules and administrative procedures. The withdrawal does not automatically entitle another applicant to the vacant place, nor does it guarantee that a replacement candidate will be nominated. Any decision to make a new nomination will depend on the eligibility of other applicants, the validity of the selection results, the availability of the place, and the relevant programme requirements.*

The final decision on the award of Erasmus+ EMJM scholarships rests with the European Union's Education, Audiovisual and Culture Executive Agency (EACEA), based on the evaluation and recommendations provided by the CDE consortium's Selection Committee.

How we assess your application

Each application is independently assessed by two members of the Selection Committee (SelCom) using Mobility Online as the application and evaluation platform. Applications are ranked according to five assessment categories: Outstanding, Highly Competent, Competent, Not Yet Competent, and Failed.

> *Selection is not determined solely by academic grades or the number of achievements. Instead, each applicant's overall profile is assessed comprehensively and in relation to the profile of the applicant cohort. The SelCom evaluates complete applications against multiple criteria, including academic performance, extracurricular activities, and other relevant qualifications, in accordance with EACEA regulations. Based on the evaluation results, approximately 60 shortlisted candidates are nominated by the SelCom Chairs to proceed to an online interview.*

Before the interview, shortlisted candidates may be asked to provide evidence of practical experience and completed project work, such as cartographic or programming projects. These materials are reviewed and considered as part of the interview assessment.

Final nominations are made based on the following criteria:

- Fulfilment of academic requirements in general and for specialization track (GeoDSc or GeoVIS) students.
- Additional criteria for selection.
- For Erasmus+ EMJM scholarship applicants Erasmus+ scholarship eligibility rules apply as set by EACEA.
- Online interview.

> *Applicants seeking admission must satisfy both the general postgraduate entry requirements of the partner universities and the programme-specific eligibility criteria established by the EMJM.*

Admission to the Copernicus Master in Digital Earth is highly competitive and is awarded to candidates who demonstrate outstanding academic performance, strong motivation and commitment, and a clear interest in geospatial applications. Applicants are also expected to demonstrate the ability to study and collaborate in an international environment, provide evidence of the required academic qualifications, and possess a high level of English language proficiency.

Definition of terms

i. Nomination list: Best-ranked candidates will be nominated as selected students for the programme.

ii. Self-funded (self-paying) candidate: All selected candidates either funding their own studies, getting financial assistance from family or friends, beneficiaries of scholarships other than Erasmus+ EMJM, taking out a student loan etc.

iii. Erasmus+ EMJM scholarship holder: Selected scholarship recipients either from an Erasmus+ Programme or Partner Country; IPAIII or NDICI countries.

iv. Unsuccessful candidate: Applicants who do not meet the eligibility criteria or fall short in academic merit due to the highly competitive nature of the selection process will not be considered for admission. This may include, among other factors, deficiencies in the required academic background, insufficient demonstration of motivation for the chosen specialization track, or inadequate language proficiency. In certain cases, candidates deemed overqualified may be advised by the SelCom to pursue admission to a doctoral programme instead.

v. Ineligible applications: Applications not completed or not eligible due to Erasmus+ regulations.

(3) UNIVERSITY ENROLMENT

Admission to the Erasmus Mundus Joint Master (EMJM) programme is coordinated by the consortium universities participating in the Erasmus+ funded project and study programme. Following selection, formal admission and student enrolment are carried out by the respective university admission offices.

PROCEDURE AND DEADLINES

CALL OPEN: November 2, 2026 to January 22, 2027	EDITION 4
DEADLINES	**SELECTION PROCEDURE**
January - February	Eligibility Check, initial filtering by Selection Committee
	Evaluation of applications by Selection Committee
February	Short list for interviews
	Online (personal) interviews
February, week 4	Selection Committee Meeting
until end of March	Information to applicants
until April 15	Student nomination proposal submitted to EACEA
until May 30	EACEA confirmation of candidates

June	Candidates receive acceptance and visa invitation letters	
	study year 1 at PLUS, Austria Foundations in EO*GI	
September/October – January	*Arrival of students for Orientation Week by September week 4 / 2027*	Sem 1
March – June		Sem 2
	study year 2 at UBS, France & at UPOL, Czech Republic Specialization Tracks GeoDSc or GeoVIS	
	year 2 at UBS, France	
September – January	*Arrival of students for UBS welcome week in September*	Sem 3
February – June/July Thesis defense & final exam: September		Sem 4
	study year 2 at UPOL, Olomouc	
September – January	*Arrival of students for UPOL welcome week in September*	Sem 3
Mid-February – June/July Thesis defense & final exam: September		Sem 4

ONLINE APPLICATION FORM >>LINK<<

CONTACTS

University of Salzburg, Prof. Stefan Lang (Joint Programme Coordinator)
Palacký University Olomouc, Prof. Vít Voženílek (Selection Committee Chair)
University of South Brittany, Prof. Sébastien Lefèvre (Selection Committee Chair)

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Relevant information on the programme's website

- EMJM programme admission
- Call | Application handbook | Application form
- GDPR | Definition of terms | Appeal