

ERASMUS+ MASTER STUDENT LOAN GUARANTEE FACILITY

What is the Erasmus+ Master Student Loan Guarantee Facility?

The Erasmus+ Master Loans is a scheme under which the European Investment Fund (EIF) provides guarantees to Financial Intermediaries, i.e. to the University of Cyprus who extends loans on eligible students. Through this scheme you can get an EU-guaranteed loan that can help you finance your Master Degree studies in the University of Cyprus.

How can a student benefit from the Erasmus+ Master Student Loan Scheme?

The EIF does not support students directly, but through direct guarantees to the University of Cyprus, who acts as a Financial Intermediary and extends loans to eligible students. Eligible students must submit to the University of Cyprus an application for a place in a Master's Degree Programme and a loan from the University.

Which criteria do I need to satisfy to be eligible for a loan?

- a. Be a resident of an Erasmus+ Programme Country; Cyprus must not be your country of residence (except if you represent that you have changed your residency within three months prior to your application with the view to pursue the Master's Degree).
- b. You must hold a recognised first cycle (undergraduate Bachelor) qualification or equivalent qualification.
- c. Undertake a Master's Degree programme at the University of Cyprus; Cyprus must not be the country in which you have obtained your Bachelor Degree, i.e. your qualification granting access to the Master's Degree.
- d. Not have already entered into a student loan covered by the Erasmus+ programme with an entity other than the University of Cyprus.

Which are the Erasmus+ Programme Countries?

All the EU member states – excluding Cyprus – plus other Programme Countries.

An up-to-date list of the Programme Countries can be found following the link below:

https://ec.europa.eu/programmes/erasmus-plus/about/who-can-take-part_en

What documentation do I have to submit to apply for the Erasmus+ Master Loan?

- a. **an application** for a place in a Master's Degree programme.
- b. A certificate of completion of your Bachelor-level degree or equivalent qualification which lead to a Master's degree application.
- c. A proof of residence in one of the Erasmus+ Programme countries; i.e. a certificate verifying your permanent address such as: council tax, utility bills, bank statements, lease agreement or residence ownership.

Are there any collateralization requirements with respect to student loans to be covered under Erasmus+ Master student facility?

University of Cyprus should not request or require that any collateral or parental or other third party guarantee be provided in order to secure the Final Recipient Transaction.

What does no guarantee mean?

It means that whatever your age and income is, you can apply for the loan without security of any kind, other than a personal guarantee from the Final Recipient (student undertaking the Master's degree). The application procedure is straight forward.

Can I apply for this loan to do a Master's degree in my own country?

No, the aim of the Erasmus+ Master Loan is to support mobility in education from one Erasmus+ Programme Country to another, so it cannot be used to finance studies in your country of origin. This means that you must do the master's course in a country other than your country of residence and in a country other than that in which you obtained your first degree.

What costs can be financed with the Erasmus+ Loan?

The Erasmus+ Loan is intended to cover tuition fees and accommodation expenses in the Halls of Residence of the University of Cyprus or other facilities managed by UCY.

What is the maximum amount of the loan?

- a. up to €12,000 if the Master's degree being undertaken or to be undertaken is for a duration of one year or less
- b. up to €18,000 if the Master's degree undertaken or to be undertaken is for a duration of more than a year.

Can I apply for the Erasmus+ Master's Loan if I only pursue part of the Master's in a European country that belongs to the programme?

Yes, as long as the requirements are met and **at least 50% of the ECTS credits** are obtained in an institution of any European country that belongs to the programme.

The maximum loan amount is that which corresponds to the period in which the student is studying outside their country of residence. That is, a student pursuing a two-year master's course who studies a year in Cyprus and one in France may request a maximum of €12,000.

Are students completing a double, joint, or multiple Master's Degree eligible under the Erasmus+ Loan facility?

A student completing a double, joint, or multiple Master's Degree is eligible under this facility provided that he/she meets all other eligibility criteria outlined above and, that at least 50% of the total ECTS credits awarded under the degree are obtained at a Recognised higher Education Institution in a Programme Country which is neither (i) your country of residence nor (ii) the country where you have obtained your qualification granting access to Master's Degree.

What is the interest rate?

There is no interest rate (0%).

When do I have to start repaying the loan?

You will start repaying the loan, two years after you finish your studies.

The loan should have a maximum scheduled final maturity of six years after the end of your Master's Degree.

If I've had an Erasmus grant during my previous studies, can I apply for this loan?

Yes.

Should University of Cyprus check if the student combines an Erasmus+ Master Student Loan with another Financial Intermediary?

Yes, the University of Cyprus ensures that the student has not already entered into a student loan covered by the Erasmus+ programme with an entity other than the University of Cyprus. This is verified on the basis of a representation by the student.

Is the University of Cyprus obliged to extend an Erasmus+ Master loan to any eligible students submitting an application?

It is the sole decision of the University of Cyprus whether or not to extend the loans to eligible students following its customary policies and procedures. The University of Cyprus undertakes to grant a loan to a student without discrimination on grounds of race or ethnicity, sex, sexual orientation, religion or belief, nationality, field of study, or social background.

From where can I get more information?

Prospective students who are interested in obtaining finance can get further information at:

- <http://www.ucy.ac.cy/graduateschool/en/erasmus-loan-guarantee>
- https://ec.europa.eu/programmes/erasmus-plus/opportunities-for-individuals/students/erasmus-plus-master-degree-loans_en