

**ERASMUS+ INTERNATIONAL CREDIT MOBILITY PROGRAMME
CALL FOR APPLICATIONS FOR PhD STUDENTS AND STAFF MOBILITY
BETWEEN A4U UNIVERSITIES AND PARTNER UNIVERSITIES IN RUSSIA,
SOUTH AFRICA, INDONESIA, INDIA AND IRAN
2017-2018 and 2018-2019**

1. Purpose of the Call

Alliance of 4 Universities (A4U) is a strategic partnership of four Spanish public universities: Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona, Universidad Autónoma de Madrid, Universidad Carlos III de Madrid, and Universitat Pompeu Fabra in Barcelona. One of the objectives of A4U internationalization strategy is to promote mobility with leading universities in countries with emerging economies such as Russia, South Africa, Indonesia, India and Iran.

A4U has been awarded funds under Erasmus+ International Credit Mobility Programme, which enables PhD students and staff from A4U universities and its partner universities in Russia, South Africa, India, Indonesia, and Iran (see list below) to undertake a mobility stay.

The main purposes of this call are:

- To offer training, research and study development opportunities to PhD students and staff at participating universities.
- To support PhD students and staff achieve sustained improvements in knowledge, teaching and research skills.
- To forge and deepen lasting links between A4U universities and its partner universities thus enhancing transnational academic cooperation.
- To improve participants' language and cultural skills, promoting mutual enrichment and understanding.

Mobilities announced in this call can be undertaken in 2017-2018 and 2018-2019 during the period of academic activity and should end before 31 July 2019.

2. Participating Higher Education Institutions

The participating Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) in this call are:

<p style="text-align: center;">SPAIN</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona • Universidad Autónoma de Madrid • Universidad Carlos III de Madrid • Universitat Pompeu Fabra in Barcelona 	<p style="text-align: center;">RUSSIA</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lomonosov Moscow State University • Higher School of Economics • Russian Presidential Academy of National Economy and Public Administration (RANEPA) • North-West Institute of Management • New Economic School • Russian State University for the Humanities • St. Petersburg University of Information Technologies, Mechanics and Optics (ITMO) • St. Petersburg State Polytechnic University • Moscow Power Engineering Institute • Southern Federal University
	<p style="text-align: center;">SOUTH AFRICA</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • University of Pretoria • University of the Witwatersrand • Stellenbosch University • University of Cape Town • University of Western Cape • University of the Free State
	<p style="text-align: center;">INDIA</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Indian Institute of Science of Bangalore • Symbiosis International University, Pune • Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU) Delhi • St. Xavier's College, Mumbai • Jaypee Institute of Information Technologies • Indian Institute of Technology of Delhi • Indian Institute of Technology, Mumbai
	<p style="text-align: center;">INDONESIA</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Universitas Indonesia • Institute of Technology of Bandung • Universitas Gadjah Mada • Universitas Airlangga • BINUS University • Telkom University • Universitas Muhammadiyah Yogyakarta
	<p style="text-align: center;">IRAN</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • University of Tehran • Allameh Tabataba'i University • Amirkabir University of Technology

An Interinstitutional Agreement between the home and the host universities must be signed before the start of the mobility.

3. Grants to be awarded

The following grants available, distributed as follows:

Incoming from partner countries to A4U universities

Level	From	To	Number of grants	Duration of stay	Grant amount	
					Subsistence	Travel
PhD students	India	Spain	4	3-5 months	€800/month	€820
	Indonesia		5	3-5 months	€800/month	€1.100
	Iran		3	3-5 months	€800/month	€820
	Russia		3	3-5 months	€800/month	€530
	South Africa		1	3-5 months	€800/month	€1.100
Staff	India		3	5 days	€120/day	€820
	Indonesia		4	5 days	€120/day	€1.100
	Iran		4	5 days	€120/day	€820
	Russia		5	5 days	€120/day	€530
	South Africa		1	5 days	€120/day	€1.100

Outgoing from A4U universities to partner countries

Level	From	To	Number of grants	Duration of stay	Grant amount	
					Subsistence	Travel
PhD students	Spain	India	3	3-5 months	€650/month	€820
		Iran	3	3-5 months	€650/month	€820
		Russia	2	3-5 months	€650/month	€530
		South Africa	2	3-5 months	€650/month	€1.100
Staff		India	3	5 days	€160/day	€820
		Indonesia	4	5 days	€160/day	€1.100
		Iran	4	5 days	€160/day	€820
		Russia	5	5 days	€160/day	€530
		South Africa	2	5 days	€160/day	€1.100

The call is open to all subject areas. However, the applicants must check that the requested mobility proposal matches the offer available at the host university.

The mobility grant consists of a travel allowance and a monthly/daily subsistence allowance according to the flat rates determined by the Erasmus+ Programme. It is a **contribution** towards the costs of the planned Erasmus+ mobility period¹.

The beneficiaries are free to make travel and accommodation arrangements that best suit their needs and are not required to present receipts for their expenses. Important: For booking their flights and accommodation, beneficiaries need to advance their own funds since the mobility grant will be paid only once their stay begins (see procedures for grants payment in section 8).

The mobility period for PhD students can be from a minimum of 3 months to a maximum of 5 months. If the mobility period exceeds 5 months, it will not be covered by the grant. During their mobility, PhD students are expected to engage in research for their doctoral thesis.

The mobility period for staff is 5 days maximum plus 2 days for travel. In total, 7 days will be covered by the grant. During their mobility, teaching staff are expected to deliver at least 8 hours of teaching, or combine it with training (such as lecture shadowing, taking courses). It is also possible for administrative staff to do mobility for training, which enables them to acquire knowledge and specific know-how from good practice abroad, and to develop their own competences in their field. Priority will be given to mobility with a teaching component.

4. Eligibility requisites

To be eligible, applicants must fulfill the following general condition:

- To take responsibility for performing the mobility **in 2017-2018 or 2018-2019 during the period of academic activity based on the academic calendar of the host university, and always end the mobility before 31 July 2019.**
- To submit all the required documents before the application deadline. Since preparing and getting a learning/mobility agreement signed takes time, applicants are strongly advised to start preparing their application as early as possible and to submit it well before the deadline so that there is time to check it and correct errors if necessary.

Specific requisites for **PhD students**:

- To be enrolled at their home institution at the time of application and during the mobility.
- If the planned mobility activities will be conducted in a language that is not the native language of the applicant, to have an appropriate level of the language of instruction, **B2 being the minimum level. Please refer to your home institution, which will confirm whether you have the required level.**

Specific requisites for **staff**:

- Have a contractual relationship with their home institution at the time of application and during the mobility.

¹ As a guideline, the average monthly living expenses in Madrid or Barcelona are 500€ for accommodation in student residence (an apartment shared with other students might be cheaper) and €250 for food.

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- If the planned mobility activities will be conducted in a language that is not the native language of the applicant, to have an appropriate level of the language of instruction, **B2 being the minimum level. Please refer to your home institution, which will confirm whether you have the required level.**

Lower priority will be given to applicants who have already participated in mobility actions under the Erasmus Mundus Programme or Erasmus+ International Credit Mobility (non-European) Programme. In the case of Erasmus Mundus Master Courses and Erasmus Mundus Joint Master Degrees, previous participation is only taken into account for scholarship holders.

For PhD applicants who received Erasmus grants for mobilities in Europe, mobilities under this call will count towards the maximum of 12 months allowed per study cycle.

5. Timeline

Call opens	Upon publication on A4U website
Call closes	2 February 2018
Publication of selection results	26 February 2018

6. Application process

The call and the application form will be published on A4U website <http://alliance4universities.eu/en/mobility-scholarships/>. All partner universities websites will refer to it by publishing an announcement.

Applicants must complete an online application form and attach the following documentation:

Level	Documents to be submitted
PhD	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – CV – Learning Agreement signed by the applicant, the thesis supervisor at the home university and the host academic at the receiving university. Applicants should complete ONLY the first 2 pages of the Learning Agreement. Scanned signatures are accepted. – Recommendation letter, which should not be attached to the online application form but instead sent directly by the referee to coordinacion@a-4u.eu before 2 February 2018.
Staff	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Abridged CV – Mobility Agreement for teaching/training, signed by the applicant, the home and the host institutions. Scanned signatures are accepted.

International Offices at participating institutions can assist applicants in getting signatures for the learning/mobility agreements. For contact details, please check section 11.

Selection results will be published in A4U website <http://alliance4universities.eu/en/mobility-scholarships/> and will be announced to the beneficiaries and partner universities by e-mail.

7. Evaluation criteria and selection

Grants will be awarded on a competitive basis, based on quality evaluation of applications and following a procedure which guarantees transparency, fairness and transparency.

Evaluation criteria for **PhD students** in order of importance:

- Quality of the research proposal in the Learning Agreement.
- Academic qualifications and research experience of the candidate.
- Matching with the research areas at the host university and expected impact of the research stay.

Evaluation criteria for **staff** in order of importance:

- Quality of the proposal in the Mobility Agreement, according to methodology, feasibility, teaching and learning innovation and/or curriculum development.
- Relevance and expected impact of the proposal for the host institution and added value upon return to the home institution.
- Curriculum of the candidate, including teaching experience, research, publications, etc.

Once the call closes, the participating universities will review the submitted applications and prioritise them according to the evaluation criteria, while making sure the candidates meet the necessary linguistic requirements.

The applications will then be evaluated by A4U Selection Committee consisting of 4 Vice-rectors for International Relations of A4U universities, with the support of A4U international Project Manager.

If two or more candidates score equal marks, the decision will be made on the basis of seeking a balanced distribution of grants among partner universities.

In case the selected applicants outnumber available grants, A4U will keep them on a waiting list in case a grant becomes available.

8. Grant payment procedure

Grants amounts will be calculated according to the real arrival and departure dates reported by the host institutions, taking into consideration their academic calendars.

Payment of grant to students

PhD students going from Spain to Russia, South Africa, India, Indonesia and Iran: The grant will be paid in two instalments via a bank transfer into the participant's bank account. The first instalment of 70% of the total grant will be paid once the student has registered at the host

university, signed the Grant Agreement and received the certificate of arrival. The second instalment of 30% of the total grant will be paid at the end of the mobility after the student has received a certificate of attendance from the host university and has completed the online EU survey.

PhD students going from Russia, South Africa, India, Indonesia and Iran to Spain: the procedure is as above, with the only difference that upon his/her arrival to Spain, the student needs to open a Spanish bank account, where their grant will be paid.

Payment of grant to staff

Faculty going from Spain to Russia, South Africa, India, Indonesia and Iran: Once the certificate of attendance from the host university has been issued, the participant has completed the online EU survey and signed the Grant Agreement, the grant will be paid in one instalment to the beneficiary's bank account.

Faculty going from Russia, South Africa, India, Indonesia and Iran to Spain: Once the Grant Agreement and the certificate of attendance from the host university have been issued, and the participant has completed the online EU survey, the grant will be paid in one instalment by a cheque.

9. Rights of the beneficiary

- To perform the entire mobility period awarded between 3 and 5 months for students (3 months being the minimum and 5 months being the maximum), and 5 days for Faculty without extensions. The grant received must coincide with the actual dates of the mobility period.
- To receive the grant according to the amounts set out in the Erasmus+ Programme guidelines. The expenses not covered by the grant will be borne by the beneficiary.
- To benefit from tuition fee waiver as a student, notwithstanding other fees for the use of certain services or activities that might be applicable.
- To receive information and advice on the application procedure from the home university, as well as pre-departure and on-site guidance from the host university.
- To have the study or teaching period abroad recognized by their home university.

10. Obligations of the beneficiary

- To be in possession of adequate insurance throughout the mobility period according to Erasmus+ programme rules. Insurance will be provided and paid for by the Alliance 4 Universities.
- To obtain the visa for the stay in the receiving country and bear the costs of obtaining the visa.
- To book flights and accommodation in the country of destination. For this, beneficiaries will need to advance their own funds since the mobility grant will be paid only once their stay begins. Host universities can provide information to participants how to find suitable accommodation.
- To carry out the mobility stay according to the proposal and dates committed, during 2017-2018 and 2018-2019, always ending before 31 July 2019.
- To participate, if requested, in sharing their mobility experience.
- To complete the required procedures and fill in the necessary documents as per Erasmus+ Programme before, during and after the mobility period, meeting the deadlines established by
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- A4U. Before mobility: signature of the Grant Agreement and the Learning/Mobility Agreement Proposal. After mobility: submission of the Certificate of Attendance and online EU survey.
- Any other obligation inherent to the Erasmus+ Programme and the internal regulations of the home and host institutions.

11. Information

Should any doubt arise over the interpretation of this Call, the Selection Committee will decide on the case and interpret it in the light of the guidelines of Erasmus+ Programme.

A4U International Project Manager will be in charge of the general coordination and management of this call, and will be the initial point of contact for applicants and beneficiaries.

Olga Belova
A4U International Project Manager
coordinacion@a-4u.eu
+34 935 422 079

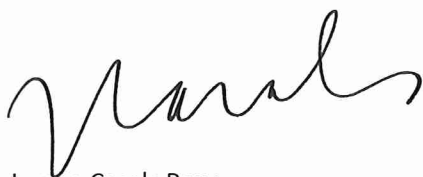
International Relations Services at A4U universities will provide support to incoming and outgoing applicants at the application stage and during mobility.

Mobility Office at Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona (UAB):
erasmus.ka107@uab.cat / +34 93 586 8499
Mobility Office at Universidad Autónoma de Madrid (UAM):
proyectos.internacionales@uam.es / +34 91 497 2935, + 34 91 497 3283
Mobility Office at Universidad Carlos III de Madrid (UC3M):
proyectos_internacionales@uc3m.es / +34 91 624 9550
International Projects Manager at Universidad Pompeu Fabra (UPF):
silvia.vilanova@upf.edu / +34 935 42 2063

Please note that A4U universities will be closed for Christmas holidays from 23 December 2017 until 7 January 2018.

Any additional information on this call will be published on A4U website
<http://alliance4universities.eu/en/mobility-scholarships/>

Barcelona, 24 November 2017



Jaume Casals Pons
President of Alliance 4 Universities