

## CALL FOR APPLICATIONS 2025

### Erasmus+ KA1-International Credit Mobility (ICM) Scholarships for 3-month-research internships between Universidade de São Paulo (USP), Brazil, & University of Groningen (UG), The Netherlands

#### Scholarship Details

- Total number of scholarships available: 5\*
- Period: three months (90 days)\*
- Type: master's students mobility from USP to UG.
- Target group: USP full time master students who aim to carry out a research internship under the supervision of a UG academic and who actively consider the USP UG Double PhD program
- Period: to be implemented with a **start date** between **1 April and 1 May 2025\***. Implementation needs to have **finished by 31 July 2025**.
- Benefits:
  - Travel: up to 1.500 euros
  - Monthly allowance: 850 euros
  - Optional: allowance add-on of 250 euros per month for two candidates who meet socio-economic underrepresentation criteria

\*Note: Scholarships of three months will be adjusted to two months if, for logistical reasons, the start date is after 1 May 2025. In this case, UG will allocate up to six (6) two-month scholarships and one (1) three-month scholarship, resulting in a total of seven (7) scholarships. Additionally, UG will provide two extra travel scholarships, each up to €1,500, funded by its institutional budget, as these will not be covered under the Erasmus+ ICM framework.

#### 1. Focus

This call aims to promote international collaboration between USP and UG under the Erasmus+ KA107 program, specifically supporting master's students conducting research aligned with their thesis projects. The program encourages students to explore opportunities for a subsequent double degree PhD through co-supervision between the two institutions.

USP and UG will select students who are interested in pursuing research internships rather than coursework. This program emphasizes the potential for developing a "Sandwich PhD" project, with flexible mobility start dates as long as the UG supervisor has agreed and the mobility complies with Erasmus+ program guidelines.

## 2. Eligibility

- Candidates must meet the eligibility requirements at USP, that may be set by the respective academic unit and/or AUCANI.
- Applicants must demonstrate alignment between their research and potential UG supervisors' expertise.
- The focus is on selecting candidates interested in research internships.
- Applicants must actively consider pursuing a future Double Degree PhD with co-supervision by a UG researcher.
- Candidates must be USP Regular master students (enrollment).

## 3. Matching with researchers at UG (and UMCG)

All students must have a University of Groningen (UG) supervisor who issues a pre-acceptance or invitation letter. Applicants are encouraged to contact UG researchers directly to check for academic compatibility and supervisor availability. When contacting potential supervisors, students should include:

- A CV in English
- Key information about their research topic.

Applicants may use our Academic Matching Form (available for download [here](#)) to facilitate this process. If you need help identifying a supervisor at UG or UMCG (University Medical Center Groningen), please contact [latinamerica@rug.nl](mailto:latinamerica@rug.nl). You will be asked to complete the matching form and send it along with your CV to the previously mentioned email. Requests for support must be submitted no later than January 24th, 2025. After this date, we may not be able to provide support.

Important Considerations:

- Ensure UG/UMCG has expertise in your area of research.
- Browse the UG website to locate potential supervisors. For UMCG, we recommend reviewing research programs from its five institutes. You may consult [www.rug.nl](http://www.rug.nl) or [www.umcgresearch.org](http://www.umcgresearch.org) (biomedical sciences), or any other information source of your choosing.
- Using [latinamerica@rug.nl](mailto:latinamerica@rug.nl) for matchmaking support is optional. You are welcome to approach supervisors independently.
- Be transparent when contacting multiple potential supervisors. Clearly mention if you have reached out to others.
- Start early! Locating a supervisor and scheduling an interview may take time.
- Despite our efforts, finding an available matching supervisor may not always be possible.

Once an academic match is made and a UG supervisor agrees to host your stay, either the applicant or the supervisor can download the pre-acceptance or invitation letter template [here](#). If you have trouble accessing the template, please contact [latinamerica@rug.nl](mailto:latinamerica@rug.nl). Supervisors may also draft their own letter and include any additional relevant information for the selection committees to consider.

#### 4. Application Process

For the UG application, applicants should submit the following package through this [online form](#):

- I. Application form. (Applicants should use the fixed template available for download [here](#)), including a motivational statement (instructions available in the application form);
- II. English-language CV;
- III. Proof of Registration as a full-time student in an USP master's program
- IV. Proof of English proficiency (exemptions possible if the UG supervisor is satisfied with the level of English of the candidate and explicitly mentions this in the pre-acceptance letter);
- V. Transcript of records (academic grades);
- VI. High School Transcript of Records (optional; only if you were primarily enrolled in Brazilian public schools);
- VII. Pre-acceptance letter of the hosting UG supervisor (for template please check point 3). It should explicitly mention that the supervisor has interviewed you. The supervisor may add to the template any information they consider will support your application-;
- VIII. Letter of support of your USP supervisor for the mobility and master's program;
- IX. Research plan for mobility period at UG (Applicants should use the fixed template available for download [here](#));
- X. Proof of socio-economic underrepresentation (if applicable, please check point 5 for examples);
- XI. Copy of passport ID page

**Important:** USP may set additional requirements not yet known at the time of the call launch. Applicants are encouraged to consult USP's International Office for any potential internal procedures or deadlines. However, if no additional procedures are specified by USP, candidates should proceed directly with the UG application process. Applications will only be considered if accepted by the relevant authorities at both institutions.

#### 5. Selection and Evaluation

##### Eligibility Check:

Applicants who do not meet the eligibility criteria outlined in Section 3 will not be considered for the evaluation process.

**Evaluation Criteria:**

Applications will be evaluated based on the following criteria:

**→ Academic Excellence & Motivation:**

Candidates will be assessed based on their academic performance and the strength of their motivation to pursue research at the University of Groningen (UG). This includes evaluating the alignment of their research interests with the program's objectives and their overall academic achievements.

**→ Cooperation Potential/Sustainability:**

→ The selection committee will consider the potential for long-term collaboration between the student, their home institution (USP), and the host institution (UG). This criterion examines the likelihood of developing sustainable research partnerships and progressing to a double/joint degree PhD program.

**→ Socio-Economic Underrepresentation:**

This criterion ensures that opportunities are accessible to students who might otherwise face barriers to participating in international research mobility, including those from economically disadvantaged backgrounds or underrepresented groups in higher education and research.

**Examples of Supporting Documents:**

- ◆ Proof of financial need (e.g., income statements, scholarship details, financial aid documents).
- ◆ Personal statement describing how financial circumstances impact their ability to participate in the program.
- ◆ Any other documents that can substantiate the socio-economic need (e.g., family income, employment status, etc.).

**Scoring & Ranking:**

Each application will be assigned a normalized score based on the criteria listed. Applicants will then be ranked accordingly. The top-5 ranked applicants\* (see "Scholarship Details") will receive the scholarship. Students not selected will be placed on a reserve list.

**Results Announcement:**

The results will be announced via email to all applicants.

**6. Implementation**

- The Mobility & Scholarship Desk at UG coordinates all mobility aspects (budget, travel, accommodation, etc.) post-award.
- Only actual travel costs, pre-approved by MSD, will be reimbursed, up to 1500 euros.

- Exact start and end dates should be agreed upon between the grantee and the UG supervisor and will only be final upon approval by the MSD.
- For students who are awarded the three (3)-month scholarship: it is *not possible* to overstay the 90-day requirement in Europe because individuals who do not hold an EU/EER nationality will need a long-stay visa.

## 7. Call Timeline

Launch of Application Call:	January 15th , 2025
Matchmaking Support Deadline:	January 24th , 2025
Application Deadline:	February 10th, 2025
Final Selection:	Mid to late February 2025
Final Notification to Students:	Early March 2025
Mobility Window for 3-month research stays	Start date: Between April 1st and May 1st , 2025 End date: July 31st, 2025. Grant period: 90 days max.
Mobility Window for 2-month research stays	Start date: Between May and June 2nd, 2025. End date: July 31st, 2025. Grant period: 60 days max.

## 8. Contact

For questions or additional information regarding the scholarship, please contact us at:  
latinamerica@rug.nl.

## 9. Disclaimer

- We have made every effort to ensure the accuracy of the information in this document. However, the institutions are not responsible for any errors or inaccuracies, and no rights can be derived from this information.
- If false documentation is found during the process, the application will be discarded.