

Selection scholarships for exchange **OUTSIDE** the Erasmus area

Erasmus+ area = 27 EU Member States + North Macedonia, Norway, Liechtenstein, Iceland, Serbia and Turkey

Academic year 2025-2026 – Second call

Information for Ghent University students

For your information: The United Kingdom doesn't belong to the Erasmus+ zone. Scholarships for an exchange to the United Kingdom are therefore part of this selection process. Through this call you can't apply for a scholarship for an exchange to Switzerland as it has its own scholarship program.

Introduction

These guidelines contain information on:

- The eligibility requirements for a scholarship
- The range of scholarship possibilities for an exchange outside the Erasmus+ zone during the second call
- The criteria and procedures applied when awarding the scholarships

Second Call

A first call with scholarship possibilities for an exchange outside the Erasmus area was launched in January 2025. After the first call, most of the scholarships were granted. If you were not able to apply during the first call (for example traineeship post unknown or subject Master's dissertation unknown), you can apply for this second call.

The scholarship opportunities during this call are more limited than in the first call. Only **travel grants** are available — scholarships with a monthly allowance are no longer awarded. Moreover, the number of scholarships is limited. In case of a shortage, priority will be given to students with greater socio-financial need.

Retroactivity is possible for this second call. This means that you can apply for a scholarship for an exchange taking place between 1/07/2025 and 31/08/2026 — even if you have already returned at the time of application. Please note: the exchange must be validated in your curriculum **for the academic year 2025–2026**.

The eligibility requirements for a scholarship

- The exchange concerns your study, internship or research as part of a master's dissertation and needs to be **acknowledged and validated** in the curriculum.
- The exchange is part of a curriculum of a bachelor, master or master after master programme.
- The exchange is part of a **diploma contract**, which therefore means that the exchange falls within the curriculum leading to graduation. To qualify for a scholarship, the exchange must not take place within a credit target contract.
- The exchange last a **minimum of 1 month** (a bottom limit of 28 days) and a **maximum of 12 months**, and must include at least 5 ECTS credits. The number of credits must be proportional to the duration of the exchange.
- All disciplines are eligible for an exchange experience.
- You don't pay **tuition fee** in the receiving institution/company/organisation.
- Your faculty decides which destination you can go to and also which period you can stay abroad during your study. For more information, contact your [faculty contact](#) (FCI).

- Students of all nationalities are entitled to apply for an exchange grant. However, you cannot apply for a grant to an exchange destination in your home country (where you lived before your enrolment at Ghent University).
- You submitted an **exchange application** via OASIS which has been selected by your faculty. If you want to be considered for an exchange grant for destinations outside of the Erasmus+ area, please select '**Grant for exchanges outside Erasmus area**' as the appropriate funding channel in the application. If your exchange application has already been approved, you can no longer change your funding channel yourself. Please contact outgoing.students@ugent.be in that case. The deadline for this is **November 27, 2025** (12:00 Brussels time).
- **On exchange for studies?**
 - Your faculty needs to have a bilateral framework agreement, more specifically a Cooperation Agreement or a Student Exchange Agreement, with the partnering institution abroad. You can address your faculty for an overview of the agreements or you can consult the following link: <https://kaartakkoorden.ugent.be/> (use the following filter: Mobility Type = Student Mobility).
 - You take **30 ECTS** for one semester or **60 ECTS** for a whole academic year, and you study at least one semester at the partner institution. The exchange starts after September 1 2025 unless the guest institution requires the student to attend earlier because of the academic calendar or any other possible reason. The exchange concerns the academic year 2025-2026 and ends before the next academic year (2026-2027) starts.
- **On exchange for traineeship or research for Master's dissertation?**
 - A cooperation Agreement or a Student Exchange Agreement is not necessary (but desirable) in the scope of an **Internship or research** as part of a master's dissertation.
 - Your exchange last a minimum of one month with a minimum of 5 ECTS. and must be recognized in your curriculum in the academic year 2025-2026. For example:
 - If you stay abroad (internship/research) during the summer period, July-August 2026, and if your stay is part of a course in your curriculum during the **academic year 2025-2026**, please indicate that you wish to be considered for an exchange grant;
 - If you stay abroad (internship/research) during the summer period, July-August 2026, and if your stay is part of a course in your curriculum during the **academic year 2026-2027**, please DO NOT indicate that you wish to be considered for an exchange grant (you will have to wait for the next call for grants).

The range of scholarship possibilities

There is one type of scholarship that can be awarded during the second call, which is the travel grant. A student can only receive **one scholarship per academic year**.

- A travel grant depends on **the distance** between the sending institution and the receiving institution. The travel grants per country are known already and can be consulted [here](#).
- The number of available scholarships: around 50.
- The **VLIR-UOS travel grants for internship and research** are part of this category. These are scholarships for an internship or research in a country in the Global South (Africa, Asia, Latin-America).

Extra requirements for these are:

- You must follow a **mandatory preparation moment** before your departure and add a proof of this to your exchange application in Oasis. Of course you do not have to wait for the selection result to already register and/or participate. Ghent University offers in collaboration with UCOS - University Center for Development Cooperation - several preparation days in English on different dates. [Register for the preparation day](#).
- Your studies at Ghent University are not part of a European exchange programme nor are they funded by a European grant. You are not a recipient of any other type of funding coming from the budget of the Belgian Directorate-General for Development Co-operation (in Dutch abbr. to DGD).
- You have not been allocated a VLIR-UOS travel grant before.

- You are eligible only if your exchange destination features on the **VLIR-UOS list of destination countries**:
 - **Africa:**
Benin, Burkina Faso, Burundi, the DR of Congo, Ethiopia, Ghana, Guinea, Cameroon, Kenya, Madagascar, Morocco, Mozambique, Niger, Rwanda, Senegal, Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia, Zimbabwe, South-Africa
 - **Asia:**
Bangladesh, Cambodia, the Philippines, India, Indonesia, the Palestinian territories, Sri Lanka, Vietnam
 - **Latin-America:**
Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Cuba, Ecuador, Haiti, Nicaragua, Peru, Suriname

The criteria procedures applied when awarding the scholarships

General Principles:

- if there is a shortage of scholarships (demand exceeds supply), you will be more likely to get a scholarship if your socio-financial need is demonstrably greater;
- if you want to apply for a scholarship, you simply need to select **"Grant for exchanges outside Erasmus area"** as the appropriate funding channel in your exchange application (via OASIS). The deadline for this is **November 27, 2025** (12:00 Brussels time);
- also be sure to substantiate your request thoroughly in the **'motivation'** text box via OASIS (see more information below).

The evaluation and selection is conducted based on the information that is available through OASIS. You will be awarded plus points and minus points for the different criteria, which allows for a ranking based on the total scores. Please read below how this works.

PLUS POINTS

The plus points are awarded based on your **status** and your **financial needs**, as well as on the **duration of your stay**.

1. Status

The following categories merit HIGH plus points:

- a. students who have been allocated a Flemish study allowance (corroborated by the Flemish Agency for Higher Education, Adult Education, Qualifications and Study Grants, in Dutch abbr. to AHOVOKS)¹;
- b. students with a disability (recognised by the Flemish Agency for Persons with a Disability)²;
- c. working students. In this case, the student is either an employee or a job seeker and their university training is part of an employment track determined by the Flemish Employment Agency. To be eligible, the student cannot be a holder of a Master's degree or a second-cycle diploma.

ONLY for categories **b and c**, we ask that you contact outgoing.students@ugent.be to substantiate your status with the necessary supporting documents. You can do this until **November 27, 2025** (12:00 Brussels time).

2. Financial need

The following circumstances merit HIGH plus points: based on a limited portfolio, Team International Mobility determines that the need for an exchange grant is high.

IN CASE you may not belong to the categories described above (a), but your socio-financial background and overall available income are such that a stay abroad is impossible without a travel grant (and only in that case), we recommend submitting a **limited portfolio** containing the following information:

a) **Financial plan** (maximum 1 page)

¹the data in the data warehouse of the Ministry of Education and Training will be considered as correct.

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Explain how you plan to finance your stay abroad (marked in euro's). How much do you think your stay abroad will cost (accommodation, meals, transportation, costs of living in the area, etc)? What income can you count on (support parents, holiday job and/or job during the academic year, savings, etc)?

b) Socio-financial motivation (maximum 0,5 page)

Why do you need the scholarship the most from a socio-financial point of view? Here, you can also quote other personal reasons such as family situation, social circumstances, if you want to. If applicable, you can add supporting documents to your motivation. Possible supporting documents can be:

- Tax bill from your parent(s) or evidence of independent student with a minimum wage;
- Evidence of work process;
- Proof that you are part of a family with modified social circumstances;
- Pay slip of holiday job and/or job during academic year;
- Other

You can send your portfolio to outgoing.students@ugent.be. You have time to do so **until November 27, 2025** (12:00 Brussels time).

Evaluation

If Team International Mobility deems that your socio-financial need is very high, you will be allocated the same amount of high plus points as the students in category (1).

3. Duration of your stay

- You will be allocated higher plus points gradually, depending on **the duration of your stay abroad**.
- The exchange has a **minimum duration** of one month (5 ECTS credits). The longer the exchange, the more plus points you will receive.

The main reason why we use this criterion is to foster a more sustainable mobility. Another reason to stimulate longer exchange experiences is to hone your intercultural and international competencies. In addition, the expenses of short-term exchange experiences are higher, relatively speaking, than those of longer stays abroad.

MINUS POINTS

We allocate minus points to students who have had **previous exchange opportunities** during their study career, as well as to students who have **previously received a high grant** for a non-Erasmus+ exchange experience.

1. The following situations merit LOW minus points: you have had **a prior exchange experience during your study career**, either to an Erasmus or an 'outside Erasmus+' destination. We allocate low minus points because we definitely do not want to dissuade students from participating in a second exchange experience.
2. The following situations merit HIGH minus points: you have had a prior exchange experience to a destination outside the Erasmus+ zone during your study career AND you **received a high grant (monthly allowance and travel allowance)**. The grant allocation mechanism gives priority to students who have never received a high exchange grant before. However, the principles above do not necessarily mean that you are completely ineligible for a grant in the context of an exchange outside the Erasmus+zone. It does mean that your application will not be considered as high priority. In case of an insufficient number of grants, your application may be left out of consideration.

The MOTIVATION Text Box in OASIS

You will be awarded a score on the 'motivation' text box you add to your exchange application in OASIS (maximum length: 0,5 page). Be serious about writing a meticulous **academic** motivation for your exchange experience at the institution/organisation of your choice. For an already approved exchange application, send an email to outgoing.students@ugent.be with our academic motivation. The deadline is **November 27, 2025** (12:00 Brussels time), we will add your academic motivation to the appropriate field in Oasis.

Good to Know

- An exchange grant is **NEVER fully cost-effective**.
- A student can only be allocated **1 scholarship** per academic year.
- There is always a chance **you may NOT receive an exchange grant**. If the scholarships are in high demand, and the available funds are insufficient, your application may be left out of consideration. This does not mean that you cannot participate in an exchange experience, but it does mean that you will have to do so without a grant.
- If you have been allocated an exchange grant and it turns out that your exchange application does not meet the criteria (e.g. it does not meet the bottom limit of ECTS credits or the minimum duration), the grant **can be reclaimed**.
- **Each faculty** has its **own deadlines** for exchange applications in OASIS. Please contact your faculty for more information.
- Please take into account that your application also has to be accepted by the partner institution/host organisation. Whether or not they will receive exchange students is always their decision to make. Your selection is final only after acceptance by the host institution.
- In some cases, incorrect information regarding **the duration of your stay** in your exchange application may turn out to your disadvantage. It is therefore important to fill out the dates as truthfully as possible.
- In some cases, we might contact you for **more information** during or after the selection procedure, or with the request to upload more information in an application tool of a funding agency. You will be notified of this.
- **Safety situation** at your destination: sometimes for some countries travel restrictions apply or the general safety situation is uncertain. It's possible that you're granted a scholarship but that you will not be able to leave to your host country. For most destinations there are no problems but you will only receive admission to leave for an exchange if certain conditions are fulfilled: for instance positive travel advice from the Belgian authorities or no restrictive measures that seriously impede daily life in your host country. Receiving a scholarship is conditional and does not guarantee you will be given the green light to leave. We advise you not to incur any expenses for transport, accommodation, etc. prior to formal admission.
- Please make sure that you are **well-prepared** for your stay abroad.
 - Administrative processes and/or documents (e.g. visa, insurance papers, passport, command of the language).
 - Health risks (e.g. vaccinations, information from the Institute of Tropical Medicine and/or information on your own medical background: www.itg.be).
 - Security risks (cf. any travel advice issued by the Federal Public Service of Foreign Affairs: www.diplomatie.be).
 - **Financially**: draw up a budget plan: what are the estimated expenses of a stay abroad (accommodation, meals, transportation, living expenses in the area, etc.)? What types of resources do you have (financial support by your parents, summer job, job during the academic year, savings, etc.)? Try to be as conservative as possible and factor in potential expenses as broadly as possible.

Summary

- You have an exchange application in OASIS, **selected by your faculty**.
- A grant allocation does not require a separate application. We retrieve most of our information from OASIS. If you want to be considered for an exchange grant for destinations outside the Erasmus+ zone, please select **"Grant for exchanges outside Erasmus area"** as the appropriate funding channel in the application. If your exchange application has already been approved, you can no longer change your funding channel yourself. Please contact outgoing.students@ugent.be in that case. The deadline for this is **November 27, 2025** (12:00 Brussels time).
- In case you experience a demonstrable socio-financial need for a travel grant to fund your stay abroad, send a short portfolio to outgoing.students@ugent.be. You can do this until **November 27, 2025** (12:00 Brussels time).
- Be serious about writing a meticulous **academic motivation** for your exchange experience at the institution/organisation of your choice. Submit this motivation in OASIS using the corresponding text box. If your exchange application has already been approved, please forward your motivation to outgoing.students@ugent.be. The deadline for this is **November 27, 2025** (12:00 Brussels time).

THE SELECTION RESULTS WILL BE PUBLISHED ON January 16 AT THE LATEST

Contact

Every student who is interested in a scholarship for a foreign stay outside the Erasmus area can contact his/her faculty in order to prepare the stay abroad. A list of FCI's can be found [here](#).

For additional general information on the existing grants or the selection mechanism, please get in touch with [Team International Mobility](#).