



Frequently Asked Questions - FAQ

(Version v.0034)

This document is not intended to repeat information available on the TROPIMUNDO website or in its online Application-Information-Management tool. It is intended to provide **additional information** or to provide examples of particular personal situations.

GENERAL INFORMATION ON THE MASTERS COURSE AND ITS GOVERNANCE

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Who are the associate partners and what are their tasks?

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TROPIMUNDO has >50 Associate Partners that agreed to advertise the program, to provide or to communicate existing placement/job/internship/thesis perspectives and/or scholarships, to assist in evaluating Master theses and to participate in the continuous evaluation of the Master's program through TROPIMUNDO's Steering Board's external advisory body and through its Internal Evaluation Committee. Their names are indicated on the TROPIMUNDO Homepage and TROPIMUNDO students have access to their contact persons.

Why am I not eligible for a scholarship?

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The regulation regarding applicant's eligibility for (extra) Scholarships is governed solely by the European Commission's Education, Audiovisual and Culture Executive Agency (EACEA). The TROPIMUNDO Consortium has no other choice than to follow these rules.

QUESTIONS RELATED TO APPLICATIONS (DEADLINES, ELIGIBILITY, ETC.)

Do I have the right diploma(s) with enough study credits to be eligible?

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You need **minimum** a Bachelor of Science degree **equivalent** to 180 ECTS with a major in Biology, Natural Sciences, Zoology, Botany, Environmental Sciences, or **equivalent** from an **accredited** university. A hypothetical student that has completed four years BSc. (Hon's) in Forestry for 161 credits and has an additional Master in Forestry for 40 credits fulfils the eligibility for this course.

Mathematics, Physics, Chemistry, Biochemistry, Statistics and Biology/Ecology are considered essential (equivalent courses are also considered), and course marks on these or equivalent subjects are evaluated by the TROPIMUNDO Selection Committee. Students who finalised their secondary school in the UK may have followed one or more of these basic scientific courses in secondary school and should emphasize this in their motivation letter.

A non-exhaustive list of diplomas considered being equivalent (provided the essential courses listed above appear on the course transcripts) or not equivalent to a BSc. degree with a major in Biology, Natural Sciences, Environmental Sciences is given below by way of example (in alphabetical order).

The lists below are based on applications that have actually been submitted to TROPIMUNDO since 2013; degree names listed in both columns have been subject to both acceptances and rejections based on the exact courses followed by the applicant. **No applications are accepted or rejected based on degree name only; courses and course names are always scrutinised to decide whether or not a degree is acceptable.**

Equivalent degrees

BSc.	Agriculture
BSc.	Agroforestry and Nature Management
BSc.	Agronomie
BSc.	Aménagement et Protection de l'Environnement
BSc.	Applied Biology
BSc.	Applied Natural Sciences
BSc.	Aquatic Science, Fisheries or Oceanography
BSc.	Aquatic Resources
BSc.	Biochemistry
BSc.	Biodiversity and Conservation Biology
BSc.	Biology and Sustainable Development
BSc.	Bio-engineering: Agronomy
BSc.	Biotechnology
BSc.	Botany and Conservation

Equivalent degrees

BSc.	Chemistry, Microbiology, Zoology
BSc.	Climate Science
BSc.	Conservation Biology
BSc.	Dryland Agriculture
BSc.	Ecology and Environmental Biology
BSc.	Ecology and Evolutionary Biology
BSc.	Ecology and Remote Sensing
BSc.	Environmental Sciences and Resources Management
BSc.	Environmental Sciences, Management of Socio-Ecological Systems
BSc.	Fisheries, Forestry and Wildlife
BSc.	Fisheries and Aquatic Science
BSc.	Forest Management and Utilization
BSc.	Forest Resources Conservation and Ecotourism
BSc.	Forestry
BSc.	Forestry and Environmental Sciences
BSc.	Forestry and Wood Technology
BSc.	Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology
BSc.	Geology and Environmental Sciences
Lic.	Sciences Vie, Terre et Environnement
BSc.	Life Sciences
BSc.	Management and Conservation of Natural Resources
BSc.	Marine Biology and Coastal Ecology
BSc.	Microbiology
BSc.	Molecular Biology
BSc.	Oceanography
BSc.	Plant Protection
BSc.	Range Management
BSc.	Rural Development, Agronomy and Forestry
BSc.	Sea Science
BSc.	Wildlife Science, Conservation or Management

If your diploma is not listed here or you believe it is equivalent, then please submit and a decision will be taken after examining your course list.

NON equivalent degrees

Professional Bachelor degrees or Licence Professionnelle aimed at teaching (e.g. Horticulture, Production Forestry, ...)

Bachelors in Education (even with a major in Biology)

Bachelors of Arts

BSc.	Agricultural Resource Economics and Management
BSc.	Animal Behaviour and Welfare
BSc.	Biochemistry (without ecology)
BSc.	Biomedical Sciences
BSc.	Biotechnology (without ecology)
B.	Business Administration
BSc.	Chemistry or Chemical Engineering
BSc.	Civil Engineering
B.	Commerce
BSc.	Computer Science
BSc.	Crop Production and Protection
BSc.	Cultural Anthropology and Tourism
BSc.	Ecotourism

NON equivalent degrees

BSc.	Education Sciences, even with a major in Biology
BSc.	Electrical Engineering
BSc.	Environmental Engineering and Renewable Energies
BSc.	Farm Forestry
BSc.	Floriculture
BSc.	Forest Resources Management
BSc.	Geography (without ecology)
BSc.	Geoinformatics Engineering
BSc.	Geology
BSc.	Global Affairs
B.	History
BSc.	Horticulture
B.	Human Nutrition and Dietetics
BSc.	Human Sciences
BSc.	Industrial Agriculture
BSc.	Journalism
BSc.	Language and Literature
BSc.	Mathematics
B.	Mathematical Economics
B.	Medical Laboratory Science
BSc.	Medicine
BSc.	Metallurgical and Materials Engineering
BSc.	Molecular Biology (without ecology)
BSc.	Nanosciences / Medical Nanosciences
BSc.	Pharmacy
BSc.	Physics
BSc.	Policy & Law, or Criminology
B.	Port and Shipping Management
BSc.	Production forestry
BSc.	Public administration
BSc.	Public Health
BSc.	Rural Development and agricultural extension
BSc.	Sanitation and Environmental Engineering
BSc.	Social Geography
BSc.	Social Sciences
BSc.	Sociology and Economics
BSc.	Statistics
BSc.	Surveying and Geographic Information Science
BSc.	Urban and Regional Planning
BSc.	Technology in Industrial Microbiology
BSc.	Veterinary medicine
BSc.	Wildlife Management
BSc.	Wildlife Tourism

I do not speak French or Spanish; can I apply to the program?

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Yes you can, but you should carefully select the right Trajectories based on course languages. All detailed course descriptions are available on the TROPIMUNDO website. Basically, all Trajectories involving SU, MNHN, UdG, UdA, UCAD, UDSch and UNC necessitate CEFR language proficiency level B2 in French. At ULB-VUB the language of instruction is English or English + French, and B2 for English and B2 (or exceptionally B1) for French is required. At UDEA the language of instruction is Spanish and students needs B2 level. Finally, at UNIFI, TUM, UNIRé, RUH, UMT and UP all courses are taught in English and students need B2 level.

While filling the application form, **please make sure** that your Trajectory choices and your selection of the course language (Section 10) matches your current language proficiency levels (Section 8). At times applicants indicate that they do not speak French (CEFR level A0) but then go on to select Trajectories where proficiency in French is mandatory. Therefore we advise to read and understand the instructions available on our website.

Can I send my official documents in PDF by e-mail or by ordinary post?

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No. All documents must be uploaded online. In addition, official documents comprising multiple pages must be merged and uploaded as a single PDF document. We do not accept any documents sent by e-mail or by ordinary mail, and any documents sent through this way will be destroyed upon arrival.

Can I enrol after the deadline?

The annual deadlines are set to close the applications to the program. However the submission of an application is not the same as the official enrolment procedure with the institutions of the TROPIMUNDO Consortium, the latter of which is started approximately in March or April. Also note that there are multiple deadlines per year depending on whether you are applying for an Erasmus Mundus scholarship or as a self-funded student.

Do I need to send/bring my original diplomas?

Whereas we are happy to proceed with diploma scans at selection stage, at enrolment stage some institutions require the original Bachelor diploma or a certified copy, but **not** a copy of a certified copy. You should check these requirements before travelling to Europe). Also note that if you are accepted under condition of providing your Bachelor diploma, and you have not done so at enrolment stage, you will have to do it at a later stage or find yourself denied the TROPIMUNDO diploma.

POST-ADMISSION QUESTIONS

Is the Masters course covered by a Consortium Agreement?

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A Consortium Agreement is signed between all teaching Higher Education Institutions involved in TROPIMUNDO that can be consulted by TROPIMUNDO students and staff.

Do I need to sign a Student Agreement?

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Yes. Each student needs to sign a Student Agreement, which is available on the website.

Where can I obtain information about immigration and visas?

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The links below are just for information, but need to be cross-checked by the student as they may be outdated beyond the knowledge of TROPIMUNDO. Since all students start their S1 in Belgium, the Belgian visa is the most important one and so is the 2-yr Belgian residence permit. In addition, since the visum for your S2 country will most likely be obtained from Brussels, the S2 countries' respective contacts in Brussels are indicated as well. Do not engage in S2 visa applications without cross-checking with your Local Coordinator, because in some case the application procedure needs to be launched by your S2 university (not by you).



BELGIUM

<https://diplomatie.belgium.be/>

N.B. To apply for a Belgian visa as a **self-funded student**, you will need to have a financial guarantor. A sponsor supporting one student must prove a steady income of at least 2,049 EUR net/month + 803 EUR net/month = 2,852 EUR net/month. If these conditions cannot be met, the Belgian consulate will not issue a student visa. Students with an Erasmus Mundus scholarship will have 1400 EUR/month of monthly allowance to prove financial independence. These amounts may change.



FRANCE (INCL.



GUADELOUPE,



FRENCH GUIANA,



REUNION ISLAND AND



NEW CALEDONIA)

<https://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/coming-to-france/requesting-a-visa/>

<https://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/coming-to-france/studying-in-france/administrative-steps/>

France in Belgium: <https://be.ambafrance.org/>



ITALY

<https://www.esteri.it/en/>

Italy in Belgium: <https://ambbruxelles.esteri.it/en/>



COLOMBIA

https://www.cancilleria.gov.co/tramites_servicios/visa/requisitos

Colombia in Belgium: <https://belgica.embajada.gov.co/>



SENEGAL

Senegal in Belgium: <https://ambassadesenegal.be/services/visa/>



CAMEROON

<http://www.visa-en-ligne.com/pays/cameroun.php>

https://www.evisacam.cm/ords/dl_portal/r/public_portal/home

Cameroon in Belgium: <https://www.cameroon.be/welcome/>



KENYA

<https://www.etakenya.go.ke/en>

Kenya in Belgium: <https://kenyabrussels.com/>



SRI LANKA

<https://www.immigration.gov.lk/>

Sri Lanka in Belgium: <http://www.srilankaembassy.be/>



MALAYSIA

<http://www.imi.gov.my/index.php/en/>

<https://educationmalaysia.gov.my/>

Malaysia in Belgium: https://www.kln.gov.my/web/bel_brussels/



PHILIPPINES















<https://www.visa.gov.ph/>

Philippines in Belgium: <https://brusselspe.dfa.gov.ph/>

What is the cost of living in each of the cities involved in TROPIMUNDO?

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The table below provides a non-exhaustive list of the most important costs associated to the TROPIMUNDO programme. Superscripts are clarified below the table.

Higher Education Institution(s)	ULB VUB	SU MNHN	UdG	UdA	UNIRé	UNC	UNIFI	UDEA	UCAD	UDsch	TUM	RUH	UMT	UPD
Country														
City	Brussels	Paris	Kourou (French Guyana)	Point-à-Pitre (Guadeloupe)	Saint-Denis (La Réunion)	Nouméa (New Caledonia)	Florence	Medellin	Dakar	Dschang	Mombasa	Matara	Kuala Nerus	Quenzon City
Currency	Euro (EUR)	Euro (EUR)	Euro (EUR)	Euro (EUR)	Euro (EUR)	Franc Pacifique (XPF)	Euro (EUR)	Pesos (COP)	W-African Franc (XOF)	Franc (XAF)	Shilling (KES)	Rupees (LKR)	Ringits (MYR)	Peso (PHP)
Courses, books	35	35	50	40	80	5000	35	300000	80000	10000	2000	10000	50	3000
Accommodation ¹	500	450	130	450	287-500	25000	260	1000000	300000	50000	35000	20000	600	5000
Food ²	300	300	400	300	300	40000	300	400000	200000	250000	10000	15000	600	15000
Health care (medical costs) ³	20	20	30	30	30	5000	20	300000	25000	20000	5000	10000	50	1000
Public transport	52	35	NA	60	50	5000	25	200000	30000	20000	10000	10000	200	3000
Miscellaneous (telephone, leisure ...) ²	100	100	100	80	50	6000	55	200000	50000	50000	5000	15000	500	5000
TOTAL (in local currency)	1007	940	710	960	797-1010	86000	695	2400000	685000	400000	67000	80000	2000	32000
TOTAL (in EUR, 25/04/2024)	1007	940	710	960	797-1010	720	695	571	1045	610	463	250	392	520
Country visa ⁴	variable	variable	variable	variable	variable	variable	variable	variable	variable	variable	variable	variable	644 + variable	4000 variable
Residence permit/ Student pass	45	free	free	free	60	free	160	205000	50000	not needed	5000	not needed	10	3500
Health check ⁵						N/A	150 ⁴	100000			5000	5000	250	
Field schools ⁶		25		100	200	12000		500000		353333	86760	100000	2000	30000
TOTAL (in local currency)	>45	25		100	110-210	12000	>310	805000	328000	>353333	96760	>105000	>2894	37500
TOTAL (in EUR, 25/04/2024)	>45	25		100	110-210	100	>310	192	500	>540	668	>327	>566	608

¹ Accommodation based on a room in a shared apartment incl. expenses for electricity, gas and water. For UMT based on each student living in a shared hostel room (max. 2 students in each room).

² This largely depends on personal lifestyle.

³ This largely depends on your personal health. Note that basic health care costs are paid for by the TROPIMUNDO Consortium (but this health care is not valid if you reside in your country of nationality, in the US or in Canada). At UMT you can take an extra health card which entitles you to access all on-campus medical facilities free of charge. Please contact Local Coordinator for detailed information.

⁴ Country visas vary between free of charge and >350 EUR. In MY, Education Malaysia Global Service (EMGS) is operating as a middle person. Please consult the diplomatic website of each country to find the cost of visa for a citizen of a given country. Also note that Erasmus Mundus scholarship holders have a special statute and pay less for Belgian visas.

⁵ IT: **Italian sanitary card.** Vaccinations in Italy *e.g.* in case of special allergies, asthma, immunological deficiencies (Tessera Sanitaria per Stranieri Temporaneamente in Italia = Italian Sanitary Card). We advise to get vaccinations that you will need in S2 in your home country before travelling to Europe. In Malaysia there is an obligatory health check incl. screening for illegal substances. Note that in some countries possession of illegal substances is punishable by life imprisonment or death penalty.

⁶ For details please consult the TROPIMUNDO course list at:

http://www.tropimundo.eu/userfiles/files/tropimundo_course_list.pdf

Each of TROPIMUNDO's partner websites listed on <https://www.tropimundo.eu/> has pages dedicated to international students with information on a variety of topics. Please also check with the Local Coordinators of your personal Trajectory whether the respective universities have secured accommodation for you or not.

Second year students may also guide you towards finding accommodation.