

Frequently Asked Questions - FAQ

(Version 0027)

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

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Who are the associate partners and what are their tasks?

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TROPIMUNDO has >40 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 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's 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 B. Sc (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 and Biology are considered essential, and Biochemistry, Geology and Statistics are considered important, and course marks on them are evaluated by the TROPIMUNDO Selection Committee. Students from 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 Bachelor's degree with a major in Biology, Natural Sciences, Environmental Sciences is given below by way of example:

| Equivalent BSc. | NOT equivalent degrees |
|--|--|
| Agriculture | any professional Bachelor degree (aimed at teaching) |
| Agroforestry and Nature Management | any Licence professionnelle (aimed at teaching) |
| Agronomie | any Bachelor of Arts |
| Aménagement et Protection de l’Environnement | Agricultural Resource Economics and Management |

| Equivalent BSc. | NOT equivalent degrees |
|---|--|
| Applied Natural Sciences Aquatic Science, Fisheries or Oceanography Aquatic Resources Bio-engineering: Agronomy Biotechnology Climate Science Dryland Agriculture Environmental Sciences and Resources Management Fisheries, Forestry and Wildlife Forest Management and Utilization Forest Resources Conservation and Ecotourism Forestry Forestry and Environmental Sciences Forestry and Wood Technology Geology and Environmental Sciences Lic Sciences Vie Terre et Environnement Marine Biology and Coastal Ecology Microbiology Oceanography Plant Protection Range Management Wildlife Science, Conservation or Management | Animal Behaviour and Welfare Biochemistry Biotechnology (without Ecology) Chemistry or Chemical Engineering Computer Science Crop Production and Protection Cultural Anthropology and Tourism Ecotourism Education, even with a major in Biology Farm Forestry Floriculture Global Affairs Horticulture Language and Literature Medicine Metallurgical and Materials Engineering Pharmacy Policy & Law, or Criminology Production forestry Public administration Rural Development and agricultural extension Social Geography Social Sciences Statistics Surveying and Geographic Information Science Technology in Industrial Microbiology Veterinary medicine |

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

I do not speak French; 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 and UDsch necessitate proficiency in French. At ULB-VUB students have the opportunity

to choose courses taught either in English or in French, so English suffices as a language (although French or Dutch may be helpful to get around Brussels). Finally, at UNIFI, UCP, UMT and UQ all courses are taught in English, but Italian and Spanish may be helpful to get around Firenze and Iquitos.

While filling the application form, **please make sure** that your first six Trajectory choices and your selection of the course language (Section 10) matches your current language knowledge (Section 8).

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. We do not accept any documents sent by e-mail or by ordinary mail. In addition, official documents comprising multiple pages must be merged and uploaded as a single PDF document.

Can I enrol after the deadline?

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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 April. Also note that there are multiple deadlines per year depending on whether you are applying for an Erasmus Mundus scholarship and for the self-funded students, whether you are from within the EU or from outside.

Do I need to send/bring my original diplomas?

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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 (to be checked 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 see yourself denied the TROPIMUNDO diploma.

POST-ADMISSION QUESTIONS

Is the Masters course covered by a Consortium Agreement?

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There is a Consortium Agreement signed between all eight 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 will be sent to you after enrolment.

Where can I obtain information about immigration and visas?

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Belgium

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

N.B. To apply for a Belgian visa as a self-funded student, you will need to have a financial guarantor. The guarantor must be able to prove that he has a monthly income that is sufficiently high for him to be able to pay you 614 EUR/month, while retaining 973 EUR/month for himself and 150 EUR/month for each dependent. If these conditions cannot be met, the Belgian consulate will not issue a student visa. Students with an Erasmus Mundus scholarship will have 1000 EUR/month of monthly allowance to prove financial independence.

France

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

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

Italy

http://www.esteri.it/visti/index_eng.asp

Cameroon

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

<http://www.cameroonhighcommission.co.uk/visa/>

Madagascar

<http://www.madagascar-consulate.org/>

Sri Lanka

<https://www.srilanka-etaonline.com/>

Malaysia









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

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

Hong Kong

What is the cost of living in each of the cities involved in TROPIMUNDO? [top](#)

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 | UNIFI | UDsch | UNIVANTA | RUH | UMT | HKU |
|---|---|-----------------|---|----------------------------|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Country |  | |  | |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| City | Brussels | Paris | Kourou (French Guyana) | Point-à-Pitre (Guadeloupe) | Florence | Dschang | Antananarivo | Matara | Kuala Terengganu | Hong Kong |
| Currency | in Euro (EUR) | in Euro (EUR) | in Euro (EUR) | in Euro (EUR) | in Euro (EUR) | in Cameroon Franc (XAF) | in Malagasy Ariary (MGA) | in Sri Lankan Rupees (LKR) | in Malaysian Ringits (MYR) | in Hong Kong Dollars (HKD) |
| Courses, books | 35 | 35 | 50 | 40 | 35 | 10000 | 70000 | 10000 | 50 | 300 |
| Accommodation ¹ | 500 | 450 | 130 | 350 | 260 | 50000 | 700000 | 20000 | 600 | 7500 |
| Food ² | 300 | 300 | 400 | 300 | 300 | 250000 | 900000 | 15000 | 600 | 3600 |
| Health care (medical costs) ³ | 20 | 20 | 30 | 30 | 20 | 20000 | 80000 | 10000 | 50 | 200 |
| Public transport | 40 | 35 | NA | 60 | 25 | 20000 | 200000 | 10000 | 200 | 400 |
| Miscellaneous (telephone, leisure ...) ² | 55 | 55 | 100 | 80 | 55 | 50000 | 300000 | 15000 | 500 | 800 |
| TOTAL (in local currency) | 950 | 895 | 710 | 860 | 695 | 400000 | 2190000 | 80000 | 2000 | 12800 |
| TOTAL (in EUR, 25/10/2018) | 950 | 895 | 710 | 860 | 695 | 610 | 548 | 404 | 420 | 1433 |
| Country visa⁴ | <u>variable</u> | <u>variable</u> | <u>variable</u> | <u>variable</u> | <u>variable</u> | <u>variable</u> | <u>variable</u> | <u>variable</u> | 300 + <u>variable</u> | <u>variable</u> |
| Residence permit/ Student pass | 45 | free | free | free | 160 | not needed | free | not needed | not needed | not needed |
| Health check⁵ | | | | | 150 ⁴ | | | 5000 | 250 | |
| Field schools⁶ | | 25 | | 100 | | 353333 | 2000000 | 100000 | 2000 | 4500 |
| TOTAL (in local currency) | >45 | | | 100 | >310 | >353333 | >2000000 | >105000 | >2550 | >4500 |
| TOTAL (in EUR, 25/10/2018) | >45 | | | 100 | >310 | >539 | >500 | >532 | >536 | >500 |

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). At HKU based on 2-room flat near university, shared by 2 students, and having all meals in restaurants including canteens within HKU campus.

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.

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. MY: Obligatory health check.

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 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.