ERASMUS MUNDUS “INSPIRE” PROGRAMME – 2014/2015

This project is funded by the European Commission within the framework of the Erasmus Mundus Partnerships Programme. The Erasmus Mundus Programme aims at enhancing the quality of higher education and promotes the dialogue and understanding between people and cultures through mobility and academic cooperation. Action 2 Partnerships are the basis for enhancing academic cooperation and exchanges of students and academics, contributing towards the socio-economic development of non-EU countries targeted by EU external cooperation policy.

Historical

Since 2011, the University of Pretoria has been part of the Erasmus Mundus Programmes and postgraduate students and staff members from South Africa have received more than 500 scholarships since the Programme’s Introduction in 2010/2011, to study and conduct research at various European universities. INSPIRE is a new Programme which was introduced only in 2014 and this is the first call for applications.

Until 2014, the scholarships were only granted to South Africans going to Europe. From 2014 European students and Staff are also eligible to apply for scholarships to come to South African Universities to study or conduct research.

About INSPIRE (theme: “International Science Promoting Innovation and entrepreneurship”)

The University of Pretoria is proud to be associated with the Erasmus Mundus scholarship Programme INSPIRE – even though not as a Consortium partner but to Coordinate Target Group 2 and as an Advisory Board and Selection Committee member (Ms Louise Euthimiou) and with regard to the Quality Assurance of the project. For the academic cycle of 2014/15, University of Pretoria students and staff will be eligible to apply for this scholarship programme as part of the Target Group 2 category (as UP is not a SA Consortium partner). Uppsala University in Sweden is the European co-coordinating partner of INSPIRE with the University of the Western Cape (UWC) in Cape Town, the South African coordinating partner.

INSPIRE is a mobility programme offering study, training, exchange and research periods at INSPIRE Consortium universities in Europe for South African Masters, PhD Candidates as well as Postdoc fellows and staff members (academic and non-academic) and also provides the same
opportunities to Europeans wanting to come to South African Consortium partners for the same purpose.

In this call, scholarships will be granted for mobilities starting in 2015. Mobilities for South African grant holders can start as soon as July 2015 (PhD, post-doc and staff) and September 2015 (Master). European scholarship holders can start by early July 2015. All mobilities (except staff members) will have to start before December 31st, 2015. The INSPIRE Programme will end on 14 July 2018 and all mobilities will have to end by then.

International Science Promoting Innovation and entrePREneurship (INSPIRE) is an Erasmus Mundus Action 2 project that has identified a very concrete and structurally important node for development of the South African knowledge triangle. In the intricate system of interaction between research, education and innovation INSPIRE will focus on the creation of and development of support structures that can transfer results from research into the private sector for refinement before product development to be used in industry.

The process of transferring science to be explored and commercialized is still underdeveloped and there is a need to develop good governance at universities in order to initiate and uphold partnerships between the public and private sectors. The INSPIRE-project will tackle this issue by training South African students and staff within the EU-universities’ innovation/ entrepreneur centres. INSPIRE will also, thanks to participating associate organizations, build a network for INSPIRE-alumni in which they can continue to grow personally and professionally.

The outcome of INSPIRE will leave South African Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) with highly trained administrative staff that can run an innovation/tech-transfer office; with academic researchers and students that have studied in highly advanced universities in Europe and been educated in the process of transferring science into viable businesses; and with an EU-South African network of universities that will continue to develop new modes of collaboration within the field of innovation and entrepreneurship.

The theme of INSPIRE is selected in order to promote Innovation and Entrepreneurship. In doing so INSPIRE has chosen to give priority to a number of academic themes that align themselves with the priorities set for innovation in the
development strategy of the South African Department of Science and Technology for the period 2011-2016.

INSpIRE has 4 Thematic Topics

- Space Science and Technology
- Hydrogen and Energy
- Biotechnology and Health Innovation
- Innovation Instruments and Planning

For more information please click on the partner university link blow. [http://inspiresouthafrica.eu/apply](http://inspiresouthafrica.eu/apply)

**Partners**

The partnership is coordinated by Uppsala University in Sweden, whereas the University of Western Cape (UWC) in Cape Town (South Africa) acts as joint coordinator.

The consortium consists of 10 South African and 8 European Higher Education Institutions and is supported by 3 associated partners:

1. **European Universities** - 8 Consortium Universities (Europe) are

   - Uppsala University, Sweden – Coordinator
   - Ghent University, Belgium
   - University of Groningen, The Netherlands
   - Göttingen University, Germany
   - Telecom, Bretagne, France
   - University Valadolid, Spain
   - Mazaryk University, Czech Republic
   - Evotvos Lorand University, Hungary

2. **South African Universities**

   - University of the Western Cape (Joint coordinator)
   - University of Cape Town
   - University of Stellenbosch
   - University of Northwest
   - University of Johannesburg
   - University of Fort Hare
   - University of KwaZulu-Natal
   - Central University of Technology
   - Durban University of Technology
   - Cape Peninsula University of Technology
### III. Associated Partners (9)

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**Note:** The logos are placeholders and the actual images are not included in the text representation.
### Mobility can be

- Mobility South Africa to Europe (Masters, PhD, Postdoc, Staff)

All applicants must be South African nationals and can apply, if they belong to Target Group I or II (see)

- **Mobility Europe to South Africa**

All applicants must be a national of one of the eligible European (EU) member countries and belong to either Target Group I or II ([http://inspiresouthafrica.eu/institutions](http://inspiresouthafrica.eu/institutions))

### Scholarships

The INSPIRE partnership awards are granted to support South African mobility to a European partner university at Masters, PhD, Postdoc research and Staff level. Scholarships are granted for European mobility to a South African partner university and for South African mobility to a EU university. The duration of the mobility varies from 1 to 34 months according to the level and the type of mobility. Grants include a monthly subsistence allowance to cover your accommodation and living expenses, health insurance, participation fees (if applicable) and travel costs.

The scholarship includes:

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Subsistence allowance

1.000 EUR per month for Masters students
1.500 EUR per month for PhD students
1.800 EUR per month for Postdoc researchers
2.500 EUR per month for staff

Insurance coverage

Participation fees (if applicable). The INSPIRE programme can cover tuition fees between Euro 3,000 and Euro 9,000 for degree seeking Masters students and for PhD’s depending on the duration of the mobility (longer than 10 months). Tuition fees will be paid directly to the European host university.

One return ticket

Number of Scholarships available to South African nationals:

- 22 scholarships of 1 or 2 semesters for exchange studies at Masters level
- 12 scholarships of 6 or 10 months for exchanges at PhD level
- 10 scholarships of 6 or 10 months for research at Post Doctoral level
- 10 scholarships of 1 month for Academic/Administrative staff

Number of Scholarships available to EU nationals:

- 8 scholarships of 2 semesters for exchange studies at Masters level
- 16 scholarships of 10 months for exchanges at PhD level
- 8 scholarships of 6 or 10 months research at Post Doctoral level
- 20 scholarships of 1 month for Academic/Administrative staff

Calls for applications

The new Call for applications for South African Staff and students, will be opened on 20 November 2014 and will close on 15 March 2015. Selection results will be published by the end of April 2015. Study periods in Europe will start in July/August
2015. Available mobility scholarships can be found on the website see http://inspiresouthafrica.eu/institutions

Application Process

All applications must be submitted online. Only complete applications will be reviewed. The applications will be evaluated on the following criteria:

- Academic merit
- Motivation for the mobility period
- Research Plan

Contact

More information about the programme and the mobility options at the different partner universities can be found on the Website: see http://inspiresouthafrica.eu/institutions

All enquiries at UP can be directed to:
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