About ACES - STAR

The Erasmus Mundus Joint Master (EMJM) in Aquaculture, Environment and Society STAR (ACES-STAR) is a two-year program fully taught in English. It is organized around a truly global learning environment, to reflect the international nature of the industry. The highly diverse cultural background of the students, recruited at the global level, combined with the mobility of up to 4 countries and teachers from 'Centres of Aquaculture Excellence' in different EU and non-EU countries will make this EMJM ACES-STAR program a unique learning and life experience. This Master aims at preparing graduates with a solid knowledge and advanced practical skills expected by academic, public or the private sectors. Traditional and innovative teaching and learning methods also ensure the development of digital and critical soft skills. The first three semesters of the program are organized around a progressive specialization, involving gaining a basic understanding of the global aquaculture industry, before focusing on the major groups of cultured species, their environmental interactions, new technologies and systems, health, welfare, product quality and refinement and how the industry is governed. The final semester is devoted to an internship in an academic institution, in a public body or in private corporation and the production of the dissertation. Throughout the program, the learning process is enriched by the continuous exposure of students to academic research, business leaders and real-life practical experience provided by over 60 associate partners and external experts from across the globe. Students are given the opportunity to participate in seminars, conferences and meetings with business leaders. The end goal is to enhance opportunities for employment, through building networks, gaining extensive practical experience, as well as learning to deal with different languages and cultures.

About the University

University of Crete (UoC) is the EMJM ACES-STAR Program Coordinator and here you will spend the second semester in your Master’s program. UoC, established in 1972 and accepted its first students in 1973, is a young public educational institution committed to excellence in research and teaching. The International orientation of the University is reflected in its track record of collaborations with many of the leading research and educational institutions in Europe and worldwide as well as active promotion of mobility and exchange programmes. Reflecting its research activity and associated initiatives, the University of Crete is the first Greek University to have signed the EU Charter and the Code for the Responsible Management of Researchers, and forms part of the cross-border European measure for the mobility of researchers. During your time at the University of Crete, you will be based at the Department of Biology and will work closely with the Institute of Marine Biology, Biotechnology and Aquaculture, based at the Heraklion Centre for Marine Research (HCMR). The Biology Department is a centre of excellence, focusing on fish physiology, endocrinology, biopharmaceuticals, fish welfare, product quality, as well as on aquaculture-environmental interactions of Mediterranean marine species. Many of the key staff involved with this programme have international reputations in aquaculture-related topics and considerable experience in coordinating Erasmus placements in industry.

Erasmus Mundus Joint Masters Degree in Aquaculture, Environment and Society (ACES-STAR)

Join Europe’s Top-Rated Erasmus Mundus Joint Aquaculture Master’s Degree

www.emm-aces.org
An Innovative Curriculum

The Erasmus Mundus Joint Master Degree in Aquaculture, Environment and Society (EMM Juniors) is a 120 ECTS course that runs for two years and involves study periods in three (or more) different European countries. This movement allows students to gain experience and networking opportunities in European "Centres of Excellence" for aquaculture research and learning, the chance to learn new languages and, of course, the experience of living in different cultures and making friends with students from all over the world.

Graduate Outcomes

Students will gain a broad understanding of the key principles of aquaculture and an in-depth knowledge of the many major scientific, technological and social challenges facing the sustainable development of the global aquaculture industry, including fish, crustaceans, bivalves and seaweeds. Key challenges influencing the sustainability of the industry include: environmental issues, nutrition, feed formulation, disease, welfare, reproduction and genetics, product safety, ecotoxicology, aquaculture systems.

Students will also be provided with key "life" skills training, such as presentation, networking, social media, teamwork. This unique programme will, therefore, equip students with the essential skills required to take the industry as a whole and/or assess aquaculture activities either from a research, public safety or commercial perspective.

Information about the course

The Erasmus Mundus joint master degree is a 2-year programme that is modularised to enable flexibility for students at the same time maintaining the very highest standards of training. The modular structure allows the students to choose subject choices according to their future career aspirations. The course is divided into nine modules and a single research project module. The overall course is divided into four parts or semesters.

Career Opportunities

The close links we have with the aquaculture industry globally facilitate excellent employment prospects for our students, whether in the commercial or public sector or both. So far, several former EMM Juniors students have gained PhD positions in universities in the UK, Europe, South America and Australia, several are working as lecturers in universities and marine institutes, and others (30%) are working in industry. Many of our former students have also had articles published in peer-reviewed journals.

The objectives and format of the EMM Juniors allows graduates to be equipped to work in senior management roles in a wide range of settings, including fish and shellfish farms, environmental and regulatory organisations, international trade organisations, and non-governmental organisations.

Expected career paths include:
- Company manager: work with a team to innovate and develop new aquaculture-based techniques and technologies.
- Policy development: create and implement aquaculture-related policies.
- Research: conduct research into environmental and social issues.

Information about the course

The Department of Biology

The Department of Biology at the University of Creta was established in 1981 and is today an internationally recognised centre for contemporary university education and research in the field of Biology. Arguably the choice studied through the complete education and training, in a high-quality environment, with excellent scientists who offer training that contributes to the follow-up of the knowledge of biologists, fosters scientific networking and provides the Greek and International with people well trained to serve the science of biology.

Other information

If you wish to apply for a place on the programme which starts September, please contact us at ACES@partner.ac.uk. Applications from EU and non-EU applicants are welcome in the course.

The closing date for Erasmus Mundus Scholarship applications is in February. The closing date for self-funded students is in August.

Fees and Scholarships:

The cost of tuition fees for academic year is €5000 for international/non-EU students and €2500 for EU students.

We have a number of Erasmus Mundus scholarships, funded by the EU, which will meet the cost of tuition fees and provide a contribution towards travel and daily living expenses. Please note: Erasmus Mundus scholarships are subject to availability.

For more information, please email ACES@partner.ac.uk.