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ERASMUS+ Programme
KA171 SHORT-TERM DOCTORAL MOBILITY FOR STUDIES IN THIRD COUNTRIES NOT ASSOCIATED TO THE PROGRAMME (South Africa)
A.A. 2025-2026, 2026-2027
CALL FOR APPLICATIONS

Prot. VIU U 13196

VENICE INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY ERASMUS+ MOBILITY CONSORTIUM
Erasmus+ Accreditation Code: 2022-1-IT02-KA130-HED-000068577
Project code: 2025-1-IT02-KA171-HED-000345575

Short-Term Doctoral Mobility in the 2025-2026 or 2026-2027* Academic Year
Reserved for students of the following universities:

- Università degli Studi di Padova
- Università degli Studi di Roma "Tor Vergata"
- Università Iuav di Venezia
- Università degli Studi di Milano-Bicocca

Deadline to apply: March 31, 2026

******* Application deadline extended to July 31, 2026*******

ART. 1 – *Introduction*

1. Erasmus+ is the European Union's programme to support education, training, youth and sport in Europe, prioritizing inclusion and diversity, digital transformation, environment and fight against climate change, and participation in democratic life, common values and civic engagement. Through the programme, doctoral candidates have the opportunity to spend a short-term mobility period at another university, in a different country. The short-term doctoral mobility helps to meet the diverse learning and training needs of doctoral candidates as it supports mobility opportunities previously available to doctoral candidates with the status of higher education staff. Applications will only be accepted from students in their 3rd cycle (PhD).

2. Venice International University is an association of 23 member universities and institutions from around the world, with a common campus on San Servolo Island in Venice. VIU was founded in 1995 with the purpose of developing joint academic, research and capacity-building programs, across disciplines, continents, languages and cultures. It has since become the ideal setting for experimenting innovative approaches to education and training, where students, researchers and professors come together to exchange knowledge and ideas while exploring

interdisciplinary and transdisciplinary perspectives in their studies and research.

3. The following universities, together with Venice International University, constitute an accredited Erasmus+ Mobility Consortium:
-Università Iuav di Venezia
-Università degli Studi di Padova
-Università degli Studi di Roma "Tor Vergata"
-Università degli Studi di Milano-Bicocca

4. The following university is the destination for this call and is also a member university of VIU:
- Stellenbosch University, South Africa
Mobilities to universities other than those listed are not included in this call.

5. The aim of this call is to facilitate the creation and consolidation of collaborations among Venice International University (VIU) members that are relevant to the VIU joint activities. This call is directed in particular to PhD students who have participated in a VIU Intensive Graduate Activity (PhD Academy, Graduate Seminar, Summer Schools). This criterion is not a pre-requisite for application.

Through the **Intensive Graduate Activities** students and scholars can develop a forward-looking vision, experiment with interdisciplinary approaches, collaborate with peers from all over the world, tackle transversal topics, and undertake scientific challenges in innovative ways. VIU aims to build and strengthen networks of scholars on areas of shared interest within the consortium. The mission of VIU is to foster cooperation among VIU member institutions while facilitating the exchange of knowledge and ideas. VIU provides an international, interdisciplinary and Intercultural opportunity for learning, teaching and research cooperation. https://www.univiu.org/study/intensive-graduate-activities

VIU PhD Academy offers interdisciplinary intensive programs on major societal challenges, with a parallel training program on transversal skills to prepare advanced PhDs and junior researchers for careers in research either inside or outside of academia. www.univiu.org/study/phd-academy

VIU Graduate Seminars are thematic intensive seminars on a focused topic approached from an interdisciplinary perspective. The aim is to support early-career PhDs who are beginning their research and to facilitate interdepartmental cooperation. https://www.univiu.org/study/graduate-seminars

VIU Summer Schools are intensively taught programs where world-renowned academics engage with students and professionals of various levels. The goal of these interdisciplinary Summer Schools is to disseminate knowledge among participants and to establish and reinforce research networks among the VIU community. The Summer Schools are open also to students from non-member universities. www.univiu.org/study/summer-schools

6. VIU guarantees equal opportunities and equal access, inclusion, diversity and equity.

ART. 2 – *Prerequisites for application*

1. Students must be regularly enrolled both at time of application and for the duration of the mobility in a 3rd cycle degree program in one of the Mobility Consortium universities participating in this call:

- Università Iuav di Venezia
- Università degli Studi di Padova
- Università degli Studi di Roma "Tor Vergata"
- Università degli Studi di Milano-Bicocca

2. The candidates must have knowledge of the vehicular language (language in which mobility activities are conducted) at the host university. Knowledge of languages can be self-declared on the VIU application form along with submitting language certificates. Selected students may be required to produce certification of declared level of language competence when completing registration at the receiving university.

An Erasmus+ Online Language Support (OLS) service provides mobility participants with the opportunity to assess their knowledge of languages as well as to follow online language courses to improve their competences. Mobility participants can use the Erasmus+ Online Language Support (OLS) to improve their foreign language competences before and/or during mobility. To take the test and follow the free language courses, students must register on the EU Academy platform.

ART. 3 – *Requirements for participation in the mobility*

1. Students can undertake a period of study abroad at the following member university:

- Stellenbosch University, South Africa

2. It is the responsibility of the selected student to verify the deadlines and the documentation required by the receiving university, including certification of language competence.

3. It will be necessary to find out in advance, through the relevant bodies (embassies and consulates), on the procedures required for entry and temporary stay in the destination country. If the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation advises against travel to the destination location, the mobility period may be suspended, modified, interrupted or cancelled. It is advisable to read the security measures adopted by the country of destination and to always keep up to date by consulting the website of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International

Cooperation: Viaggiare Sicuri. It is also of fundamental importance that every mobility participant registers on the website www.dovesiamonelmondo.it and downloads the "Crisis Unit" APP. It is underlined that, during their stay abroad, mobility participants are required to respect the safety regulations established by the host institution.

4. It is the responsibility of the PhD students who are non-EU citizens and/or holders of a residence permit to verify the renewal procedures and whether they are compatible with the period of physical mobility abroad.

5. For the duration of the mobility the selected students must be regularly enrolled in a 3rd cycle degree program in one of the Mobility Consortium universities participating in this call.

6. In order to receive the Erasmus+ grant, the student must not:
- benefit from other grants awarded by the home university for the same mobility activity;
- benefit in the same period from other types of EU contributions (including grants financed with PON, PNRR or other grants supported by EU funds);
- exceed the maximum 12 months of mobility permitted in their third study cycle, as stipulated by the Erasmus+ programme, including any other Erasmus+ mobility for studies and/or traineeship via calls issued by the home university and by VIU.

Applicants are advised that the Erasmus+ grant and mobility activities may be incompatible with other benefits and opportunities in the home university and they should consult the home university for information. Such possible circumstances will in any case be verified during the evaluation of the candidates.

ART. 4 – *Study activities during the mobility abroad*

1. The Erasmus+ grants for short-term doctoral mobility to South Africa are awarded exclusively for the third cycle of study. PhD students are required to verify in advance the feasibility of their mobility study research project with their PhD supervisor, including the identification of potential supervisors at the host institution. The candidate must obtain agreement and consent by their PhD Supervisor on their planned mobility study activities.

It is understood that the host university will ultimately evaluate the thesis research proposal.

Adding a virtual component to the physical mobility is encouraged. The virtual component must be approved by the host institution, the academic coordinator and the thesis supervisor before departure.

2. The study activities aimed towards the completion of the candidate's doctoral degree during the mobility may include:
- carry out research activities

- attend seminars, summer schools, workshops and other educational programmes
- attend courses offered by the receiving university

Under this call, mobility aimed at participating in conferences/congresses in the role similar to a speaker/presenter is not allowed.

3. According to the Erasmus+ programme rules:
- Minimum duration for short-term doctoral mobility: 5 days (consecutive)
- Maximum duration for short-term doctoral mobility: 30 days

Travel days are not included in the calculation of the minimum duration.

This call is for mobility during the academic year 2025-2026 or the 1st semester of 2026-2027.
The mobility should be completed no later than December 31, 2026.

4. Failure to carry out the activities envisaged in the Learning Agreement and mobility study research proposal may result in the obligation to repay the entire contribution received for the mobility.

5. If exams were taken, upon return from the mobility, only the exams present in the Transcript of Records issued by the host university and correctly indicated in the Learning Agreement completed in all its parts will be recognized. It will not be possible to refuse grades for exams already included in the Transcript of Records issued by the host university.

6. The student selected for Erasmus+ mobility must complete the period of study abroad and register the credits achieved, if applicable, before graduation. Specific information about this will be provided and/or must be verified with the home university.

7. Requests to reduce the mobility period before departure will not be accepted; requests for reductions during the mobility for valid reasons will be evaluated, subject to approval by the professor in charge of the mobility and by the host university.

8. Requests to extend the mobility will be evaluated if submitted at least one month before the end of the mobility period.

ART. 5 – *Funding | Travel Support & Individual Support & Top-up*

1. Erasmus+ grants should be considered as a contribution to the expense of studying abroad.

Travel Support
Maximum travel grants are set by the European Commission.

Contribution to the travel costs of participants, from their place of origin to the venue of the activity and return are calculated by using the distance calculator supported by the European Commission.

The Erasmus+ Programme has introduced a "Green Travel" supplement to encourage mobility participants to choose sustainable modes of transport to their destination, such as travelling by bus, train, or car-pooling.

To calculate the distance the European Commission's online tool must be used.

Distance from home university to host university	**Maximum green travel reimbursed**	**Maximum standard travel reimbursed**
10-99 Km	€ 56,00	€ 28,00
100-499 km	€ 285,00	€ 211,00
500-1999 km	€ 417,00	€ 309,00
2000-2999 km	€ 535,00	€ 395,00
3000–3999 km	€ 785,00	€ 580,00
4000–7999 km	€ 1188,00	€ 1188,00
8000 km or more	€ 1735,00	€ 1735,00

The distance to be calculated is one way – from the location of the sending organization to that of the receiving organisation. However, please note that the grant amount covers the outward and return journey from home to host institution.

Individual Support – Daily Allowance
The individual support grant is a contribution towards costs directly linked to the subsistence of participants during the activity and includes accommodation, meals, and local transportation.

Maximum daily allowance:
up to 14th day: € 79.00
15th to 60th day: € 56.00

Individual support for up to 2 travel days *(one before and/or one after the short mobility)* may also be funded if requested at time of application. This can be increased to 4 travel days when Green Travel is used, subject to request, approval and availability of funds.

In consideration of the funding available, the maximum duration that will be financed is 16 days.

Please note that students will be responsible for arranging their own travel and insurance.

Grants are awarded for activities abroad pursuant to art. 3, should be completed by December 31, 2026.

Top-up - Students with fewer opportunities

Selected students with fewer opportunities may receive a supplement to the individual support grant awarded for their short-term Erasmus+ physical doctoral mobility amounting to:

physical mobility activity period of 5-14 days: € 100.00
physical mobility activity period of 15-30 days: € 150.00

Students with fewer opportunities are those who, for economic, social, cultural, geographical or health reasons, related to coming from a migrant background, or for reasons such as disabilities and learning difficulties or any other reason, including those who may give rise to forms of discrimination within the meaning of Article 21 of the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union, are faced with obstacles which prevent them from enjoying effective access to the opportunities offered by the programme.

To facilitate access to mobility for students as much as possible, in line with the "Guidelines for the implementation of the strategy for inclusion and diversity of Erasmus+ and the European Solidarity Corps" as well as the principles of the Erasmus Charter for Higher Education (ECHE), higher education institutions must ensure equal and fair access and opportunities for current students and potential participants from all backgrounds. This means involving participants with fewer opportunities, for example:

- participants with certified physical, mental and health disabilities (disability or medical certificate)
- economic disadvantage sanctioned with ISEE (according to the indications of D.D. 180 of 28 February 2025 a.y. 2025-2026 (euro 27.948,60) submitted with your application. Reference is made to the ISEE for the year 2024, calculated specifically for benefits for the right to university education.
- cultural differences eg. individuals with a migrant and refugee background, national or ethnic minorities, people with linguistic adaptation and cultural inclusion difficulties, etc.
- students with minor children
- working students
- students who are professional athletes
- students orphaned by at least one parent
- students who are children of victims of terrorism and organized crime

Specific information about this will be provided and/or must be verified with the home university. The circumstance of being a candidate with fewer opportunities can be self-declared at time of application. In order to be eligible for the supplementary financial contribution the circumstance must be certifiable. Students who find themselves in the above categories must attach to their application a self-declaration pursuant to art.46 del D.P.R. 28 dicembre 2000 addressed to VIU and their home university. Documentary evidence of the circumstance must be submitted by selected candidates before the mobility place is confirmed. Institutions will have to justify the interventions to support

participants with fewer opportunities, having specific documentation that justifies the need for support for the inclusion of the participant.

Students belonging to multiple categories will be able to take advantage of contributions in reference to only one of the categories.

To seek advice on what type of documents may be used, where not previously specified, please contact erasmus@univiu.org.

2. The scholarship will be paid in two installments according to the methods indicated in the Grant Agreement that the student is required to sign before departure, that is, full 70% before departure and the remaining 30% after the requisite documents have been submitted after the mobility.

3. The signing of the Grant Agreement as well as all the other procedures indicated in this announcement are an obligation for all students who benefit from the Erasmus+ mobility and failure to fulfill one or more procedures will lead to the revocation or reduction of the financial contribution and in some cases the cancellation of the mobility. Even the use of non-compliant forms may lead to the revocation or reduction of the financial contribution and in some cases the cancellation of the mobility.

4. Students who are awarded an Erasmus+ mobility grant must continue to pay the tuition fees and contributions to their home university also during their period of stay abroad, but they are exempt from paying enrollment fees at the foreign university of destination of the mobility (with the exception of some universities which may request a contribution to use the student services).

ART. 6 – *How to apply*

1. Interested doctoral students must complete the application form/mobility study research proposal available on the VIU website, filling in all the required fields and sections including submitting:

- Curriculum Vitae (dated and signed)
- Certificate of Enrollment (PhD) and Transcript of Records (if PhD not available, Masters level)
- Motivation letter
- Learning Agreement (available on VIU website) signed by their PhD Supervisor
- Self-declaration of participant with fewer opportunities
- Language competency certificates

2. Applicants with disabilities are invited to contact the Erasmus Office at VIU to receive support in submitting the application and to receive information on the services made available by the partner university. Furthermore, participants will be able to request additional support from the Erasmus+ National Agency INDIRE for additional costs directly related to mobility which cannot be covered by the

top-up for participants with fewer opportunities. These costs aim to cover the additional financial support needed (real costs) for the participation in the mobility of participants with needs related to physical, mental or health conditions. Travel and accommodation expenses for any companions are also permitted, if justified. The request must be justified by the applicant and approved by the Erasmus+ National Agency INDIRE. In case of non-approval, no claim can be made against VIU.

3. Applications must be completed via the web by: March 31, 2026.

4. Incorrectly completed or incomplete applications will not be considered.

ART. 7 - *Destination*

1. The destination available in this call is:
Stellenbosch University, South Africa

2. The departure of the selected students is subject to acceptance by the receiving university.

3. Students are advised to check the host institution's entry requirements (visa, permit to stay, health insurance).

ART. 8 - *Ranking*

1. The VIU selection committee will consist of the Dean of VIU, one member of teaching staff of VIU, and one or more members of the VIU Academic Council, representing the universities participating in the mobility consortium. The selection committee will decide on a ranking taking into account the evaluation criteria specified below:

- Quality of the study plan: 25 points
  Compatibility of studies with selected destination, including opportunity for credit recognition
- Language skills 10 points
  Vehicular and host country languages will be considered
- Academic Merit 30 points
  Grade Point Average
- Motivational letter 30 points
- Thesis Proposal 5 points

Proposal for a research project relevant to a doctoral thesis that will benefit from the study period abroad.

- VIU Bonus 15 points
  For those who have participated in VIU academic programs.

In the event that two or more candidates obtain the same score, the selection committee reserves the right to invite candidates for an interview. Not having previously benefited from another Erasmus+ mobility grant within the last two academic years will be considered a preferential qualification. In the event of a further tie, the candidate closest to completing the doctoral course will take precedence.

ART. 9 – *Accepting the place*

Candidates will be informed of the result via email.

Although VIU nominates the successful candidates (notifies the partner institute of the students selected), each student is responsible for finding out about the administrative requirements and deadlines established by the host institution. If the student does not do so, there is the risk of rejection by the host institution. Acceptance will not guarantee the student the ability to leave: the host University will need to explicitly confirm that it can welcome them.

It is the responsibility of the candidates to inform themselves in advance, through the partner University and/or the relevant bodies (Embassies and Consulates), on the procedures required for entry and temporary stay in the host country, about the need for an entry visa and the timing and procedures to follow, as well as the methods of requesting any permit temporary stay/residence. Accordingly, if applicable, it is the responsibility of the candidates to understand their visa and permit to stay responsibilities for their return to their home university.

The acceptance of the mobility must be made by the selected student within 7 days of notification of selection, by completing and sending a dedicated form which will be sent via email from the VIU Erasmus office to the candidate. In case of withdrawal, the candidate is required to promptly inform the VIU Erasmus Office in order to allow the reallocation of the grant to the next suitable ranked candidate.

Before the scheduled departure date, a Grant Agreement must be signed which indicates the mobility dates as requested in the application. If these dates have changed, an explanation must be sent via email to the VIU Erasmus Office beforehand.

The rights and duties of Erasmus students are reported in the "Erasmus Student Charter", available at the following link: https://erasmus-plus.ec.europa.eu/resources-and-tools/erasmus-student-charter-0

ART. 10 - *Selected Candidates*

Before the mobility, the participant must:

- fulfill all of the administrative requirements of the host institution (application form, language certification and any other documentation)
- submit their signed Grant Agreement, which will be provided by the VIU Erasmus Office
- submit a copy of their insurance policy valid for the entire mobility period covering basic health and medical (including permanent or temporary incapacity); accident; civil liability; and, wherever relevant travel (including damage or loss of luggage).
- Submit copy of passport and entry visa (if required)

During the mobility, the participant must:

- Ask host professor to sign and stamp Certificate of Arrival within 7 days of arrival at the host institution.

After the mobility, the participant must submit:

- confirmation of mobility/certificate of attendance by the host institution certifying the activity carried out and mobility dates
- travel itinerary, proof of payment receipt and boarding passes
- report on the work carried out during the mobility countersigned by the supervisor at the host institution. This report must then be evaluated by the PhD Supervisor.
- once the mobility is completed, the mobility participant will receive a "PARTICIPANT SURVEY" from the European Commission reporting platform. This must be completed and a copy sent as a pdf to the VIU Erasmus Office to validate the second payment request.

ART. 11 – *Blended/virtual mobility*

The Doctoral candidate also has the option to add a virtual component to their study mobility before, during or after. ie. a “blended” activity, which combines a virtual component and an in-person/physical mobility. Consider however that the Erasmus+ Grant for Individual Support and Travel Support will be due to the mobility participant only for the days of in-person/physical mobility abroad, which must be a minimum of 5 activity days.

ART. 12 – *Processing and protection of personal data*

1. Pursuant to legislation regarding the protection of personal data (Legislative Decree 30 June 2003 n. 196 and subsequent amendments, and EU Regulation 679/2016 – known as GDPR) the processing of candidates' personal data is carried out by Venice International University exclusively for institutional purposes and will be therefore based on principles of correctness, lawfulness and relevance for the same purposes.

2. For all further information, interested parties can contact the Erasmus Office, Venice International University, Isola di San Servolo, 30133 Venice - email erasmus@univiu.org Tel. 041 2719511 – Fax 041 2719510

Venice, 09/03/2026

Venice International University
Erasmus+ Mobility Consortium
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