



Education, Audiovisual and Culture Executive Agency
Erasmus Mundus

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EACEA/P4/JF/MVH/cgp/ D (2006) 204416

Subject: Erasmus Mundus Action 1 — Masters Courses

Reference: 2007-0072/001 FRAME MUNB123

(please quote this number in all correspondence)

Project Title: GEMMA: Master's Degree in Women's and Gender Studies

Dear Sir or Madam,

You have submitted a proposal in the framework of the *2007 Erasmus Mundus Call for Proposals (DGEAC EAC/70/05)* for the Action mentioned above.

I am pleased to inform you that your above-mentioned proposal has been selected.

The corresponding framework agreement and other relevant information will be sent to you by separate mail. A model of the agreement and the financial handbook are already available, under "Document Library", from the Erasmus Mundus website at:

We will publish a description of your master course on the Erasmus Mundus website. This description will correspond to the summary description of the course as provided in your application. If you want us to modify any element of this description (e.g internet links, contact addresses, etc.), we invite you to send an email to [EACEA ERASMUS MUNDUS@ec.europa.eu](mailto:EACEA_ERASMUS_MUNDUS@ec.europa.eu) by the 10 of November 2006.

All proposals were assessed with the assistance of independent academic experts. Enclosed you will find for your information a summary of the experts' assessments of your proposal. Please take account of the fact that non-native speakers wrote most of the assessments and that the Agency cannot comment on these independent assessments.

Should you require any further information, please contact Mr José Gutiérrez Fernández of the Erasmus Mundus team (tel.:+32 2 296 78 09, fax+32 2 292 13 28, email j o se.gutierrez@ec.europa.eu).

Yours faithfully,

J~achim FRONIA Head of Unit

Annex 1: comments and recommendations from the two independent experts

Annex 2: summary of the Master Course

Independent experts assessment

Application Reference: 130128-EM-1-2007-1-ES-ERA MUNDUS-EM1

Title : GEMMA: Master's Degree in Women's and Gender Studies

Coordinator: Adelina SANCHEZ

Coordinating organisation: UNIVERSIDAD DE GRANADA

Experts comment

Expert 1 Comment: ---

1. Academic quality and integration of the study programme

The master programme "GEMMA" is offered at eight renowned universities by professors highly qualified in the relevant field. The courses offered have a very high scientific level and reflect the current state of the art in gender and women's studies. The objectives of the master programme are formulated clearly, particularly regarding the competencies and learning outcomes of the graduates. Also their qualification for the job market is convincingly explained. The study programme is based on eight different master courses already existing at the eight partner universities. The expertise of each university is clearly considered and integrated. The ECTS system is correctly used. ECTS credits are allocated according to workload, and the ECTS grades are used as relative grades. The educational aims are very convincingly formulated and extraordinarily extensive. Due to existing problems with national legislation, in the master programme "Gemma" a double degree will be awarded. It is however contractually agreed upon that this degree is recognized by each of the partner institutions. The Diploma supplement developed jointly by the eight partners for the entire study programme is regarded extremely positive.

2. Admission and mobility

"Gemma" application procedures have been developed in detail, an application form and checklists for documents are provided for interested students. Selection criteria are clearly formulated. Modes of examination and examination criteria are made clear. Payment procedures for fees are clearly explained. Mobility mechanisms and administrative procedures for this are well thought of and described. ECTS tools are correctly used for mobilities.

3. Third-country students/scholars and language policy

The consortium has numerous links and partnerships with institutions, networks and relevant chairs to recruit the best Master student candidates and scholars. An information and recruitment campaign is clearly foreseen and developed by a publicity taskforce. Electronic media and existing newsletters will be used to announce the master programme. Admission and application procedures are clearly described and well developed. Application forms are already existing.

Language policy is not convincing. It is regarded very positively that the language of the host institution is used for studying etc., whereas the thesis can be written and defended in one of the languages of the participating countries. Language courses besides the regular courses for exchange students should be offered at host institutions.

4. Quality assurance and evaluation

Instruments and procedures for quality assurance are clearly described for each partner institution. External and internal quality procedures are foreseen. Results of evaluation will be integrated in teaching. ECTS tools are correctly used. The issuing of a joint Diploma Supplement is regarded as a best practice example.

5. Management and feasibility

Cooperation mechanisms are complex and well-structured. The management structure is logical and it is evident that the project will be managed very well in this structure. The distribution of tasks to different taskforces is a best-practice-model. Administrative staffing is adequate and the use of funding for this is convincing.

6. Other aspects

The project is clearly linked to the research activities of the partners. The European added value is evident and looks back to a long experience from the ATHENA network. Management procedures and the issuing of a joint Diploma Supplement are best practice models.

It is urgently recommended that the GEMMA Master is renamed, as the title as it is (Masters Degree in Women's and Gender Studies) is too general and could be misleading to future applicants. Please keep the Executive Agency, in charge of the management of the EM Programme, informed of any change of title, if this project is selected.

Expert 2 Comment:

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1. Academic quality and integration of the study programme

Created as a result of joint developments within the Erasmus thematic network Athena, the programme is result of long-standing cooperation and collective expertise accumulated during the last ten years building on and exploiting the research results from ETN ATHENA that had among its objectives "working towards a joint European curriculum in Gender Studies". The project background and rationale are very solid and clearly explained and the course excellently defined. Consistent reasons are provided to explain contribution towards university excellences and European competitiveness.

The large consortium of 8 universities from 7 different countries is properly justified and underlines a significant European dimension. All participating universities demonstrate outstanding expertise in Gender studies both in research and in different course programmes at PhD and MA level. Efforts have been made by all partners to find core elements in their current programmes which could be essential component of the first semester module the contents of which have been commonly agreed by all. The large size of consortium has also the advantage to enable a rich and diverse choice of optional courses and combinations from humanities and social sciences in almost "à la carte" menu.

The two-year course structure (120 CTS credits) is very clear and full description of the whole study programme is appended. It consists of a Core cluster of 30 ECTS, two elective clusters

of 30 ECTS each and research activity for elaboration of the final thesis, 30 ECTS. The course format indicates the core activities, practical work, compulsory mobility, and research for final thesis as well as option possibilities. All syllabi are presented in details and appended to the project. The learning outcomes are properly described in details in terms of knowledge acquisition, intellectual, practical and transferable skills acquired by successful completion of the study programme.

All involved partners agree with the double degree and approval by respective competent administration boards mentioned. Recognition of the 120 ECTS credits is committed in writing by all partners in the Consortium and appended to the project. Students will receive a double degree according to the two universities chosen following the mobility combination specified in the course format. There is manifested intent of the whole Consortium to move toward a joint degree in the near future.

The Consortium adopted the Diploma Supplement principle and customized it in order to provide full information about the eight national grading systems and their translation into ECTS grading scale.

The involved professors demonstrate excellent professional and teaching experience. A summary of the CVs of the course leaders appended to the project provides convincing information about high quality of teaching. Most of the involved teachers are permanent staff of their respective universities. Continuous tutoring of the students is ensured also by use of virtual platforms to facilitate contact and teaching collaboration especially during mobility periods.

2. Admission and mobility

Limited admission criteria are set, giving thus large access possibility. Criteria include knowledge of one of the languages (EN, ES, IT), however this is not considered enough when students should spend study periods in two different countries. This may generate the risk for the students to choose their mobility according to the language competence rather than interest in contents study in the country of destination.

On-line application is explained and thorough information provided about the full list of required document and the way they should be presented.

The selection process is fair and transparent, based on equal treatment of all candidates, quality control and evaluation of the studies taken abroad by the third-country students.

A compensatory system is foreseen to ensure that all partners receive enough students and scholars from both EU and third-countries.

The tuition fee is established at equal level without discrimination between EU and third-country students. Compensatory of partial fee-waving is in view for non-funded European students. Financial management of the income from students' fee and funds distribution among partners is transparent and correctly described and subject to a committee supervision.

Arrangements for student evaluation are fair and quality tools and structures are adopted to ensure transparency (ECTS grading scale, Diploma Supplement, quality control taskforce). A mobility scheme is presented with indication of all possible combinations, duration and credit allocation.

3. Third-country students/scholars and language policy

The strategy to attract third-country students uses appropriate tools for publicity and effective methodology. Through an Erasmus Thematic Network this Master has extensive potential to easily reach the desired targets far beyond Europe.

The services in support of third-country students are guaranteed at high quality by the international structures currently functioning in all partner universities. These have extensive experience and expertise to work with international students. The attached guides touch all the

aspects from international student life. The mentor system is valuable to ensure international student coaching and counselling on all practical and professional matters.

The estimated number of third-country students is 36 out of which 25 are expected to receive Erasmus Mundus grant. This represents 40% from the total number of foreseen students (90). Teaching languages are EN, ES, IT. The language policy makes a difference between the teaching language and examination / thesis language that may be different. Language learning support is mentioned within four partner universities (Granada, Bologna, Utrecht and Hall).

4. Quality assurance and evaluation

Each partner university is governed by an appropriate system of quality assurance and this is presented in details. To ensure quality of the Master programme the Consortium adopted an effective strategy based on specific structures, mechanisms and tools. Students are actively involved in course evaluation. Evaluation outcomes are also mentioned, such as establishing a GEMMA alumni association and publishing an annual review of GEMMA evolution.

5. Management and feasibility

The cooperation mechanisms within the Consortium are strong and efficient, demonstrating outstanding experience in running large structures with important international involvement. Appropriate structures as taskforces and committees, effective communication strategy, clear marketing plan, and strategic plans for action are set up. Specific administrative position will be created at the coordinating institution fully devoted to administrative coordination. The project shows full guarantee for its feasibility.

6. Other aspects

The research activities directly related with the MA contents are considered for 30 ECTS credits, but research possibilities for enrolled student go far beyond.

Synergies are created between this Master programme and the related thematic networks created under Erasmus (ATHENA, COTEPPRA, ACUME) which foster research opportunities. Consistent links with research are mentioned by participation of most of the partners in different research projects.

The whole programme is of very good quality and can be representative at European level in tuning common curricula in gender studies.

Some of GEMMA partners have already extended consortia in third countries and the examples provided increase the chances to attract important number of students.

Nevertheless, at least for marketing purposes, high recommendation is addressed to the applicant to revise and rephrase the Master title so that to reflect more adequately the specificity of the programme contents, which will increase its chances of attractiveness.