

*The 20th edition of the Erasmus Summer Programme (ESP) hosts 600 representatives from universities, industry and the public sector from 50 countries.
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Gateway to research training.

ERASMUS MC ROLLS OUT THE RED CARPET FOR INTERNATIONAL HEALTH SCIENTISTS

Rotterdam, the Netherlands – August 10, 2010

Under the motto ‘time to get in shape’, the 20th edition of the Erasmus Summer Programme (ESP) gets under way today. It hosts 600 representatives from universities, industry and the public sector from 50 countries. Its 50-strong faculty represents 25 leading universities in 15 countries. Between them, they will provide 26 courses, two master classes, and four public lectures.

The ESP focuses on key principles and methods of quantitative medical research. Providing essential updates in a range of applied medical and healthcare disciplines, it is intended for ambitious individuals interested in clinical medicine, general practice and public health, and also for epidemiologists, geneticists and biostatisticians.

The public lectures will address cardiovascular health, future population health, large-scale collaboration in epidemiology, and omics in longitudinal studies. Two new master classes will cover advances in epidemiologic study design and in genomics research.



“As we enter a new era of scientific discoveries, we’re delighted to bring our research-training to talented new people – people starting out in medical and public health research, people who want to combine research and clinical work, or people who’d like to increase their chances of qualifying for a PhD research project. Whether you intend to become an academic, or work as a scientist in industry or the public sector, NIHES can provide you with all the knowledge and expertise you need”.

– Professor Albert Hofman, MD, PhD, Erasmus MC

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The programme coincides with the start of the ERACOL project, which provides EU-funded scholarships for academic exchange in medicine and the health sciences between Europe and Latin America. Students from Colombia, Costa Rica and Panama who seek a career in clinical, biomedical, public-health or applied research will start their undergraduate, master's, doctorate or post-doctorate studies at selected universities in Europe. The periods range from 1 to 34 months. In return, students from Belgium, Italy, Spain, Sweden, and the Netherlands will start their studies at universities in Colombia, Costa Rica or Panama. Scholarships include tuition fees, a subsistence allowance, travel costs, and insurance. ERACOL also focuses on enhancing the skills of academic staff.

"ERACOL's overriding objective is to respond to the enormous need for programmes to train young scientists – especially in view of the explosion of activities in the life sciences. I'm privileged to be involved in just such a programme."

– Prof. Hofman



"In Third World countries, there is a clear disparity between educational budgets and the number of professionals who wish to contribute to change in their region by enhancing their knowledge and skills. By providing these professionals with opportunities for research training, the ERACOL programme will advance the development of medicine and public health in their countries."

– The Honourable Mrs. Ira Natasha RONER ARAUZ – Consul General of Panama in the Netherlands



"Technological and scientific development in the health sciences not always runs parallel to people's access to health services. There is still a large majority of persons for whom health is a mere illusion. One of the strengths of the Erasmus Summer Programme 2010 is that it combines reflections on the latest advances in medicine and the health sciences while at the same time it addresses moral issues associated with how to make health services increasingly accessible to everybody".

– Mr Julian Guerrero Orozco, Minister-Counsellor, Embassy of the Republic of Colombia in the Netherlands

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Participants in the ERACOL mobility programme with this year's research Fellows.

"The Erasmus Summer Programme is certainly a top class, comprehensive and intensive array of courses in the areas of epidemiology, statistics and public health, all of which are key areas for modern healthcare scientists and practitioners. With so many great modules on offer, my advice for students is: don't despair, but return! You can always come back next year or take a short cut and attend the Erasmus Winter Programme. And with so many potential courses to take and options for developing a career in epidemiology and public health, see the ESP just as an appetizer, an excellent entree of course!"

– Dr Oscar H. Franco MD DSc PhD FESC, Clinical Lecturer in Public Health, Department of Public Health & Primary Care, University of Cambridge

The Erasmus Summer Programme provides international students and professionals with an invaluable opportunity to spend three weeks in Holland, bringing themselves up to date in the health sciences. In practicals and presentations, they will have unique opportunities to introduce their research projects, preferences and ideas for the future.

Thanks partly to 17 Fellowships awarded to promising young scientists from universities around the world, the ESP makes significant contributions to life-long learning and the professional development of students and teachers. By attracting ever greater interest each year, it highlights the enormous international demand for a springboard to an MSc or PhD in quantitative medicine or public health research.

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Celebrating the 20th anniversary of Erasmus Summer Programme

Under the motto 'time to get in shape', the 2010 Programme is hosting 600 participants from 50 countries. The 50 faculty members represent 25 leading universities in 15 countries. The Programme lasts three weeks, covering 26 courses, two master classes and four public lectures.



*From left:
Professor Huib Pols, Dean
and vice-chair of the
Erasmus MC Board of
Directors,
Professor Albert Hofman,
NIHES Science Director and
Chair of the Department of
Epidemiology at Erasmus MC,
Professor Henk Schmidt,
Rector Magnificus of
Erasmus University
Rotterdam.*

"Only the best!" In the Times Higher Education 2009 ranking of citations, Erasmus University Rotterdam ranks first among European institutions in clinical medicine. By helping talented, young researchers to acquire specialized knowledge and advanced research skills, we enable them to customize their programmes and get involved in top-level research. Access to our extensive international scientific network, also enables them to significantly broaden their career perspectives."

– Prof. Pols

"Erasmus MC and Erasmus University Rotterdam partner the development of cross-border teaching programmes that benefit students and faculty alike. To us, such a high number of participants in the Erasmus Summer Programme reflects global recognition of our medical faculty and our standard of excellence."

– Prof. Schmidt

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About ERACOL

A unique opportunity to study in Europe or Latin America – from 1 to 34 months! ERACOL provides scholarships for undergraduate and master's students, doctorate or postdoctorate students, and academic staff. These scholarships include tuition fees (where applicable), a subsistence allowance, travel costs, and insurance.

About Erasmus Mundus External Cooperation Window

The Erasmus Mundus External Cooperation Window (EM ECW) is a cooperation and mobility scheme in the area of higher education cooperation launched by Europe Aid Cooperation Office and implemented by the Executive Agency Education, Audiovisual and Culture. The EM ECW objective is to achieve better understanding and mutual enrichment between the European Union and third countries co-operation in the field of higher education through promoting the exchange of persons, knowledge and skills at higher education level. This will be achieved through the promotion of partnerships and institutional cooperation exchanges between European Higher Education Institutions and Third Country institutions and a mobility scheme addressing student and academic exchanges.

About Netherlands Institute for Health Sciences – NIHES

The Netherlands Institute for Health Sciences (NIHES) is an alliance of renowned Dutch universities and research institutes who collaborate and share knowledge in quantitative medical and health research. We offer graduate and postgraduate research training – Master of Science programmes and short courses – in quantitative medicine and the health sciences in our core disciplines: Epidemiology, Clinical Epidemiology, Genetic Epidemiology, Public Health, and Medical Informatics. We collaborate with four key institutes: Erasmus University Rotterdam, University of Amsterdam, National Institute for Public Health and the Environment, Netherlands Cancer Institute.

Contacts

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Universidad del Cauca, Colombia
Universidad Autónoma de Centro América, Costa Rica
Universidad de Costa Rica, Costa Rica
Universidad de Panamá, Panamá
Universidad Latina de Panamá, Panamá

Europe:

Erasmus Medical Center Rotterdam (Erasmus MC), Netherlands
Karolinska Institutet, Sweden
Katholieke Universiteit Leuven, Belgium
Universitat Pompeu Fabra, Spain
University of Torino, Italy

ERACOL Associates

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Disclaimer: Project ERACOL has been funded with support from the European Community. The sole responsibility for this announcement lies with the author. The Commission and the Agency cannot be held responsible for any use which may be made of the information contained therein.