

**ANNOUNCEMENT OF COMPETITIVE EXAMINATIONS FOR ADMISSION TO THE  
ERASMUS MUNDUS JOINT DOCTORAL (EMJD) PROGRAMME IN  
ENVIRONMENTAL TECHNOLOGIES FOR CONTAMINATED SOLIDS, SOILS AND SEDIMENTS (EteCoS<sup>3</sup>)  
AT THE UNIVERSITÀ DEGLI STUDI DI CASSINO E DEL LAZIO MERIDIONALE**

### Art. 1 - Institution

The University of Cassino and Southern Lazio (coordinator institution) has launched the fifth edition of the Erasmus Mundus Joint Doctoral Programme in *Environmental Technologies for Contaminated Solids, Soils and Sediments (EteCoS<sup>3</sup>)*, for the academic year 2013-2014.

EteCoS<sup>3</sup> is a multidisciplinary and inter-sectorial consortium composed of 3 academic partners and 20 associated members (15 academic associated members, 2 international scientific associations, 1 national professional association and 2 SME associated members, from 11 different countries, including 3 third-countries). The research doctorate course is run in partnership with the UNESCO-IHE (Pollution Prevention and Control Care) (The Netherlands) – and the Université Paris-Est (UPE) (Laboratoire Géomatériaux et Environment) (France). An agreement between the above mentioned Institutions and the University of Cassino and Southern Lazio has been signed for five editions of the Doctoral Programme and will be renewable every 5 years, upon mutual written consent by all institutions involved. The partner institutions are in charge of the EMJD Programme management and PhD support and supervision. Upon this agreement the University of Cassino and Southern Lazio and every above mentioned partner participate, through their specific competences and educational structures, to set up the Erasmus Mundus Joint Doctoral Programme in EteCoS<sup>3</sup>.

The Erasmus Mundus PhD students enrolled in the ETeCoS<sup>3</sup> Programme will be registered at the University of Cassino and Southern Lazio. All PhD students will start the doctorate course at the partner institute where they will carry out most of their doctoral activities, i.e. at one of the three Partner Organisations with the distribution related to the selected research topic of the PhD theses, distributed over the three S (Solids, Soils and Sediments) of the ETeCoS<sup>3</sup> Programme. An annual PhD meeting of two weeks in May/June will be held on a rotary basis at the three Partner Organisations. All students have to participate in these meetings. During the first week, PhD students will give presentations of their research progress and meet colleagues of all different years/cohorts. The second week all PhD students will participate in a summer school that will detail fundamental and applied aspects of a topic related on one of the three S (Solids, Soils and Sediments) of the ETeCoS<sup>3</sup> Programme.

The minimal mobility for each PhD student for research activities will be 12 months (60 ECTS). In particular, PhD students have to go for at least 6 months (30 ECTS) to visit and do research at one of the two other partner organisations and at least 6 months (30 ECTS) to visit and do research at one of the associated members. These mobility periods can be longer up to a total maximum of 18 months (90 ECTS) if this is found useful for the PhD research and approved by the training board.

Next to these two research mobility periods and next to the above-cited PhD meetings and summer schools, PhD students will visit other countries for short periods to attend PhD courses, workshops and conferences.

The proposed ETeCoS<sup>3</sup> EMJD programme aims to: train students at PhD level to be able to develop environmental technologies, with a strong focus on multidisciplinary and problem-based technology development; offer the PhD students a wide range of optional specialised and professional skills; promote networking and exchange of knowledge and experience in the field of environmental engineering between PhD students of all nationalities.

The PhD student mobility program will be developed within the Institutions which are part of the Consortium. However, for specific scientific needs, students may visit other Universities, Research Institutions, Companies or other Professional Organisations, which are not part of the Consortium.

The whole training and research programme will be recognised by all partners. This guarantees that a completely joint diploma can be issued. The delivery of a joint degree is highly favoured by the Consortium, which will award this kind of degree to all ETeCoS<sup>3</sup> doctoral candidates.

The *Erasmus Mundus Joint Doctoral Programme EteCoS<sup>3</sup>* is relative to the study area – Engineering, Technology. Thematic study fields: 06.9 (Others – Engineering, Technology); Environmental Technology, 07.4 (Soil and Water Sciences); 13.3 (Chemistry); 13.6 (Biochemistry); 06.4 (Civil Engineering).

Each edition of the *EteCoS<sup>3</sup>* Doctorate will last three years and is coordinated by Prof. Giovanni ESPOSITO (Department of INGEGNERIA CIVILE E MECCANICA (DICEM)).

There are 11 positions available for admission to the fifth edition of the doctorate course. The University of Cassino and Southern Lazio has launched a competition, based on qualifications and examinations, for 10 of these positions. Nine of these should be accompanied by an Erasmus Mundus fellowship. One is accompanied by an Italian Ministry of Education, University and Research fellowship provided by the University of Cassino and Southern Lazio. The further position is accompanied by a fellowship provided by the University of Paris Est, but this will be assigned later on and thus is not included as open position in the present call. The selection for the latter additional



fellowship will be carried out autonomously by the University of Paris Est. The Erasmus Mundus Agency has not confirmed the number of available fellowships yet. In case there will be less than nine fellowships, the number of open positions will be reduced accordingly.

### Art. 2 - Conditions of admission

The competition for admission to the International Research Doctorate is open to European and non-European candidates who hold a Master of Science degree (MSc) in pure or applied sciences (e.g. , chemistry, biology, geochemistry, geology, civil, environmental or agricultural engineering, environmental or agricultural sciences, etc.) or an equivalent level from a recognised University or Engineering College. Applicants whose MSc degree is awarded later than the deadline of the present call but earlier than 30 September 2014 are eligible. They will be **admitted sub condicione and will have to provide a certificate of their MSc delivering Institution reporting the date when they are expected to be delivered their diploma**. Sufficient knowledge at an academic level of mathematics, physics and chemistry is an absolute requirement.

### Art. 3 - Application

The access to the ETeCoS<sup>3</sup> EMJD Programme will be regulated by a competitive application and carried out through a central selection procedure. The application form is enclosed to the present announcement and it is available online at <http://www.internationaldoctorate.unicas.it>.

Applications should be sent to the e-mail address [erasmusmundus.etecos3@unicas.it](mailto:erasmusmundus.etecos3@unicas.it) within the following deadline:

Application period	30 November 2013 to 31 January 2014
Deadline for applications	31 January 2014
Selection week	10 February – 14 February 2014
Communication of the selection results	15 April 2014

Late or incomplete applications will not be accepted.

The application file should contain all elements needed for the selection, such as academic background with a list of followed courses, obtained grades and ranking, language skills, and motivation to participate in the programme. Furthermore, the MSc thesis, two recommendation letters, a review of research activities carried out and a short research plan are requested. The Administrative Board collects all applications and checks whether students fulfil the basic diploma requirements. All applications received within the application period prior the publicized deadline will be subjected to a multi-step selection procedure detailed below.

In the application form, under the candidate's own responsibility, must be clearly specified, by typing in block capitals:

- personal particulars, tax code (if held), date and place of birth, place of residence, postal address, e-mail address where communications about the selection procedure should be sent (specifying the postcode and, if possible, a telephone number and a Skype contact);
- citizenship;
- degree held with a list of followed courses (specifying the University that issued it and the date of issue - specifying the number and date of the Rector's decree declaring the value);

Candidates must enclose the following documents with their application forms:

- European Format Curriculum Vitae
- Copy of a valid passport
- Certified (translated) copy of University diplomas or degree certificate indicating the final grade (applicants whose MSc degree is awarded later than the deadline of the present call **will enclose a certificate reporting the date when they are expected to be delivered their diploma**)
- Certified (translated) transcript of study results (all courses attended with grades for each examination)
- Copy of the last university degree thesis
- Letter of motivation to participate in the *Environmental Technologies for Contaminated Solids, Soils and Sediments* (ETeCoS<sup>3</sup>) Doctorate
- 2 Letters of recommendation from lecturers/researchers at the university that issued the candidate's degree or at other academic institutions (to be sent separately by the persons recommending the candidate)
- Review of research activities carried out with the list of publications (if any)

- Research plan and PhD thesis outline (maximum 5 pages)
- A document giving evidence that the applicant's level of proficiency of the English language meets the ETeCoS<sup>3</sup> requirements.

#### **Art. 4 - Additional specifications for disabled candidates**

In compliance with Article 20 Italian Law N° 104 dated 5 February 1992, disabled candidates may apply, if they wish, for special aids and/or additional time to take the entry examination. Candidates who wish to make use of this facility must enclose a medical certificate substantiating the validity of their request with their application form.

#### **Art. 5 - Qualifications**

The Consortium will strive towards a balanced gender participation. Selection is based on academic scores, reputation of the school or institute where the student has previously studied, language skills, country of origin (to promote geographical balance), recommendation letters, interest, motivation and background, and the interviews. When these measures would not yet result in balanced gender participation, preference will be given to the underrepresented gender during selection of candidates when candidates of different genders would submit application files of similar quality. English language competence is a basic requirement, applicants should reach at least the level B2 of the *Common European Framework of Reference for Languages*. To certify their competence, applicants should submit:

- a TOEFL certificate, max. 2 years old with minimum total score of 550 on the paper based test, or minimum total score of 79 on an internet based test, or
- a IELTS certificate, max. 2 years old with minimum overall band score of 6, or
- a TOEIC certificate, max. 2 years old with minimum total score of 750, or
- the Cambridge ESOL First Certificate in English (FCE).

Candidates who expect to be awarded the necessary qualification later than the deadline of the present call for applications but earlier than the date of the selection examination may apply for admission; in this case, the candidate will be admitted to the course *sub condizione* and will have to provide a certificate of possession of the qualification within thirty days from the date when it is awarded.

#### **Art. 6 - Selection**

The selection of the applicants is a competitive process based on the academic performance and credentials of the applicants as to guarantee selection of high-quality students. The first evaluation takes into account the applicants' education and background, and applications of candidates which meet the requirements of the ETeCoS<sup>3</sup> EMJD Programme will be invited for a skype interview with web cam. Each candidate will conduct several interviews with the committee members to discuss research experience and interests. These interviews will result in a first assessment of candidates. All applicants will proceed to a final interview with the selection committee, which will evaluate the overall qualification of the candidate, and recommend to the Management Assembly of the international PhD Programme who to admit to the program. Information about the date and location of the examination set for each candidate admitted will be given by email or on the ETeCoS<sup>3</sup> website. This publication will have the value of notification with full effect. Candidates must produce one of the following identity documents when attending the entry examination: a) identity card; b) passport.

#### **Art. 7 - Selection Committee**

The selection committee in charge of this competitive examination will include at least 3 members of the Training Board (ETeCoS<sup>3</sup> Coordinator, Leaders of the 3 Research Tasks) of the EMJD Programme nominated from the partner organisations.

#### **Art. 8 - Admission to the course**

Admission will be granted by the consortium following the recommendation of the selection committee. Offers of admission to the ETeCoS<sup>3</sup> EMJD Programme will be made to the selected candidates. The offers will include the affiliation to a research group of a Partner Institution.

In order to be admitted to the Doctoral Programme the selected candidates will sign an employment contract, containing their rights and obligations.

Candidates will be admitted to the doctorate course on the basis of the selection ranking, until the number of places available for the competition has been filled. Candidates from position 1 to 9 will be awarded an Erasmus Mundus fellowship. Candidate at position 10 will be awarded a fellowship of lower amount. The number of Erasmus Mundus fellowships is dependent on the European funding and could be lower than 9.

Applicants admitted to the courses will lose their entitlement if they fail to make express acceptance within eight (8) working days of the date when they are informed by email. In such a case, the positions will be taken by the candidates selected for the reserve list.



### **Art. 9 - Fellowships**

Employment contracts will be used to appoint the 9 doctoral candidates ranked from position 1 to 9 who will be awarded an Erasmus Mundus fellowship. This fellowship will be taxed according to the Italian taxation policies. While signing these employment contracts, the candidates will earn all employers' rights and obligations, including health care, social security and pension.

The additional fellowship provided by the University of Cassino and Southern Lazio will be Italian Ministry of Education, University and Research fellowship and it will be awarded to the candidate ranked at position 10.

A further doctoral candidate will be awarded a different fellowship covered by the University of Paris Est. This additional fellowship will be assigned later on and thus is not included as open position in the present call.

### **Art. 10 - Tuition fees**

A tuition fee of 5.000 and 6.000 euros per year should be paid for EU and non-EU students, respectively. In the case of Erasmus Mundus fellowship holders, the tuition fees will be covered by the fixed contribution of the EM grant to the doctoral candidates participation costs. This contribution of 21.600 euros for 36 months will be charged directly to the doctoral candidate who will sign a "doctoral candidate agreement" specifying the amount to be charged and the costs/activities covered by it. Next to tuition fees, this contribution will be used for educational and research activities (education and laboratory related costs, attendance at meetings, conferences, etc.) of the doctoral candidates. In the case of the Italian Ministry of Education, University and Research fellowship holder there will be no tuition fees as his participation costs (compulsory mobility, education and laboratory related costs, attendance at meetings, conferences, etc.) will not be covered by the Consortium.

### **Art. 11 - PhD students' rights and obligations**

A comprehensive Doctoral Candidate Agreement will be made defining the joint course and research implementation rules and mechanisms as well as the mutual rights, obligations and responsibilities of the two parties for what concerns the academic, administrative and financial aspects of the PhD student's participation in the ETeCoS<sup>3</sup> programme. It aims to ensure active participation of all students in the programme activities and to guarantee transparency of participation rules. The Doctoral Candidate Agreement is signed by both parties (students and ETeCoS<sup>3</sup> consortium members) upon enrolment of the PhD student.

ETeCoS<sup>3</sup> will follow the recommendations contained in the European Charter for Researchers and on the Code of Conduct for the Recruitment of Researchers, giving individual researchers the same rights and obligations wherever they may work throughout the EU.

### **Art. 12 - Award of the qualification**

The PhD qualification is awarded at the conclusion of the PhD edition, by passing the final examination, which is subordinate to the presentation of a written thesis (PhD thesis) in English and it is mandatory that at least 4 chapters of the thesis have been published (or at least are submitted to) in peer review journals.

### **Art. 13 - Treatment and processing of personal information**

In accordance with the Regulations issued in application of Italian Legislative Decree N° 196, dated 30 June 2003, the University hereby undertakes to respect the reserved nature of the information provided by applicants: all the information provided will be processed solely for purposes connected with and instrumental to the competition and the management of the applicant's relationship with the University, in compliance with the laws currently in force.

### **Art. 14 - Benchmark legal framework**

Any items for which no specific provision has been made in this announcement shall be regulated in accordance with the Italian legislation.