

RELIC Degree Awarding Policy

Erasmus Mundus Joint Master “Responsible Leadership in Cultural and Religious Heritage (RELIC)”

1. Purpose and Scope

This Multiple Degree Awarding Policy defines the criteria, procedures, responsibilities, and governance framework for the award of multiple master's degrees within the Erasmus Mundus Joint Master (EMJM) *Responsible Leadership in Cultural and Religious Heritage (RELIC)*.

The policy applies to all degree-awarding Partner Institutions (“Full Partners”) participating in RELIC and governs the award of multiple degrees to students who successfully complete the jointly agreed curriculum, mobility pathways, and assessment requirements as laid down in:

- **the RELIC Partnership Agreement,**
- **the RELIC Study, Teaching and Examination Regulations (STER),**
- **the RELIC Quality Assurance Policy,**
- **applicable national and institutional regulations.**

This policy ensures that degree awarding within RELIC is **transparent, legally compliant, academically coherent, and fully aligned with the European Approach for Quality Assurance of Joint Programmes and Erasmus Mundus requirements** .

2. Principles of Multiple Degree Awarding

The RELIC multiple degree model is based on the following principles:

1. **Joint academic responsibility:** The programme is jointly conceived, academically governed, and quality-assured by all Partner institutions. Partners collectively design the curriculum, define learning outcomes, agree on mobility pathways, and coordinate assessment standards. While degrees are awarded separately under national legal frameworks, all academic decisions concerning the programme are taken jointly within the consortium’s shared governance structures.
2. **Automatic and mutual recognition:** Credits, assessments, and learning outcomes obtained at partner institutions within the RELIC curriculum are automatically and mutually recognised.
3. **Mobility-based degree entitlement:** A student’s entitlement to a degree from a Full Partner institution is conditional upon the successful completion of the agreed mobility period and the minimum number of ECTS credits at that institution, as defined in the joint curriculum.



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4. **Compliance with national legislation:** Each Full Partner awards its degree in conformity with its own accreditation status and national regulations, without undermining the joint nature of the programme.

3. Criteria for Awarding Multiple Degrees

A student is eligible for the award of a RELIC multiple degree if all of the following conditions are met:

1. **Successful completion of the full programme**

The student has obtained **120 ECTS**, in accordance with the RELIC curriculum and STER.

2. **Fulfilment of compulsory mobility requirements**

The student has:

- o completed at least 30 ECTS in the first three semesters of the program at each degree-awarding Full Partner from which a degree is to be awarded;
- o followed one of the formally approved RELIC Mobility Pathways;
- o completed the Intensive Immersion Course
- o completed the thesis requirements as stipulated.

3. **Successful assessment of the Master's thesis**

The thesis has been:

- o jointly supervised in accordance with RELIC rules;
- o assessed according to the applicable assessment criteria;
- o formally approved by the relevant Examination Boards or delegated bodies.

4. **Compliance with institutional administrative requirements**

The student has fulfilled all registration, enrolment, and graduation requirements at the degree-awarding institutions.

4. Mutual Recognition of Credits and Qualifications

4.1 Recognition of Credits

- All courses and modules included in the RELIC curriculum are pre-approved by the Partner Institutions.
- Credits earned within the RELIC programme are fully and automatically recognised by all Full Partners, in line with the European Credit Transfer and Accumulation System (ECTS).
- Where local credit systems differ, conversion to ECTS is carried out using the jointly agreed conversion tables included in the STER.

4.2 Recognition of Assessments and Grades

- Grades are awarded according to local grading systems and converted using the joint grading conversion framework (Annex 4 STER).
- No additional examinations or validations are required for recognised RELIC coursework completed at partner institutions.

4.3 Recognition of the Qualification

- Each awarded degree is formally recognised by the other Full Partners as part of the jointly delivered RELIC programme.
- The Diploma Supplement explicitly states the joint nature, mobility path, and partner institutions involved.

5. Institutional Approval Procedures

5.1 Internal Approval

At each Full Partner institution, this Multiple Degree Awarding Policy is:

- reviewed by the relevant academic authorities (e.g. programme committees, examination boards);
- reviewed by legal and quality assurance offices, where required;
- formally approved in accordance with institutional governance structures.

5.2 Joint Endorsement

- The policy is jointly endorsed by the Programme Management Committee (PMC).
- Any amendments require PMC approval and, where necessary, renewed institutional validation.

5.3 Ongoing Compliance

- Partners commit to informing the consortium of any changes in national legislation or accreditation status that may affect degree awarding.
- The PMC coordinates adaptations to ensure continued compliance.

6. Degree Awarding Procedure

1. Verification of eligibility

Upon completion of the RELIC curriculum, the RELIC Secretariat, hosted by the University of Groningen, conducts a formal eligibility check. This verification confirms that the student has:

- successfully completed 120 ECTS in accordance with the jointly agreed curriculum and Study, Teaching and Examination Regulations (STER);



- o fulfilled the approved mobility pathway, including the minimum ECTS requirements at each degree-awarding institution;
- o successfully completed and passed the Master's thesis and associated requirements;
- o met all administrative obligations (registration, enrolment, submission deadlines) at the relevant degree-awarding institutions.
- o The Secretariat consolidates transcripts and assessment outcomes from partner institutions and prepares the formal completion dossier.

2. Confirmation by Examination Bodies

- o At consortium level, the RELIC Programme Examination Committee (PEC) confirms that the student has fulfilled all joint academic requirements of the programme.
- o This confirmation is transmitted to the local Examination Committees, who formally establishes that:
 1. all required programme components have been completed;
 2. assessments and grading comply with institutional standards;
 3. credits obtained at partner institutions are recognised automatically within the RELIC framework.

3. Issuing of degrees

- o Each degree-awarding Full Partner issues its own nationally recognised Master's diploma, in accordance with its legal and institutional regulations.
- o The multiple degree structure reflects national legal frameworks for degree issuance and does not imply separate or parallel programmes.

4. Issuing of Diploma Supplements

Each diploma is accompanied by a Diploma Supplement clearly describing:

- o that the degree was obtained within an Erasmus Mundus Joint Master;
- o the joint nature of the programme and the partner institutions involved;
- o the mobility pathway followed by the student;
- o the distribution of ECTS credits across institutions;
- o the achieved learning outcomes and qualification level.

7. Communication and Dissemination

7.1 Target Groups

This policy is communicated to:

- prospective and enrolled students,
- academic and administrative staff,
- external stakeholders (e.g. accreditation bodies, employers).



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7.2 Communication Channels

The policy is made publicly available through:

- the official RELIC programme website;
- the Student Handbook;
- orientation sessions and information materials;
- internal staff briefings and training sessions.

7.3 Transparency for Students

Students receive clear information on:

- degree awarding conditions,
- mobility-degree links,
- administrative procedures,
- rights and obligations.

8. Quality Assurance and Review

- The implementation of this policy is monitored as part of the joint quality assurance cycle.
- Feedback from students, staff, and external evaluations is used to refine procedures.
- The policy is reviewed periodically and updated where necessary to ensure continued alignment with Erasmus Mundus and EHEA standards.

9. Final Provisions

This Multiple Degree Awarding Policy enters into force upon approval by the RELIC Partner Institutions and remains valid for the duration of the EMJM, subject to periodic review.



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