

RELIC Joint Student Admission Requirements and Application Guidelines

The joint application procedure for the Degree Programme is jointly organised and implemented by the Partners.

1. General Admission Requirements

To be eligible for admission to the Erasmus Mundus Joint Master in **Responsible Leadership in Cultural and Religious Heritage (RELIC)**, applicants must meet the following requirements.

1. Educational Background

Applicants must hold a Bachelor's degree (or an equivalent qualification at **EQF Level 6**) in a relevant field, such as Religious Studies, Cultural Heritage, Anthropology, Sociology, History, Archaeology, Art History, Philosophy, Cultural Studies, Law, Political Sciences, Public Administration, (Cultural) Geography, Social work, or related disciplines.

Applicants who are in the final year of their undergraduate studies may apply, provided that they obtain their degree before the official start date of the programme.

2. Academic Merit

- Applicants must demonstrate strong academic performance, normally evidenced by a final grade equivalent to at least a **Second Class Upper Division (2:1)** or a **minimum average of 75%** average.
- Applicants must provide a grade list of the marks of their bachelor's degree programme with an explanation of the followed courses.



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3. English Language Proficiency

All applicants must provide proof of English proficiency by submitting test results from one of the following tests:

C1 Advanced (formerly CAE)	185
C2 Proficiency (formerly CPE)	185
IELTS overall band	Minimum overall score of 7 (no band below 6.5)
TOEFL (internet-based)	TOEFL (internet-based) 100, writing minimum 24, reading/listening/speaking minimum 21

Applicants who do not meet the minimum required scores will not be eligible for admission to the programme.

Language certificates must not be older than **two (2) years** at the time of application. Any English language test other than those listed above will not be considered valid.

Exemptions apply to:

- Applicants holding a Dutch VWO diploma;
- Native speakers of English who have completed their full secondary education in English;
- Applicants who have completed a full-time Bachelor's degree (minimum nominal duration of three years) taught entirely in English.

4. Spanish Language Proficiency (only for students in the Spanish-English track)



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All applicants applying for the Spanish-English track must also provide proof of Spanish proficiency by submitting test results from one of the following tests:

DELE C1	APTO (Pass)
DELE C2	APTO (Pass)
SIELE Global Exam	S1–S5 equivalent to CEFR C1, with no component below B2
TELC Español C1	C1 (Pass)

Applicants who do not meet the minimum required level will not be eligible for the Spanish–English track.

Spanish language certificates must not be older than **two (2) years**. Any Spanish language test other than those listed above will not be considered valid.

Students in the English track who wish to write their thesis at a Spanish-language Consortium Partner in the fourth semester, have to provide one of the above Spanish language certificates together with their application for thesis supervision in the fourth semester.

Exemptions apply to:

- Native speakers of Spanish who have completed their full secondary education in Spanish;
- Applicants who have completed a full-time Bachelor’s degree (minimum nominal duration of three years) taught entirely in Spanish.

5. Motivation and Alignment



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Applicants must demonstrate strong motivation to engage with the core themes of the RELIC programme, including religion, cultural and religious heritage, ecology, digital innovation, and social inclusion.

The Motivation Letter must clearly outline:

- The applicant's academic and/or professional background;
- The relevance of RELIC to their interests in responsible cultural leadership and critical heritage practice;
- Their vision for applying the programme's outcomes in future professional practice or academic research.

6. References

- One (1) letter of recommendation from an academic referee (from the BA supervisor, preferably).

7. Additional Assets

Additional assets may include, but are not limited to:

- Relevant professional, research, or voluntary experience in cultural, heritage, or religious institutions;
- Familiarity with digital tools, community engagement practices, or ecological approaches to heritage.

8. Optional: official proof of socio-economic vulnerability. Examples may include: documentation from a former university confirming receipt of a grant for students from disadvantaged backgrounds; proof of refugee or asylum-seeker status; membership in an Indigenous community; identification as an individual with diverse gender identities and/or gender expressions; or government- or municipality-issued proof of low income.

2. Application Procedure



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Applications must be submitted online through the official **RELIC website**

Application Period

- Opens: **[date to be confirmed]**

- Closes: **[date to be confirmed]**

Required Documents:

Applicants must submit the following documents:

- Completed **online application form**;
- Copy of the photo page of a valid **passport**;
- **Curriculum Vitae** in English (Europass format recommended);
- **Motivation Letter** in English (maximum 750 words), indicating the preferred study track;
- **Academic transcripts and degree certificate(s)**, accompanied by certified English translations where applicable.

Applicants who have not yet graduated at the time of application must additionally submit:

- A list of courses pending completion, including course credits;
- An explanation of the grading system;
- A writing sample, such as an undergraduate thesis or research paper.
- Proof of English and/or Spanish language proficiency, or proof of eligibility for an exemption;
- One letter of recommendation, submitted in accordance with the provided template;
- Proof of socio-economic vulnerability (if applicable).

All documents must be submitted in English or accompanied by a certified translation. Documents must be uploaded in PDF format.

Each individual document must not exceed 2 MB in size, except for the Application Form and Reference Forms (maximum 4 MB). Multiple documents within the same category must be merged into a single PDF file. File names should be clearly identifiable and preferably follow the format: *Surname_DocumentType*.



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3. Selection Process

The RELIC Secretariat, acting on behalf of the Partnership, is responsible for receiving and processing all applications, in consultation with the Programme Examination Committee.

The Programme Examination Committee is responsible for the annual selection and admission of students, as well as for establishing and reviewing admission requirements, in accordance with applicable national legislation and institutional regulations.

All applications will be assessed through a transparent, merit-based evaluation process. Evaluation begins after the application deadline has passed.

Admission is conditional upon compliance with the RELIC Study, Teaching and Examination Regulations (STER) and a positive evaluation by the Programme Examination Committee.

Evaluation Criteria:

- Academic Background (60%)
- Motivation Letter (15%)
- Reference(s) (15%)
- Additional Experience (10%)

Applicants with fewer opportunities (social-economic disadvantages, disabilities, etc.) are called upon to make this known in their application, so that the Consortium can take each individual case into consideration.

The weighting reflects the Programme's commitment to academic excellence, diversity, and social inclusion.

Shortlisted applicants may be invited to participate in an online interview to further assess motivation, communication skills, and thematic alignment with the programme.

Conditional admission may be granted to applicants who have not yet completed their undergraduate degree or language certification at the time of application, provided that all requirements are fulfilled before the start of the programme.

4. Admission Outcomes



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Applicants will be informed of the outcome of their application by email by **[date to be confirmed]**. Possible outcomes include:

- Selected for an Erasmus Mundus scholarship;
- Placed on the reserve list for an Erasmus Mundus scholarship;
- Selected for self-funded admission;
- Conditionally admitted;
- Not selected.

Selected applicants must confirm their acceptance within **30 days** of notification.

5. Erasmus Mundus Scholarship Information

Erasmus Mundus Joint Master scholarships include:

- Full tuition fee coverage;
- A monthly subsistence allowance of **€1,400** for up to 24 months;
- Comprehensive health insurance coverage.

Scholarships are awarded on the basis of academic merit, diversity considerations, and geographical balance, in accordance with Erasmus+ guidelines.

Selected students without a scholarship are offered a waiver of the participation costs.

6. Mobility Pathways

Students will study at a minimum of three partner institutions, ensuring an interdisciplinary and international learning experience.

ENGLISH TRACK

Year 1, Semester 1 — University of Groningen (Netherlands) *Common to all students

Year 1, Semester 2 — Sree Sankaracharya University of Sanskrit (India)

Year 2, Semester 1 — Jagiellonian University Krakow (Poland)

Year 2, Semester 2 — Intensive Immersion Course at Cyprus Institute (Cyprus) *Common to all students

Year 2, Semester 2 – Thesis and additional training at any partner institution (dependent on availability of supervision)

SPANISH-ENGLISH TRACK



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- Year 1, Semester 1 — University of Groningen (Netherlands) *Common to all students
- Year 1, Semester 2 — Universidad de Guanajuato (México)
- Year 2, Semester 1 — Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona (Spain)
- Year 2, Semester 2 — Intensive Immersion Course at Cyprus Institute (Cyprus)
*Common to all students
- Year 2, Semester 2 — Thesis and additional training at any partner institution
(dependent on availability of supervision)

7. Student Agreement

All admitted students are required to sign a Student Agreement between the student and the RELIC Consortium, represented by the Coordinating Institution, the University of Groningen.

The Student Agreement sets out the rights and obligations of students and includes provisions related to the curriculum, mobility periods, registration and degree award, financial matters, programme implementation, individual student arrangements (including scholarships and mobility pathways), surveys, and participation in the Erasmus community.

By signing the Student Agreement, students agree to comply with all programme rules and regulations and to participate in programme-related monitoring and quality assurance activities.

Template versions of the Student Agreement (for scholarship holders and non-scholarship holders) will be made available via the RELIC website.



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