

Frequently Asked Questions - FAQ

(Version v.0032)

This document is not intended to repeat information available on the TROPIMUNDO website or in its online Application-Information-Management tool. It is intended to provide **additional information** or to provide examples of particular personal situations.

GENERAL INFORMATION ON THE MASTERS COURSE AND ITS GOVERNANCE

[Who are the **associate partners** and what are their tasks?](#)

[Why am I not eligible for a **scholarship**?](#)

QUESTIONS RELATED TO APPLICATIONS (DEADLINES, ELIGIBILITY, ETC...)

[Do I have the **right diploma\(s\)** with enough study credits to be eligible?](#)

[I do not speak **French**; can I apply to the program?](#)

[Can I send my official documents in PDF by **e-mail**?](#)

[Can I register after the **deadline**?](#)

[Do I need to send/bring my **original diplomas**?](#)

POST-ADMISSION QUESTIONS

[Is the Masters course covered by a **Consortium Agreement**?](#)

[Do I need to sign a **Student Agreement**?](#)

[Where can I obtain information about **immigration and visas**?](#)

[What is the **cost of living** in each of the cities involved in TROPIMUNDO?](#)

[How can I find **accommodation, socio-cultural and leisure activities** in the cities involved in TROPIMUNDO?](#)

Who are the associate partners and what are their tasks?

[top](#)

TROPIMUNDO has >50 Associate Partners that agreed to advertise the program, to provide or to communicate existing placement/job/internship/thesis perspectives and/or scholarships, to assist in evaluating Master theses and to participate in the continuous evaluation of the Master’s program through TROPIMUNDO’s Steering Board’s external advisory body and through its Internal Evaluation Committee. Their names are indicated on the TROPIMUNDO Homepage and TROPIMUNDO students have access to their contact persons.

Why am I not eligible for a scholarship?

[top](#)

The regulation regarding applicant’s eligibility for (extra) Scholarships is governed solely by the European Commission’s Education, Audiovisual and Culture Executive Agency (EACEA). The TROPIMUNDO Consortium has no other choice than to follow these rules.

QUESTIONS RELATED TO APPLICATIONS (DEADLINES, ELIGIBILITY, ETC.)

Do I have the right diploma(s) with enough study credits to be eligible?

[top](#)

You need **minimum** a Bachelor of Science degree **equivalent** to 180 ECTS with a major in Biology, Natural Sciences, Zoology, Botany, Environmental Sciences, or **equivalent** from an **accredited** university. A hypothetical student that has completed four years BSc. (Hon's) in Forestry for 161 credits and has an additional Master in Forestry for 40 credits fulfils the eligibility for this course.

Mathematics, Physics, Chemistry and Biology are considered essential (courses may slightly differ), and Biochemistry, Geology and Statistics are considered important, and course marks on these subjects are evaluated by the TROPIMUNDO Selection Committee. Students from the UK may have followed one or more of these basic scientific courses in secondary school and should emphasize this in their motivation letter.

A non-exhaustive list of diplomas considered being equivalent (provided the essential courses listed above appear on the course transcripts) or not equivalent to a BSc. degree with a major in Biology, Natural Sciences, Environmental Sciences is given below by way of example (in alphabetical order). The lists below are based on applications that have actually been submitted to TROPIMUNDO since 2013; degree names listed in both columns have been subject to both acceptances and rejections based on the exact courses followed by the applicant. No applications are rejected based on degree name only; courses and course names are always scrutinised in order to decide whether or not a degree is acceptable.

Equivalent BSc.	NOT equivalent degrees
Agriculture	any professional Bachelor degree (aimed at teaching)
Agroforestry and Nature Management	any Licence professionnelle (aimed at teaching)
Agronomie	any Bachelor of Arts
Aménagement et Protection de l’Environnement	Agricultural Resource Economics and Management
Applied Biology	Animal Behaviour and Welfare
Applied Natural Sciences	Biochemistry (without ecology)
Aquatic Science, Fisheries or Oceanography	Biotechnology (without ecology)
Aquatic Resources	Chemistry or Chemical Engineering
Biochemistry	Civil Engineering
Biodiversity and Conservation Biology	Computer Science
Biology and Sustainable Development	Computer Applications
Bio-engineering: Agronomy	Crop Production and Protection
Biotechnology	Cultural Anthropology and Tourism
Botany and Conservation	Ecotourism

Equivalent BSc.	NOT equivalent degrees
Chemistry, Microbiology, Zoology	Education Sciences, even with a major in Biology
Climate Science	Electrical Engineering
Conservation Biology	Farm Forestry
Dryland Agriculture	Floriculture
Ecology and Environmental Biology	Forest Resources Management
Ecology and Evolutionary Biology	Geography (without ecology)
Ecology and Remote Sensing	Geology
Environmental Sciences and Resources Management	Global Affairs
Environmental Sciences, Management of Socio-Ecological Systems	Horticulture
Fisheries, Forestry and Wildlife	Human Sciences
Fisheries and Aquatic Science	Industrial Agriculture
Forest Management and Utilization	Journalism
Forest Resources Conservation and Ecotourism	Language and Literature
Forestry	Medicine
Forestry and Environmental Sciences	Metallurgical and Materials Engineering
Forestry and Wood Technology	Molecular Biology (without ecology)
Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology	Pharmacy
Geology and Environmental Sciences	Physics
Lic Sciences Vie Terre et Environnement	Policy & Law, or Criminology
Life Sciences	Production forestry
Management and Conservation of Natural Resources	Public administration
Marine Biology and Coastal Ecology	Public Health
Microbiology	Rural Development and agricultural extension
Molecular Biology	Social Geography
Oceanography	Social Sciences
Plant Protection	Statistics
Range Management	Surveying and Geographic Information Science
Rural Development, Agronomy and Forestry	Technology in Industrial Microbiology
Sea Science	Veterinary Medicine
Wildlife Science, Conservation or Management	Wildlife Management

If your diploma is not listed here or you believe it is equivalent, then please submit and a decision will be taken after examining your course list.

I do not speak French; can I apply to the program?

[top](#)

Yes you can, but you should carefully select the right Trajectories based on course languages. All detailed course descriptions are available on the TROPIMUNDO website. Basically, all Trajectories involving SU-MNHN, UdG, UdA, UDSch and UNIVANTA necessitate proficiency in French. At ULB-VUB students the language of instruction is English. Finally, at UNIFI, Reunion Island, RUH and UMT all courses are taught in English.

While filling the application form, **please make sure** that your first six Trajectory choices and your selection of the course language (Section 10) matches your current language knowledge (Section 8).

Can I send my official documents in PDF by e-mail or by ordinary post?

[top](#)

No. All documents must be uploaded online. In addition, official documents comprising multiple pages must be merged and uploaded as a single PDF document. We do not accept any documents sent by e-mail or by ordinary mail, and any documents sent through this way will be destroyed upon arrival.

Can I enrol after the deadline?

The annual deadlines are set to close the applications to the program. However the submission of an application is not the same as the official enrolment procedure with the institutions of the TROPIMUNDO Consortium, the latter of which is started approximately in March or April. Also note that there are multiple deadlines per year depending on whether you are applying for an Erasmus Mundus scholarship or as a self-funded student.

Do I need to send/bring my original diplomas?

Whereas we are happy to proceed with diploma scans at selection stage, at enrolment stage some institutions require the original Bachelor diploma or a certified copy, but **not** a copy of a certified copy. You should check these requirements before travelling to Europe). Also note that if you are accepted under condition of providing your Bachelor diploma, and you have not done so at enrolment stage, you will have to do it at a later stage or find yourself denied the TROPIMUNDO diploma.

POST-ADMISSION QUESTIONS

Is the Masters course covered by a Consortium Agreement?

[top](#)

A Consortium Agreement is signed between all teaching Higher Education Institutions involved in TROPIMUNDO that can be consulted by TROPIMUNDO students and staff.

Do I need to sign a Student Agreement?

[top](#)

Yes. Each student needs to sign a Student Agreement, which is available on the website.

Where can I obtain information about immigration and visas?

[top](#)

Belgium

<http://diplomatie.belgium.be/>

N.B. To apply for a Belgian visa as a **self-funded student**, you will need to have a financial guarantor. The guarantor must be able to prove that he has a monthly income that is sufficiently high for him to be able to pay you 614 EUR/month, while retaining 973 EUR/month for himself and 150 EUR/month for each dependent. If these conditions cannot be met, the Belgian consulate will not issue a student visa. Students with an Erasmus Mundus scholarship will have 1000 EUR/month of monthly allowance to prove financial independence. These amounts may change.

France

<http://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/france/coming-to-france/getting-a-visa/>
<http://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/france/studying-in-france/administrative-steps/>

Italy

http://www.esteri.it/visti/index_eng.asp

Cameroon

<http://www.visa-en-ligne.com/pays/cameroun.php>

<http://www.cameroonhighcommission.co.uk/visa/>

Madagascar

<http://www.madagascar-consulate.org/>

Sri Lanka









<https://www.srilanka-etaonline.com/>

Malaysia

<http://www.imi.gov.my/index.php/en/>

<https://educationmalaysia.gov.my/>

The table below provides a non-exhaustive list of the most important costs associated to the TROPIMUNDO programme. Superscripts are clarified below the table.

Higher Education Institution(s)	ULB-VUB	SU-MNHN	UdG	UdA	UNIRé	UNIFI	UDsch	UNIVANTA	RUH	UMT
Country										
City	Brussels	Paris	Kourou (French Guyana)	Point-à-Pitre (Guadeloupe)	Saint-Denis (La Réunion)	Florence	Dschang	Antananarivo	Matara	Kuala Terengganu
Currency	in Euro (EUR)	in Euro (EUR)	in Euro (EUR)	in Euro (EUR)	in Euro (EUR)	in Euro (EUR)	in Cameroon Franc (XAF)	in Malagasy Ariary (MGA)	in Sri Lankan Rupees (LKR)	in Malaysian Ringits (MYR)
Courses, books	35	35	50	40	50	35	10000	70000	10000	50
Accommodation ¹	500	450	130	350	240	260	50000	700000	20000	600
Food ²	300	300	400	300	250	300	250000	900000	15000	600
Health care (medical costs) ³	20	20	30	30	30	20	20000	80000	10000	50
Public transport	40	35	NA	60	50	25	20000	200000	10000	200
Miscellaneous (telephone, leisure ...) ²	55	55	100	80	50	55	50000	300000	15000	500
TOTAL (in local currency)	950	895	710	860	670	695	400000	2190000	80000	2000
TOTAL (in EUR, 25/10/2018)	950	895	710	860	670	695	610	548	404	420
Country visa ⁴	variable	variable	variable	variable	variable	variable	variable	variable	variable	300 + variable
Residence permit/ Student pass	45	free	free	free	60	160	not needed	free	not needed	not needed
Health check ⁵						150 ⁴			5000	250
Field schools ⁶		25		100	200		353333	2000000	60000	2000
TOTAL (in local currency)	>45	25		100	110-210	>310	>353333	>2000000	>65000	>2550
TOTAL (in EUR, 25/10/2018)	>45	25		100	110-210	>310	>539	>500	>328	>536

¹ Accommodation based on a room in a shared apartment incl. expenses for electricity, gas and water. For UMT based on each student living in a shared hostel room (max. 2 students in each room).

² This largely depends on personal lifestyle.

³This largely depends on your personal health. Note that basic health care costs are paid for by the TROPIMUNDO Consortium (but this health care is not valid if you reside in your country of nationality, in the US or in Canada). At UMT you can take an extra health card which entitles you to access all on-campus medical facilities free of charge. Please contact Local Coordinator for detailed information.

⁴Country visas vary between free of charge and >350 EUR. In MY, Education Malaysia Global Service (EMGS) is operating as a middle person. Please consult the diplomatic website of each country to find the cost of visa for a citizen of a given country. Also note that Erasmus Mundus scholarship holders have a special statute and pay less for Belgian visas.

⁵IT: **Italian sanitary card.** Vaccinations in Italy *e.g.* in case of special allergies, asthma, immunological deficiencies (Tessera Sanitaria per Stranieri Temporaneamente in Italia = Italian Sanitary Card). We advise to get vaccinations that you will need in S2 in your home country before travelling to Europe. In Malaysia there is an obligatory health check incl. screening for illegal substances. Note that in some countries possession of illegal substances is punishable by life imprisonment or death penalty.

⁶For details please consult the TROPIMUNDO course list at:

http://www.tropimundo.eu/userfiles/files/tropimundo_course_list.pdf

Each of TROPIMUNDO's partner websites listed on www.tropimundo.eu has pages dedicated to international students with information on a variety of topics. Please also check with the Local Coordinators of your personal Trajectory whether the respective universities have secured accommodation for you or not. Second year students may also guide you towards finding accommodation.