ERASMUS MUNDUS Master of Science in Marine Biodiversity and Conservation (EMBC) - Summary of the proposal submitted on April 30 2007

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The Erasmus Mundus Master of Science in Marine Biodiversity and Conservation (EMBC) is offered by a University consortium consisting of 6 partners : Ghent University (Belgium), University of Bremen (Germany), University of Paris 006 (France), University of the Algarve (Portugal), University of Oviedo (Spain) and University of Klaipèda (Lithuania).
The study programme is divided in 3 thematic modules :

(1) Understanding the structure and function of marine biodiversity deals with the fundamental aspects of Oceanography (on a multidisciplinary basis, including physics, chemistry, geology, biology, ecology, biogeography, climate change), the structure and functioning of Marine Biodiversity (from genes to habitats) and with Impact studies.
(2) Toolbox for investigating marine biodiversity provides an advanced training in Statistics and experimental design, Modelling, Taxonomy, Data and Information Management, Field observations and interpretation and Molecular methods.
(3) Conservation and Restoration of marine biodiversity deals with the application of the above mentioned theories and methods in order to develop a sustainable use of the marine environment.

The programme (2 years or 120 ECTS) is complemented with summer schools on specialized topics in European Marine Research Stations operating within the EU-Network of Excellence MarBEF. A research project (Master thesis) of 30 ECTS is presented within the field of one of the three thematic areas.

Student mobility is an integral part of the Master. 50 students (25 third country students and 25 European students) start in one of the three group I Universities (Gent, Bremen or Algarve) for 2 semesters; for the third semester, students move to one of the group II Universities (Paris, Oviedo or Klaipèda). The research project for the thesis work can be performed in one of the partner institutions.

The language of instruction is English. During the study period, the 'survival' languages (Dutch, German, Portuguese, French, Spanish or Lithuanian) can be studied as well.

Successful students obtain the qualification and degree of Erasmus Mundus Master of Science in Marine Biodiversity and Conservation. This joint degree will be awarded and recognized by each of the participating institutions. Details of the thematic modules and research projects are provided in a Diploma Supplement.
The course is open to students with at least a bachelor (or Master) degree in biology, ecology, environmental sciences, oceanography, marine sciences, geography, geology, or other equivalent degrees with minimum 180 credits.