

2nd
Edition

Project Newsletter
August 2014



ELEMENT
EGYPT-LEBANON-EU MOBILITY EXCHANGE NETWORK



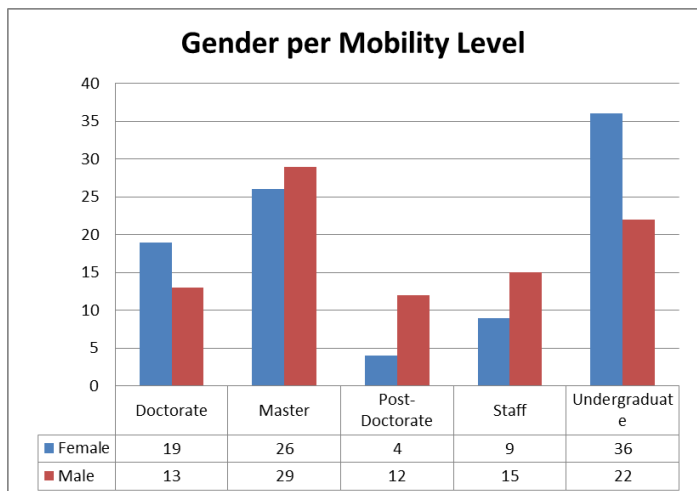
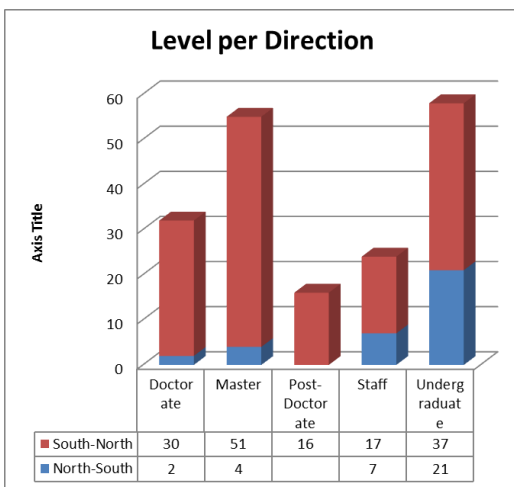
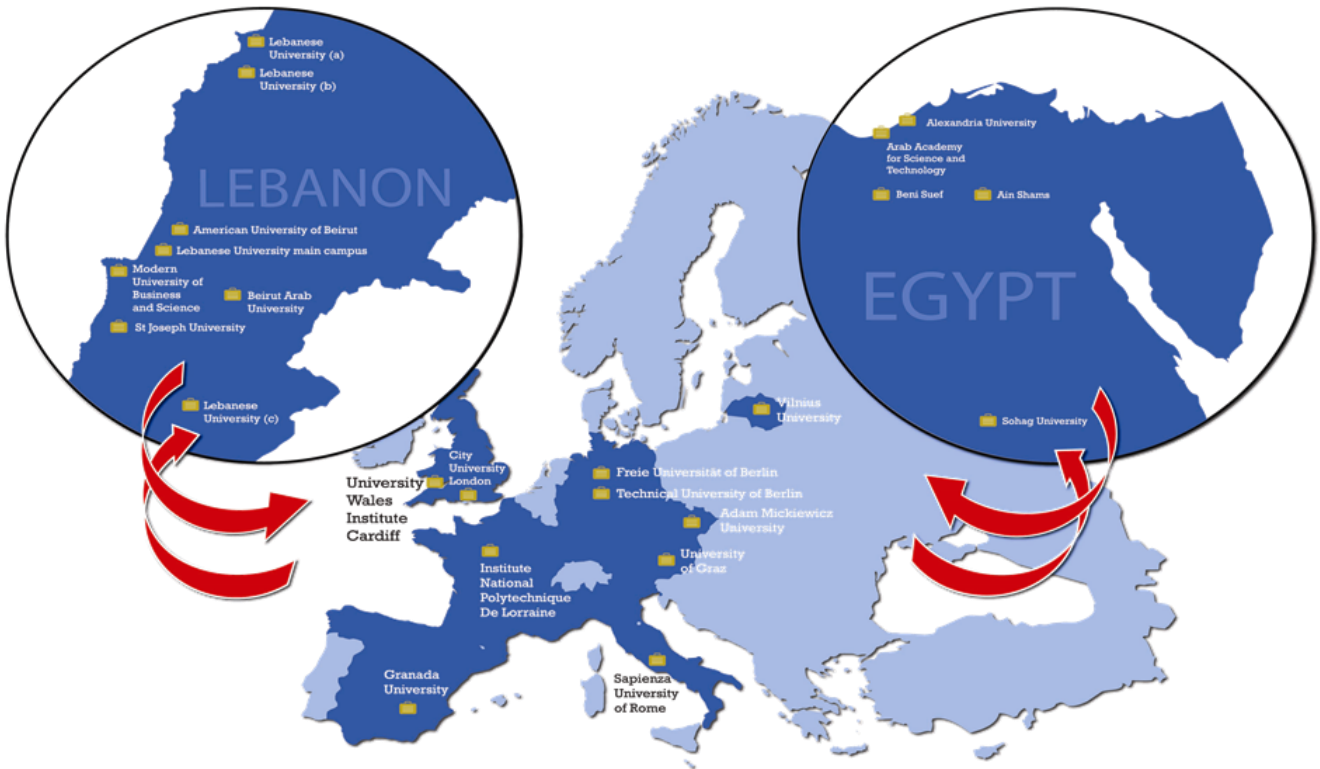
Erasmus
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Scholar statistics



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Recent events



ELEMENT Third Call for Applications

The Call for Application (restricted to Lebanese applicants only) opened on 30th August 2013 in an attempt to allow for a longer Call for Applications should the numbers not reach the required target. The Call closed for Masters and Doctorate level on 28th October 2013 after a 2 week extension was given to enable further applications from the target areas. As more applications were needed at the remaining three levels, an additional week was given to allow for further applications. The Call was then closed on 4th November 2013. The Call was open for 50 days for Master and Doctorate levels and 57 days for Undergraduate, Post Doctorate and Staff levels in total. At the close of the Call we received 157 applications from 96 applicants.



The Eligibility Check was carried out from 28th October – 8th November and the Host universities (supported by the Home universities) completed Selection Stage 2: Assessment of Academic Quality from 1st – 22nd November 2013. The Selection Meeting took place on 4th December 2013 via video conference.

ELEMENT Consortium Meeting



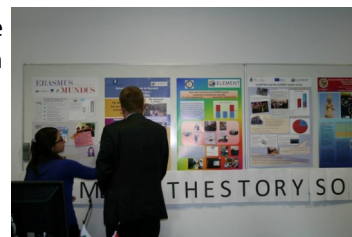
Cardiff Metropolitan University hosted a two-day Consortium Meeting on 24th – 25th June 2014 to discuss achievements to date in relation to the Erasmus Mundus ELEMENT project. 17 out of 20 partner universities within the ELEMENT project were in attendance, as well as Dr. Yaser Elshayeb from the National Erasmus+ Office (NEO-Egypt).

Day one consisted of reporting on and evaluating project achievements up until now, which included coordinator, partner, scholar and regional perspectives. The emphasis was on academic recognition between Europe, Egypt and Lebanon as the majority of the scholar mobility flows have completed.

During day two of the meeting, Graziella Gaglione, from Sapienza University in Rome, presented on the EGRACONS Lifelong Learning Project which focusses on the all-important theme of academic recognition. This theme was explored in depth with European, Egyptian and Lebanese case studies. A strategy was also devised for the final year of the project that will focus on the quality, impact and sustainability of the ELEMENT project (a final year action plan). Future project activities were also discussed and included a presentation on the new Erasmus+ programme launched in January 2014.

During both days there was an opportunity for current Cardiff Met ELEMENT scholars to interact with the consortium and meet members of their home universities, as well as a networking event for Cardiff Met staff that have been granted ELEMENT scholarships and are due to mobilise to Egypt or Lebanon.

Read the full official Press Release here: <http://www3.cardiffmet.ac.uk/English/News/Pages/ErasmusMundusmeetinghostedbyCardiffMet.aspx>



Submission of C3 final lists to the EACEA – 1st September 2014.
Mobilising Cohort 3 – present to 31st December 2014



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ELEMENT monitoring visits



Cardiff Metropolitan University's Erasmus Mundus Project Officer, Natasha Bahadur, visited partner universities for monitoring purposes.

Ms. Bahadur visited La Sapienza University and the University of Graz in May.

The visits included obtaining feedback from scholars and hearing their success stories. Ms. Bahadur was also at hand to answer any questions or listen to any concerns that scholars had with regards to their mobility.



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Check out the below magazine article featuring ELEMENT scholar Alaa Walid Adnan (Adam Mickiewicz University) talking about his experience on the project!



UNIWERSYTET IM ADAMA MICKIEWICZA W POZNANU

studia w systemie e-learningu, to czy zagranicznym kandydatom będzie się chciało pokonywać takie biurokratyczne przeszkody po to, żeby przyjechać do Polski?

Czas na kompleksowe regulacje – takie, jakie mają już, na przykład Czechy czy Węgry – które ułatwią kandydatom z zagranicy podjęcie decyzji o wyborze Polski na miejsce studiowania. Trzeba też uregulować kwestię podejmowania przez studentów legalnej pracy, w wymiarze 20 godzin tygodniowo, co zapewniłoby im dodatkowe dochody podczas pobytu w naszym kraju. Apelujemy o to od lat i mamy nadzieję, że wreszcie nas usłyszą.

Mówmy o pieniądzach
DAAD dysponuje budżetem 800 milionów euro rocznie na promocję niemieckiego szkolnictwa wyższego. Bez komentarza.



Wybrali Polskę wybrali Poznań wybrali UAM

Fabiana Ambroa Ibarruri przyjechała z Urugwaju, Alaa Walid Adnan z Libanu. Oboje w ramach programu Erasmus mieli do wyboru inne kraje i uczelnie, ale świadomie zdecydowali się przyjechać do Polski, na UAM. I oboje tego nie żałują.

Na pierwszej linii frontu...
...jest pracownik dziekanatu, portier w akademiku, lekarz w studenckiej przychodni. Od ich zyczliwości – i znajomości angielskiego – zależy w dużym stopniu opinia o uczelni. Oczywiście, nie możemy wymagać, żeby portierzy we wszystkich akademikach mówili płynnie po angielsku, ale z całą pewnością możemy oczekiwać od nich zyczliwości i zaradności w kontakcie z zagranicznymi studentami.

Pracownicy administracji UAM mogą uczyć się angielskiego na koszt uczelni, co roku wielu z nich wyjeżdża także na staże zagranicę. Myślę, że to wyżydy wiele daje zarówno im, jak i naszej uczelni.

Rok 2019
To horyzont przyjętej w 2009 roku Strategii. O tym, czy w roku 2019 UAM będzie notowany na dobrych miejscach w światowych rankingach, rozprawiali, czy będzie prowadzić badania na światowym poziomie, zdecydując z znacznym stopniem naszą umiędzynarodowienia się na świat – już dziś.

Wypowiedź prof. Jacka Witkosa notowała ANNA WADOWIŃSKA-SAWICKA

Fabiana, studentka kierunku International Law, pod koniec listopada z zachwytem patrzyła na pierwsze tej zimy płatki śniegu. Nigdy wcześniej nie widziała śniegu w jej ojczyźnie temperatura nie spada zbyt poniżej zera.

Alaa, który studiuje na kierunku Law and Political Science, pokochał żurek i rogalie świętomarcińskie. Podobno mu się też to, że w Polsce studentom przysługują tak dużo zniżek.

„Dlaczego wybrali nasz kraj?”
– Porównałam programy International Law na różnych uczelniach – mówi Fabiana – miałam do wyboru studia w Szwecji, Holandii albo w Polsce. Zdecydowałam się na Polskę, ale planowałam przyjechać tu z przyjaciółką.

„Okazało się, że ona nie została zakwalifikowana, a Fabiana tak! Wtedy miała mieszane uczucia: obawiała się samotnego wyjazdu do kraju „na koniec świata”. Nie była do końca pewna, jak się tu odnajdzie, czy uda się jej do-

gadac po angielsku nie tylko na uczelni, ale i w codziennym życiu.

– Spotkałam mnie kilka niespodziewanie – podkreśla. – Spotkałam ludzi otwartych, przyjaźliwych, gotowych do pomocy cudzoziemcowi nawet, jeśli nie do końca rozumiem, co mówię.

Tę cechę Polaków podkreśla także młody libański policjant Alaa, który wahał się między Polską a Litwą. Na ostateczną decyzję wpływ miały koszty utrzymania, które na Litwie są wyższe niż w Polsce.

– Nie do końca wiedziałem, co mnie tu czeka – przyznaje Alaa. – Ale różnicę w traktowaniu cudzoziemców odczułem już na lotnisku. Kiedy się przesiadłem w Turcji i prosiłem o pomoc, pracownicy udawali, że mnie nie rozumieją, żeby podsześli ktoś i zaoferował pomoc.

Alaa bardzo wysoko ocenia poziom zajęć dydaktycznych na UAM, jednak największe wrażenie robi na nim podejście wykładowców do studentów. – Mają dla nas czas, uważnie słuchają, co mówimy, zachęcają do pracy – mówi.

– Szczerze mówiąc, jadąc do Polski nie spodziewałem się takiej serdeczności i troski.

Fabiana i Alaa obracając się w środowisku poznańskich Erasmusów, mają kolegów z wielu krajów. Od polskich kolegów nauczyli się już trochę mówić w naszym języku.

Zostaną w Polsce przez 10 miesięcy. – To będzie moje pierwsze Boże Narodzenie tak daleko od domu – mówi Fabiana. Alaa po powrocie do kraju i zdaniu egzaminów, dostanie awansa na porucznika. A potem – kto wie! – może wróci do Polski na kolejny etap studiów. Na pewno będzie zachęcał swoich kolegów do przyjazdu do Poznania.

– Każdemu powiem: jeśli tylko możecie wyjechać na studia do Polski – jedźcie – zapewniam.



Baynetna - R. Abou Mrad C. Courel A.Chour 23 Oct 2013
mtv.com.lb

Baynetna is a social talk show, in which people come to share with us their testimonials: the subjects are very varied and can range from social issues to success stories, weird jobs...etc The same segment shifts from emotional, to entertain

Watch ELEMENT Contact person at the University of Saint Joseph, Ms. Rayanne Abou Mrad talk about Erasmus Mundus on national TV!

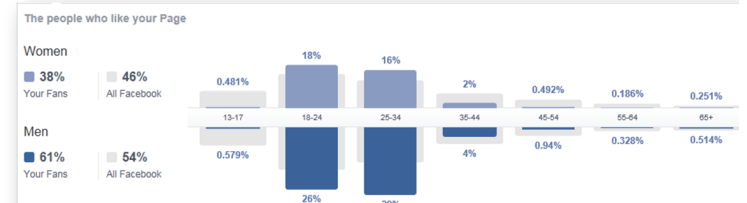


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ELEMENT Facebook page updates



Total Page Likes as of Today: 9,152



Element :: Scholarships Program shared a link. Posted by Claire Power [?] · 30 June

*** How would you like to be the face of Erasmus Mundus?!!! ***
 The Erasmus Mundus Students and Alumni Association have launched the #lookatmenow campaign today!

Here is the link: <http://www.em-a.eu/en/home/archive-activities-to-join/news...>
 See More

#lookatmenow campaign: Erasmus Mundus Students and Alumni Association
www.em-a.eu
 Fancy winning a 50 Euro Amazon voucher AND being the face of the fantastic Erasmus Mundus programme? This is your chance! We are launching today the #lookatmenow campaign.

Element :: Scholarships Program shared a link. Posted by Claire Power [?] · 1 April

Are you a nominated staff scholar?
 Now is the time to start planning your mobility. The last date to mobilise is 14th June 2015. Feel free to email us for advice: element@cardiffmet.ac.uk
 You can also view a list of partner contacts by visiting: http://www.em-element.eu/index.php?option=com_displaypartners&view=displaypartners&Itemid=7

Element :: Scholarships Program shared a link. Posted by Claire Power [?] · 28 May · Edited

Take a look at one of our ELEMENT scholar video testimonials!
 Wesam Salem is an ELEMENT post doctorate scholar at the University of Graz, Austria. Wesam Salem

<https://www.dropbox.com/s/echnpm3gzjng73f/Wesam.MOV?n=184488709>



Wesam.MOV
www.dropbox.com
 Shared with Dropbox



Element :: Scholarships Program Posted by Claire Power [?] · 23 July

ELEMENT Consortium Meeting - July 2014 (6 photos)



Element :: Scholarships Program Posted by Natasha Bahadur [?] · 2 May · Edited

Cardiff Metropolitan University's Erasmus Mundus Project Officer, Natasha Bahadur, will be visiting La Sapienza University di Roma and the University of Graz next week!

All ELEMENT Project scholars currently at these universities are invited to meet her at the following times:

Sapienza University (05/05/2014) - 11am at the Welcome Office (Remember that the location of the Welcome Office has changed to the university campus! Entrance by viale dell'università 36)

University of Graz (06/05/2015) - 5:30pm at RESOWI building (Universitätsstraße 15), sector A, 2nd floor, room A2 SZ 15.21

Ms. Bahadur is very keen to receive your feedback on the project and hear your success stories. She will also be at hand to answer any questions or listen to any concerns that you may have with regards to your mobility. We urge you to try and attend these meetings as it will be a great opportunity to meet the Project Coordinator in person and to discuss how your scholarship is progressing.

For more information, please do not hesitate to email element@cardiffmet.ac.uk. We look forward to your attendance next week!



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Scholar testimonial and success stories



'One of the most important achievements I will get from my scholarship is my Master Thesis in High Pressure Crystallography which is very specific and rare research major in the world and off course it's not available at my home University since the X- ray Diffractometer alone costs more than a million dollar. This ERASMUS MUNDUS experience which I will transfer to my Home University and my colleges there will definitely make them proud that I represented them and my country Lebanon the best way I can.

I would like to thank ERASMUS MUNDUS project for making my dream come true. It's one of the most significant, productive and successful scholarship programs ever made in the world.'

Ali Shaheen

Host: Adam Mickiewicz University

'The Erasmus Mundus scholarship provided me with a wealth of opportunities to take on extra-curricular activities and broaden my experiences to achieve my existing goals. In particular, it enabled me to become more involved in community projects, such as volunteering in the public sector and even work on conservation and sustainability projects for the future. This gave me a chance to expand my horizons and develop a stronger sense of civic responsibility, teamwork and leadership as I explore my role in society. Mundus scholarship enabled me to apply such skills and experience to my ongoing studies and make a positive contribution within the university and wider community.

Furthermore, Mundus scholarship recipient is an important achievement that did not only raise my credentials in the Law studies community, but also acted as a useful vehicle to meet a variety of people who can assist me in achieving my goals to make a significant contribution. This opportunity I had built up and improved my confidence and communication skills, an ability necessary to broaden my development as a scholar and an individual.'

Student's name: Alaa Adnan

Host: Adam Mickiewicz University

Home University: Beirut Arab University, Lebanon

Mahmoud has had three papers published while studying at the University of Granada in various academic journals:

1- **Slim M**, Calandre EP, Rico-Villademoros F. Current concepts in the treatment of fibromyalgia. J Symptoms Signs 2013; 2(4): 222-32.

2- **Slim M**, Calandre EP. Management of fibromyalgia: Current pharmacologic therapies and recommendations for therapeutic optimization. OA Musculoskeletal Medicine 2013; 1(3):30.

3-Calandre EP, **Slim M**, Garcia-Leiva JM, Rodriguez-Lopez CM, Torres P, Rico-Villademoros F. Agomelatine for the treatment of patients with fibromyalgia and depressive symptomatology: an uncontrolled, 12-week, pilot study. Pharmacopsychiatry. 2014 Feb 18. [Epub ahead of print].

Mahmoud Slim

Host: University of Granada

Home: Lebanese American University



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Scholar testimonial and success stories continued...



'Some European scholars came to ASU without any knowledge of Arabic. ASU registered those scholars at the Excellence Center at the Faculty of Education established in collaboration with DAAD to teach Formal and informal Arabic. ASU willingly paid their tuition fees which helped the scholars to improve their Arabic and succeeded in their studies.'

Dr. Mohamed Hazem Abdellatif
ELEMENT Contact person at Ain Shams University

'This exchange project offered me the opportunity to visit Granada University, Spain - and to work with a leading team in the field of cardiovascular diseases research. This fellowship is a perfect part of my career, and enabled me building up good relationships in my profession, and personal life also. In addition, this period represents an essential stage of my education which not only complements well my previous studies and work, but it also opens a lot of new doors and provides opportunities for me to develop professionally and personally to achieve my career goals. Further, I got more in touch with the Spanish civilization and understood their way of living. Concerning research outcomes, we have obtained interesting data that will add more to the scientific knowledge of endothelial dysfunction.'

Ayman Moawad Mahmoud Abdel-Baset
Host: University of Granada
Home: Beni-Suef University

'Riham Refaat Mohammed Helmy Abdelhamid from Alexandria University came to Austria without any knowledge of the German language and managed to improve her language skills through language courses and practicing with her roommates to a level, where she could communicate freely within a few weeks. This is truly exceptional.'

Ms. Petra Rabitsch and Ms. Christa Grassauer
ELEMENT Contact Persons at the University of Graz

'I discovered the Erasmus Mundus ELEMENT programme at my University USJ in Lebanon. I directly applied without any hesitations! Indeed, this project has a very good worldwide reputation. This nomination allowed me to carry on my academic courses in the research field but also to discover myself.'

Thanks to the project, I became more responsible, more independent, more persevering and self-confident!'

Christelle ISKANDAR
Host: University of Lorraine



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