

3rd
Edition



Project Newsletter: December 2014



Warm greetings from us all here in Cardiff! It's been another busy few months on the EPIC project, here is a round-up of our activities.

Our cover photo this month is EPIC scholar Razan Sultan Tawfiq Abuorabi Al Adwan (*third from the right*) and other Erasmus Mundus students at their graduation here at Cardiff Metropolitan University. We would like to say a huge congratulations to our degree-seeking scholars across Europe who have now completed their qualification!



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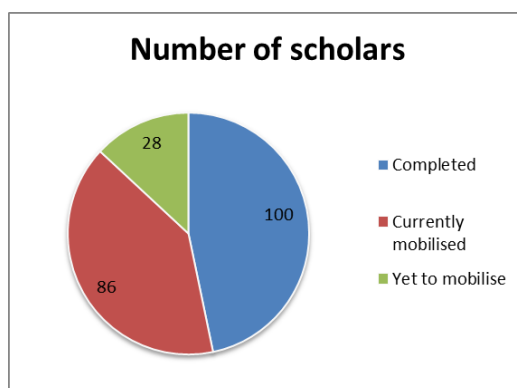
Call for Extensions 2

As the majority of EPIC's second cohort has now mobilised, it was decided to award further extensions with the small amount of remaining budget. Once again this Call was popular with scholars across all host universities and we received a total of 30 applications. The quality was very high and it was very difficult to choose! As the budget available was very small, we awarded 8 of these applicants, all of whom were ranked highly by their hosts and showed good evidence of progression and academic merit to the proposed extension. We wish our scholars all the best and look forward to hearing of the results of their extended mobility!

Thank you to our Partners for their hard work and cooperation during this Call.

Current statistics

Out of 214 scholars, 100 have completed and 86 are currently mobilised. We have only 28 scholars yet to mobilise. From our second Cohort, we have only 3 undergraduates and 1 post doctorate scholar yet to mobilise and all are set to begin their mobility by 31st December as per the EACEA regulation. The remaining scholars yet to mobilise are all staff.



Third Progress Report

Our next Progress Report for EACEA is due on 1st February 2015. As such, we have contacted you with questionnaires to complete in order to gather feedback on the Report. Analysis of partner and scholar feedback is an integral part of the Report therefore your assistance with this is very much appreciated!

We have also recently contacted both host universities and scholars asking for photos and stories about recent activities. Please do send us any information you have as we love to see how everyone is getting on!



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Stories from our scholars

We have already had some responses from our scholars updating us on their activities.

This month, we have a feature from Layan Alsalhi (on the right), an undergraduate scholar from Princess Sumaya University in Jordan who completed a 10 month mobility at Politecnico di Torino in Italy.

A big thank you to Layan for sending us this article and a thank you also to Politecnico di Torino for supporting Layan throughout what was obviously a very successful mobility!

ERASMUS MUNDUS EXPERIENCE

My turning point had a date, March, 26th, 2013, around 2pm, I received a confirmation email stressing that I was accepted for a full paid 10 months engineering scholarship in Torino, Italy, within the EPIC mobility scheme that I applied for earlier in October through PSUT. According to QS World University Rankings 2013, my host university, Politecnico di Torino was ranked 1st in Italy, 8th in Europe and 30th in the world for electrical engineering. As PSUT is committed to maximizing the potential of young talent through education and opportunity, and with its constant support I feel gratified for having had helped during these experiences in overcoming some cultural and gender stereotypes.

World Business Dialogue

Selected out of a pool of 1400 applicants as the only Jordanian student to participate at one of the largest Students conferences in the World in Cologne-Germany. The annual conference brings together 300 excellent students along to 50 prominent leaders and renowned executives from around the world; Bill gates was a speaker in 2004. The 16th WBD themed "disruptive innovation" offered us an ideal platform for a cross-generational and cross-cultural dialogue. I had a very fruitful personal debate with Nokia Germany CEO about the future of telecommunication.



International Party with Nokia CEO



talkIT

I am gratified that I had the opportunity to participate in Europe's largest student technology forum in Karlsruhe, Germany. Three days of technology-madness: "The Future City - Urban Challenges Mastered by Technology". talkIT for 2014 was thematically based on 4 pillar - Energy, Mobility, Building and Resource Management. Along to enabling exchange of thoughts, attending workshops, factory visits, royal dinners, the participants from all around the globe made talkIT 2014 rich of conversations, memories and happiness. Closing ceremony titled 'The smart city' was discussed by a very interesting panel including Siemens Germany and Schneider Electric Germany CEO's and Dr. Julian Weber, Head of E-Mobility at BMW.

Check me on youtube

: talkIT - Highlights 2014



Vodafone Interview

During my host university job fair I had the chance to apply for the Path internship offered by Vodafone. Vodafone is the world's 2nd-largest mobile telecommunications company measured by both subscribers and 2013 revenues. Selection process consisted of 4 different phases; first, the application was assessed, after passing I was asked to perform a logical test report in English directly online, later for third phase, I was invited to attend in person for a day of assessment through testing group and an individual interview at the Vodafone Village HQ in Milano. such an exceptional interview opportunity, selected out of thousands of students who have had applied for this role and passing the selection process, proved invaluable to me even if I had to turn it down because of Visa and timing issues. Recruiting team were impressed by the educational background and extracurricular activities I had as a Jordanian PSUT student.

10 months

7 European Countries

2 international conferences

200+ international friends

Third Language

Italian Language

Those who know many languages live as many lives as the languages they know. I am gratified that I had the opportunity to learn a third language, Italian, and pass the first and second level exams.



Erasmus Mundus



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Scholar stories continued...

Sanaa Fakhoury, a degree seeking Masters scholar in Political Science at University of Salamanca, appearing on local radio to talk about the political situation of the Middle East.



'Attending the courses of "The International Business Economics and Management" has challenged me to communicate and cooperate with people from different cultures, especially during the preparation of teamwork assignments, which gave me a remarkable experience and unforgettable friendships. Moreover achieving courses in English has also improved my skills, abilities and most importantly myself-confidence'. Mayssaa Hefteh, degree seeking Masters scholar at Vilnius University.



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More scholar stories...

Here are some photos from post doctorate exchange scholar Mariusz Drzewiecki who is currently at the University of Jordan. Mariusz has shared with us these images of an archaeological field trip in Jordan.



He says: 'Here support for my research aiming at understanding of archaeological heritage protection in Jordan is substantial and this field trip is one of many examples'.



This photo is of Dr Mohamed Alchihab, post doctorate scholar, presenting his research at the University of Liège.



'It has been a very rich experience that has upgraded my teaching, research and inter-cultural capacities... I had not only benefited academically but also I had lot of fun exploring the spectacular landscape of Wales'. Diana Abu Ghunmi, staff scholar for 1 month at the School of Management, Cardiff Metropolitan University.



Thank you for your on-going cooperation and support. We would like to take this opportunity to wish you a Merry Christmas and a very happy New Year!

The EPIC Project Team



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