UNIVERSITÀ DEL PIEMONTE ORIENTALE

Selection call for the award of 13 (thirteen) financial grants for international Free Mover mobility reserved for students of the Department of of the Department for Sustainable Development and Ecological Transition – A.Y. 2026/2027

1. Description and Objectives

The Department for Sustainable Development and Ecological Transition offers students the opportunity to spend a period of study, training, and/or internship abroad and to receive financial support for this experience.

Free Mover mobility is linked to the student's specific interests, independently of the inter-institutional exchanges active under the Erasmus+ Programme, and is characterised by the possibility of undertaking the period of study, training and/or traineeship either in one of the Member States of the European Union or in non-European countries.

2. Admission requirements

Applications are open to all students regularly enrolled in any Bachelor's (Laurea Triennale) or Master's (Laurea Magistrale) degree program at the Department for Sustainable Development and Ecological Transition. Students must have paid their enrollment fees prior to departure. Recent graduates who have completed their cycle of study may not apply under this call.

The activity abroad must end before the student obtains their Bachelor's or Master's degree and, in any case, no later than **September 30, 2027**.

2.1 Language Requirements

Knowledge of the language of the country and/or of the working language in which the student intends to undertake the period abroad is an essential requirement where expressly requested by the host organisation.

3. Eligible Activities

Financial grants for Free Mover international mobility may be awarded for activities abroad, subject to prior authorization by the Department's Internationalization Contact Person and the faculty member responsible for the degree course's teaching activities. Eligible activities include, by way of example:

- Attending courses and sitting the related examinations;
- Bibliographical research and/or scientific collaborations aimed at preparing the thesis project;
- Undertaking a curricular traineeship, subject to verification of the requirements and prerequisites that must be met for the activity to be feasible (if applicable);
- Participating in a Summer, Autumn, Winter, or Spring School.

The activity must be recognised in the study plan through the award of curricular ECTS credits (CFU). Validation of only extracurricular ECTS credits is not permitted; where such a circumstance is identified, the student will be required to repay the grant.

The activity must last at least **5 days** (excluding travel days). To reach the minimum period, two different activities from those listed above may be combined. For mobility periods of at least 2 consecutive months, students may return to Italy to sit examinations.

The activity carried out abroad will be recognised in accordance with the procedures established by the Department for Sustainable Development and Ecological Transition, taking into account the regulations and study plans of the different degree programmes.

4. Financial support

The financial support (subject to IRPEF tax withholding) provided for international mobility varies according to the destination and the duration of the mobility. The amount awarded to each student found eligible in the selection procedure will be indicated when the ranking list is published, with a minimum of **€ 500.00** (five hundred euros/00), plus 8.5% IRAP borne by the Institution, and a maximum of **€ 2,000.00** (two thousand euros/00), plus 8.5% IRAP borne by the Institution.

Grants will be awarded until the resources available to the Department have been exhausted. Any funds not awarded in the first application window (see Article 5) will be made available for the subsequent window.

The financial support will be paid as follows:

- an advance payment of 70% of the grant before departure, subject to submission of the approval documents (see Article 5);
- payment of the remaining 30% as a final adjustment, subject to:
  - submission, **within 10 days of the return date**, of the following documentation, to be sent to anna.rigolone@uniupo.it:
    - a certificate issued by the Host Organisation detailing the activity carried out, or a Transcript of Records issued by the host University indicating the examinations taken and the activity carried out, including any grades, the number of weeks/hours of the internship/traineeship and any credits obtained;
    - a certificate of stay issued by the University and/or the host Organisation indicating the period during which the activities abroad were carried out;
  - recognition of the activity carried out by the Department's Teaching Committee.

If the documentation is not received or the activity carried out abroad is not approved, the full amount of the grant must be repaid. The academic record of the student in debt will remain blocked until the resulting debt has been settled.

The grant is incompatible with any other financial support awarded for the same activity or relating to the same period of stay abroad, as well as with any other type of grant or scholarship for international mobility projects.

5. Application Submission

Applications may be submitted subject to:

- A faculty member of the Degree Course authorizing the experience abroad;
- The Department's Internationalization Contact Person (Prof. Enrica Gianotti);
- An official acceptance letter from the host Institution/University.

The application, accompanied by the documents referred to above, must be submitted by completing the following Google Form: https://forms.gle/biaKEmgXa6fcJGVv7

Applications must be submitted by 12:00 PM (noon) on the following deadline dates:

Application Windows	Mobility Period
10/11/2026	For departures in the first and second semester
10/03/2027	For departures in the second semester
15/04/2027	For departures in the second semester

The mobility period must be completed no later than **30/09/2027**.

6. Selection Criteria

Students' applications will be received and assessed by a designated Selection Committee composed of:

- **Prof. Enrica Gianotti** (President)
- **Prof. Carmen Aina**
- **Prof. Irene Gaddo**
- **Prof. Flavia Artizzu** (Secretary)
- **Prof. Paola Vola** (Substitute)

The Selection Committee will take the following assessment criteria into account:

- **Student Academic Record**: Calculated using the Erasmus+ formula model:
  Merit score = 0.8 * Student's weighted grade average + 0.2 * (credits obtained/credits expected).
  The resulting score is normalized to a scale of **50 points**.
- **Quality and coherence of the project** with the student's study plan (**25/100 points**).
- **International dimension of the destination** (**25/100 points**).

In the event of equal scores, priority will be given to the younger applicant.

7. Ranking List, Acceptance, and Withdrawal

The ranking list for each application window will be published on the Department's Notice Board/Calls webpage.

Any appeals may be submitted exclusively by email to the address anna.rigolone@uniupo.it, quoting the selection call.

Any appeal submitted by methods other than those indicated above will not be considered.

No individual communications will be sent to the successful applicants.

Applicants will be contacted by the Campus Teaching Office of Vercelli. to complete the Free Mover grant acceptance form, which must be returned within 3 days of receipt. Otherwise, the successful applicant will be deemed to have withdrawn.

7.1. Withdrawal

In the event of withdrawal, a penalty of **€ 100.00** must be paid. An application for exemption from payment of the penalty may be submitted for serious and duly documented health, family or personal reasons.

A student who withdraws from international Free Mover mobility after payment of the grant advance must repay the amount received in a single instalment.

8. Insurance Coverage

Throughout the entire period abroad and while carrying out the educational activity, the grant beneficiary retains the civil liability and accident insurance coverage provided for University students.

For healthcare coverage, each student participating in mobility must obtain a European Health Insurance Card (EHIC) or other insurance documents required in the destination country.

When applying for the award of a grant, the applicant declares:

- that they have checked the information concerning safety and the health situation in the country in which the mobility will take place on the website of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation (www.viaggiaresicuri.it);
- that they have read the UPO webpage concerning insurance and insurance policies (https://www.uniupo.it/it/internazionale/assicurazioni-e-polizze-assicurative);
- that they are aware that insurance contracts cover only accidents occurring during the planned educational activities;
- that they release UPO, the Department and all their constituent bodies from any liability for damage occurring outside the applicable time and location limits or during activities not planned and not directly connected with the mobility period.

9. Entry into the Host Country

Applicants are responsible for checking the entry procedures for the destination country, paying particular attention where a visa and/or specific insurance and healthcare policies are required.

Non-EU students, in order to sign the agreement for payment of the financial grant and receive the grant, must demonstrate that they are in possession of a valid Italian residence permit covering

the entire period of stay abroad.

10. Personal Data Processing, Transparency and Person Responsible for the Administrative Procedure

The data provided by applicants will be processed solely for purposes connected with the management of the procedure, in compliance with legislation on the protection of personal data (Regulation (EU) 2016/679 - the "GDPR" - Legislative Decree No. 196/2003, as amended by Legislative Decree No.

101/2018 - the Personal Data Protection Code - and all relevant measures issued by the Italian Data Protection Authority and the European Data Protection Board.

Providing the data is optional; however, if the data are not provided, the University will be unable to guarantee applicants' participation in the selection procedure. The Data Controller is the Università degli Studi del Piemonte Orientale, represented by the Rector. The Data Controller may be contacted by email at affarigiuridici@uniupo.it or by certified email (PEC) at protocollo@pec.uniupo.it.

To exercise the rights provided for under Articles 15-21 of Regulation (EU) 2016/679 (for example, access to personal data, rectification and correction, or erasure where the data are no longer necessary), the data subject may use the Data Controller's contact details or the DPO's email address dpo@uniupo.it. The person responsible for processing the above data is the Head of the Division within which the personal data or databases are managed.

The Person Responsible for the Administrative Procedure is Dr. Pier Gioacchino Patriarca - Head of the Student Services Office at the Vercelli Campus.