



Nordic Master webinars 4 June 2018 & 13 September 2018

Q&A:

What is the minimum number of students for a successful program?

The programme rules do not define the number exactly. It depends also much on the subject. As a starting point, it is estimated that a “normal” student cohort would be a least 10. What we know from active Nordic Master programmes, the number of students varies between about 10 to almost 30.

Do the students pay different fees to different universities?

In many of the Nordic countries, tuition fees for third-country students are set by national regulation and/or by the institutions. The programme rules do not regulate this. It is a decision that the institutions have to decide upon. However, the Nordic Council of Ministers recommends that there would only be one tuition fee within the programme. But one has to bear in mind that the support from Nordic Master does not cover any possible tuition fees and hence many active Nordic Master programmes have decided to charge different tuition fees, regulated by the individual institution. In such cases it is very important that the information regarding fees is made very clear and transparent for the students.

Is there some kind of forum which supports us to find partners? For example, I have an idea, but I don't have the partners yet.

The Nordic Master administration does not have any such forum. National agencies (such as the national Erasmus+ agencies may offer such forums). Usually the idea starts to develop into planning through networks of individual academics.

What is the funding usually used for quite concretely? Can the funding also pay for salaries?

The funds can be used quite freely for all relevant activities for developing, establishing and implementing the joint programme with mobile students. However, a guiding principle for all support from Nordic Council of Ministers is that the support is not to be used for costs that are not directly linked to the project. The idea in Nordic Master is that the participating institutions are responsible for the staff needed (academic and administrative) and the costs for e.g. teaching and “normal” support services. I.e. the support from Nordic Master is usually used for meetings, travel costs, administrative costs etc. Many active Nordic Master programmes





allocate the funds (all or part of it) as mobility scholarships for the students in the programme (many also use Erasmus+ scholarships).

Is there always one leading institution or could there be two?

We sign a contract only with one coordinating institution who is responsible for the funds. When it comes to the division of responsibilities in other matters, it is up to the network/consortium to decide.

I would ask for some more clarification about the possible participation of Universities of Applied Sciences.

Nordic Master supports research-based master level joint programmes that comprise of 120 ECTS. In some countries, e.g. Finland, the national legislation doesn't allow Universities of Applied Sciences to award master level degrees of 120 ECTS. However, there is of course a possibility to participate in the Nordic Master consortium as a non-degree awarding institution. Another option is to apply funding for the joint programme in Nordplus Higher Education programme, which supports also other joint programmes of e.g. 60 or 90 ECTS.

If four universities are collaborating – would that work in terms of distributing ects?

Yes, there are several joint programmes with more than 3 institutions participating. See e.g. active Nordic Master programmes which are listed on our website <http://www.nordicmaster.org/programmes>.

If the students take different tracks – how can you ensure coherence? And if there are only 15-20 students in total, you will have very few people in class?

There are programmes in which the mobility structure is built on different possible mobility tracks. We have heard that in some cases one of the institutions may not have had many (or any) students under a certain period. However, what we have learned is that many consortiums already during the selection phase decide on a student cohort that as much as possible, ensure an even distribution of students in all possible study tracks. In many cases, the students applying to the programme have to indicate which mobility track they prefer.

And the MA thesis – is it usually written on just one of the universities?

Usually, the student is staying at one place during the period of thesis writing. But it is a decision of the consortium.

The so-called home-institution – is that the leading institution?

Definitions, interpretations and regulations vary from country to country (perhaps also between institutions) but usually a student's home institution is the institution where he/she is admitted and registered in the first semester of the programme. The host institution is the institution where the student spends his/her mobility



period and where he/she is registered for that study period. However, status might differ if the institution is awarding a degree or not.

Is it ca. 200.000 EUR per 4 years or per year?

The total maximum grant for a successful proposal is 1,5 MDKK (approximately 200 000 €). This grant is divided in 4 instalments during a 4-year contract period.

How long should the application be and how specific in terms of e.g. curriculum design?

There might be technical limitations to the length of the text in the application form. A good application is not necessarily long but answers (or reflects upon) the questions in the application form.

We would like to involve non-accredited university institutions? Is it possible? And can we formally have "associated partners" in addition to full university partners?

It is possible to include also other relevant actors in the consortium. Not all institutions have to be degree awarding partners.

