



PRESS RELEASE

Subject: Pakistani students selected for prestigious EU ERASMUS+ scholarship programme

Islamabad, 26th July, 2016: More than 70 young students from across Pakistan have been selected for the European Union's Erasmus+ programme which remains the world's most successful student exchange programme. Young students from around the world will have an opportunity to pursue a master's degree from different universities across Europe. The Erasmus Plus is a €14.7 billion programme, which combines all of the EU's current schemes for education, training, youth and sport. The successful students from Pakistan will be studying across the European Union a range of subjects including Agriculture, Energy, Biotechnology, Business Studies, Engineering, Tele-communications, Economic Cooperation and Political Science.

To honour these aspiring students, the EU Ambassador to Pakistan Mr. Jean-François Cautain hosted a pre-departure brief for the successful candidates from Islamabad and adjoining areas. Speaking to the students, Ambassador Cautain said that “the mobility that the European Union has encouraged since its inception provides young people with greater opportunities and equal access to resources and knowledge. This has greatly contributed to raising the quality of academia, research and innovation throughout Europe. Welcoming non-EU Students is an additional aspect of Erasmus+ programme that we value very much especially at a time where globalisation is manipulated to oppose peoples from different parts of the world.” He said the Erasmus+ programme provides a unique opportunity for Pakistan's future leaders to experience such a transfer of knowledge and contribute to the sustainable development of Pakistan. He also said that such exchange programmes further strengthened the social, cultural, academic and commercial partnerships between the European Union and Pakistan.

During this meeting, the students were given the opportunity to meet Ambassadors and student counsellors from the various EU Member States, who briefed them about the different study programmes at various universities in Europe. They also met with other Erasmus+ Alumni members, who shared their experiences of studying in Europe.

Mr. Waqar Baig, Programme Rep EMA, on behalf of the President of the South Asian Chapter, Erasmus Mundus Students and Alumni Association, said that the mobility of the Erasmus programme and strong focus on research and innovation had been a great learning experience for him. “When you are studying at some of the best universities in Europe, you have access to knowledge that not only empowers you as an individual, but also transforms you. What one learns is not limited to academic knowledge. It also includes understanding new cultures and societal norms that enable us to understand perspectives, which we may never have thought of before. It opens up a thinking process which not only contributes directly towards the skill and career development of young minds, but also has the potential to completely transform the indigenous higher education, academia and research in Pakistan”, said Baig.

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