



PRESS RELEASE

EU AWARDS 25 SCHOLARSHIPS TO UWI STUDENTS AND STAFF TO PROMOTE ACADEMIC MOBILITY

Tuesday August 12 2014: TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO – On August 12, The University of the West Indies (UWI), St. Augustine, in collaboration with the Delegation of the European Union to Trinidad and Tobago hosted a special ceremony at the Principal's Office, The UWI St. Augustine Campus, to announce the beneficiaries of the Erasmus Mundus and Intra-ACP Scholarships for the academic year 2014-2015.

"The aim of these two programmes is the promotion of mobility and cooperation between the European Union and Third Countries in the field of higher education", explained Daniela Tramacere, Chargé d'Affaires of the Delegation of the European Union to Trinidad and Tobago.

"The Erasmus Mundus", she continued, "aims to enhance the quality in European higher education and to promote intercultural understanding through cooperation with non-EU countries. The other programme supports mobility in Africa, the Caribbean and the Pacific (ACP) regions to facilitate increased access to quality education even for students from disadvantaged groups, to promote student retention in the region along with mobility of staff, while increasing the competitiveness and attractiveness of the institutions themselves thanks to internationalized and harmonized curricula."

This year, 25 students and staff from the University of the West Indies, St. Augustine, have been awarded scholarships under the Erasmus Mundus and Intra-ACP projects. Of these, 4 will be undertaking their scholarships in Spain and Portugal and 21 have been awarded grants to fund their study and work exchange in the Caribbean and Pacific.

Speaking at the event, Sharan Singh, Director, Office of Institutional Advancement and Internationalisation, The University of the West Indies, St. Augustine said "The University of the West Indies has played a very active role in the Erasmus Mundus and Intra ACP programmes having participated in 4 and 3 projects respectively over the past 4 years." He added, "The UWI is now coordinating all three Intra ACP Mobility projects awarded to the Caribbean and it is also a co-coordinator of the most recent Erasmus Mundus project for the ACP region along with the University of Porto, Portugal, as the Coordinator. These mobility projects have afforded The UWI, and the Caribbean, significant opportunities for developing highly skilled and globally aware citizens who are committed to developing our countries and region and many of whom have already returned and are making a significant impact back home."

He further stated that “To date, over **137 Caribbean students** have been awarded full Masters and PhD Scholarships and **48 staff members** have benefited from spending 4-8 weeks on exchange at Universities across Europe and the South Pacific.

In concluding Singh said “The UWI is proud to work closely with the European Union in these important collaborations which undoubtedly enhance the relationship between both regions and create strong possibilities for deeper engagement in the future.”

Scholarship recipient, Mary Jane Arneaud, a PhD student at the UWI, will undertake a 10-month doctorate mobility, under the Caribbean-Pacific Island Mobility Scheme (CARPIMS), at the University of the South Pacific. Her programme of research will explore ethnic identity development in Fiji.

Mary explained that “the population and history of Fiji are both similar to, and different from that of Trinidad, in that they also had Indian indentured labourers introduced to their islands. Unlike Trinidad, however, they have a dominant indigenous ethnic population.” She went on to say that “I would like to collect data there, and see how it compares to Trinidad, where we have two dominant introduced ethnic populations.”

Mary further stated that “My interest is in how people develop multi-ethnic and ethnocentric identities.” Mary Jane would like to understand the nature of ethnic identities, both multi-ethnic and ethnocentric, their structures, and the mechanisms that make them work.

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