

Frequently Asked Questions

After Russia’s withdrawal from the Bologna process, will Russian diplomas still be recognised?

In order to apply to Erasmus Mundus Joint Masters (EMJM) scholarships, you must have a degree from a university recognised (accredited) at the national level. Participation of a country in the Bologna process is not taken into consideration in this context. While, indeed, one of the objectives of the Bologna process is to facilitate the recognition of qualifications and diplomas in different European countries and beyond, participation in the process does not lead to automatic recognition. In the case of Russia, mutual recognition of professional qualifications and diplomas is based on the existing bilateral intergovernmental agreements with individual countries.

Can I apply for a Master’s programme if I have a Specialist degree (not a Bachelor’s)?

Generally, Specialist degree qualifies for a recognised equivalent level of learning to Bachelor’s degree.

I already have a Candidate of Sciences degree; can I receive a scholarship to study in Europe?

Having a Candidate of Science degree does not prevent you from applying to an EMJM programme as the general requirement is to have a minimum of a Bachelor’s degree.

It is currently not possible to take exams for a language certificate in Russia. Are there any alternative ways to prove language proficiency?

It is currently possible to take TOEFL iBT test in Russia, which is accepted by the majority of EMJM programmes. In case of difficulties/questions regarding language requirements, please consult the coordinator of the programme, to which you would like to apply.

Is it possible to apply for a scholarship to study in Europe for non-Russian citizens with a degree from a Russian university?

EMJM scholarships are available to all individuals regardless their citizenship. Candidates need to have a minimum of a Bachelor’s degree or demonstrate a recognised equivalent level of learning according to national legislation and practices in the degree-awarding countries/institutions.

Can I apply for a study scholarship/student visa if I am currently outside of Russia?

As regards EU programmes, there are no restrictions on the location of an applicant provided you are able to collect all the required documents. If you apply to EMJM, please check if the [12-month residence rule](#) applies to you as it may affect your scholarship amount. For visa issues, please contact the local consulate of the country, in which you plan to study.

In addition, please note that applications for EU student visa/permit shall be submitted and examined either when the applicant is residing outside the territory of the Member State to which he/she wishes to be admitted, or when the applicant is already residing in that Member State as holder of a valid residence permit or long-stay visa. By way of derogation, a Member State may accept, in accordance with its national law, an application submitted when the applicant is not in possession of a valid residence permit or long-stay visa but is legally present in its territory.

Is it possible to transfer from a Russian to a European university? How/by whom the equivalence of Russian grades to the European grading system is checked?

EU Member States are fully responsible for the content and organisation of their education systems. In this context, the decision on transfer or student mobility between Russia and European university

stays within the competency of each Member State. Therefore, please check transfer possibility directly with the European university you are interested in.

The responsibility for academic recognition of Russian qualifications, including evaluation of grades rests with the national authorities and their higher education institutions. Information about academic recognition and evaluation of grades in each Member States can be find through the [ENIC-NARIC networks](#).

Russian Federation has ratified the Convention on the Recognition of Qualifications concerning Higher Education in the European Region, otherwise known as the Lisbon Recognition Convention, under the Council of Europe and UNESCO responsibility. This Convention remains the key legal instrument for recognition of qualifications across its signatories. Ratified by 54 states, including all EU Members States with the exception of Greece, the Convention aims to ensure that holders of a qualification from a signatory country can have that qualification recognised in another. The Convention's basic principle is that qualifications must be recognised, unless the institution dealing with the recognition proves that there are substantial differences between the foreign qualification to be recognised and its domestic correspondent.

What is the current situation with getting student visas? Is it possible to relocate with family members (spouse/children)?

Russian citizens are able to apply for an authorisation to get a long-stay visa or permit to study in a EU Member State. Where all the general conditions and relevant specific conditions are fulfilled, the third-country national shall be entitled to an authorisation. Where a Member State issues residence permits only on its territory and all the admission conditions are fulfilled, the Member State concerned shall issue the third-country national with the requisite visa.

Third-country nationals residing in a EU Member State can benefit from family reunification if they fulfil the relevant conditions, namely if they hold a residence permit issued by a Member State for a period of validity of one year or more and have reasonable prospects of obtaining the right of permanent residence. Researchers have more favourable conditions for family reunification, namely the fact that the granting of a residence permit to family members shall not be made dependent on the requirement of the researcher having reasonable prospects of obtaining the right of permanent residence and having a minimum period of residence.

Background info on Schengen visas: Russian students need short-stay visas if they plan to stay in the Schengen area not exceeding 90 days in any 180-day period. However, if they plan to stay longer than 90 days already at the beginning of the trip [e.g. because they participate in study programs in multiple EU Member States (and/or Norway, Switzerland, Iceland, Liechtenstein)], Russian students need to apply for a long-stay (student) visa.

What are the opportunities to get a scholarship for PhD studies?

The Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions are the European Union's reference programme for doctoral education and postdoctoral training. Scholarships for doctoral education are awarded under the Doctoral Networks that implement doctoral programmes by partnerships of universities, research institutions and infrastructures, businesses including SMEs, and other socio-economic actors from different countries across Europe and beyond. These doctoral programmes respond to well-identified needs in various research and innovation areas, expose the researchers to the academic and non-academic sectors, and offer research training, as well as transferable skills and competences relevant for innovation and long-term employability. Candidates of any nationality wishing to apply for PhD positions under Doctoral Networks should apply to funded Doctoral Network projects by consulting their open vacancies advertised internationally, including on the [EURAXESS](#) portal. One of the general requirements for researchers funded by Doctoral Networks is that they must not have a doctoral degree at the date of their recruitment.

When graduating from an Erasmus Mundus programme, what type of diploma will I get?

You will be awarded either a joint degree (i.e. one single degree certificate issued on behalf of at least two higher education institutions) or multiple degrees (i.e. at least two degree certificates issued by two higher education institutions of the consortium) recognised by the participating universities and the National Agencies of the partner countries taking part in the Consortium.

Is diploma from one EU country recognised in other EU countries?

There is no automatic EU-wide recognition of academic diplomas. You may therefore need to go through a national procedure to get your academic degree or diploma recognised in another EU country, if you seek admission to a further course of study there. A joint degree delivered by an EMJM programme will be officially recognised in the countries awarding the degree. Recognition of the degree in another European or non-European country is a decision that falls solely within the responsibility of the country concerned.
