



Directorate-General for Education and Culture

ERASMUS MUNDUS

MA Special Needs

The European Programme of academic excellence &
worldwide student mobility

Subject to EU Commission approval

Roehampton
University 

 **Fontys** Opleidingscentrum
Speciale Onderwijszorg



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ERASMUS MUNDUS— MA Special Needs

The Erasmus Mundus Programme aims at improving the quality of higher education in Europe and at promoting intercultural understanding with third countries.

Erasmus Mundus supports European top-quality Masters Courses in order to promote the EU as a Centre of Excellence in learning around the world.

The Universities

Roehampton University (London, UK) is State funded and is one of the oldest higher education institutions in England dating back to 1841.

Charles University Prague (Prague, Czech Republic) Charles University in Prague was founded in 1348. It presents the oldest University in the Middle Europe.

Fontys University of Professional Education (Tilburg, Holland) represents one of the largest State recognized and State funded educational Institutions in the Netherlands, providing about 200 different programmes and education programmes.

The Programme

The Programme objectives are:

- to promote a clear understanding of Special Education Needs across Europe and Internationally at the level of its identification and definition, exploration of relevant legislation and the range of policies affecting SEN, leading to a measured consideration of the nature of provision for SEN within an international context of education practice.
- To enhance the knowledge of those professionally involved in SEN practice in Europe and internationally
- To develop the ability of those professionals to analyse policy and practice in a range of contexts
- To engage in comparative Action Research for the enhancement of professional practice at various levels in Education.
- To enable collaborative and cooperative exchanges of knowledge, understanding and practice across a range of International contexts.

The focus of this programme will revolve around SEN within Europe as well as in selected third country contexts

Key areas of study: The MA programme consists of 90 ECTS credits and is made up with 60 core ECTS credits and a further 30 ECTS credits chosen from options.

Core Modules for all students

Research Methods & Enquiry (20 ECTS)

Rationale: This course develops the concept of the reflective enquirer. It is therefore designed to introduce students to the nature of knowledge, paradigms of educational research and basic research techniques upon which they can structure an individual enquiry, in order to make effective and valid analysis and conclusion from collected data. It is intended that the course will prepare students for their dissertation and also be foundational for further post-graduate work.

International Perspectives on Professional Practice in Education (IPPE) (10 ECTS)

Rationale: This compulsory course presents the demands of postgraduate study as a reflective practice and seeks to do so within a comparative international framework. It will impact on the student's academic, professional, managerial and personal development. This will be achieved by contextualising professional experience in Special Education Needs within Europe with a focus on Holland, Czech Republic and the United Kingdom as well as at least one other international context. A student will therefore reflect on her/his own context and compare it analytically with other practice within Europe.

Dissertation (30 ECTS)

Rationale: The Dissertation is designed to enable students to undertake an extended piece of work in SEN within an area of their own interest relevant to their professional practice and in so doing, demonstrate the application of forms of educational inquiry and specific strategies for collecting, analysing, interpreting and validating data within a range of educational contexts within Europe and Internationally. The module is designed so that students may become autonomous and independent critical researchers in areas of advanced interest and concern in SEN education and practice. The module aims to provide a research focus for students to test arguments, assumptions, hypotheses and models of professional practice, including those relating to their own experience and provide for subsequent development of SEN practice within Europe and Internationally.

Students will work on a substantial piece of research in SEN that is professionally relevant to them. They will be supported in this process by tutors.

Optional Modules:

Students may choose to do

Either: the following two Inclusion modules

Or: one of the Inclusion modules + APEL.

Inclusion Module (Holland) (15 ECTS)

Rationale This module Inclusion was developed with the Dutch educational environment in mind with its application worldwide. Essentially it enables SEN practitioners to develop further their practice and knowledge and understanding of SEN policy-making. For all students it is relevant to have knowledge of the development of Dutch research practice, especially the Dutch tradition of Action Research.

Inclusive Education and Innovation Module (Prague)

(15 ECTS)

Rationale: This module is to offer critical view on different perspectives towards ability and disability. Understanding of changing paradigms of disability is intended to allow observation of different barriers in full participation of persons with disabilities in society. Analysis of the movement towards inclusive society and towards inclusive education will be documented by means such as

observation in educational and support environment including legislative instruments. The module is also to enable SEN practitioners to mediate further comparison of their knowledge gained in the other European countries involved Erasmus Mundus Programme.

Accreditation of Prior Experiential Learning (APEL)

(15 ECTS)

Rationale: This module is intended to offer an opportunity to gain credit towards award bearing programmes for work or for prior experiential learning which has been carried out in professional practice relating to SEN. This work may include practice-based projects; work done on short modules, practice based research and enquiry. This process of according value and status to work carried out in practice underpins and strengthens the model of critically reflective practice which informs the MA SEN Programme. The module aims to support and enable participants to critically analyse work carried out as part of their professional practice and to produce, *for assessment*, a reflective portfolio which meets Masters level criteria through which they will make a claim for credit.

Where will I study?

The suggested structure of the academic year will be based on the majority of teaching taking place in the Netherlands, two study weeks in Czech Republic and two study weeks in the UK. This will be undertaken in accordance with visas regulations and is dependent on student module choices and the focus of the **Programme length:** 1-year fulltime only (from September – September).

Number of places: 20—30

Programme commence: 29 August

The Award: The final degree awarded will be a **JOINT** award between Roehampton University and Charles University.

Entry Requirements:

Applications are invited from individuals who:

- hold a good honours degree from an approved university or college in a related field of education, and/or
- have a comparable professional award plus relevant experiential learning.

Advice on recognition may be obtained from the International Admissions Officer at Roehampton University (international@roehampton.ac.uk).

This SEN programme is intended for graduates, those in education, teachers, and lecturers from a wide range of educational contexts at all educational levels both within Europe and internationally.

English Language Qualifications

All students whose first language is not English, need to acquire a minimum English Language qualification of IELTS Level 6.5 (minimum of IELTS 6.0 in all sections) or TOEFL score of 600 (250 computer based). Equivalent alternatives will be considered. Advice on recognition of alternatives may be obtained from the International Admissions Officer at Roehampton University. (international@roehampton.ac.uk).

Selection Process

The consortium will convene a Programme Panel meeting in January of each year where the Third Country Student and Scholar selection will be undertaken. During the Scholar and Student selection process, due weight will be given to the stated rationale for undertaking this International Programme, their ability to communicate clearly, the nature and relevance of prior experience and the manner in which international co-operation and understanding will fostered after completion.

Tuition Fees

The fee (2006– 2007) for Third Country students will be charged in accordance with UK legislation £7,902 (current equivalent) 11,500 euros, subject to currency changes and a small yearly inflation increase. This is to be charged in pounds sterling.

Scholarship Information:

The EU Commission will grant scholarships to highly qualified third-country graduate students and scholars – to students to follow a selected Erasmus Mundus Masters Course, to scholars to carry out teaching and research assignments and scholarly work in the institutions participating in the Course. Students and scholars must apply to Roehampton University. The MA SEN consortia will apply to the Commission for scholarship funds. Scholarships are paid through the MA SEN consortia.

Third-country is a national of a third country other than those from EEA-EFTA States and candidate countries for accession to the EU; who has already obtained a first higher education degree; who is not a resident of any of the Member States; who has not carried out his or her main activity for more than a total of 12 months over the last five years in any of the Member States or the participating countries; and who has been accepted to register or is registered in an Erasmus Mundus Masters Course.

How much would I receive?

Graduate students would receive a grant of EURO 24,200 for 12 months study.
Scholar students would receive a grant of EURO 13,000 for 3 months study.

Further information:

Further information can be found on the Erasmus Mundus MA SEN website:

<http://www.roehampton.ac.uk/international/erasmusmundus/>

Enquiries and applications:

Hilary.jones@roehampton.ac.uk or international@roehampton.ac.uk

<http://www.roehampton.ac.uk/international/erasmusmundus/>

International Centre
Downshire House
Roehampton University
Roehampton Lane
London SW15 4HT
Phone: +44 (0) 20 8392 3192 Fax: +44 (0) 208392 3031

This programme is subject to EU Commission approval. The EU Commission will advise the consortium in October 2006 if this Masters course is to be funded by them.