

Guidelines for the Allocation of Funding within the Study Programme “Embedded Intelligence Nanosystems Engineering – from Nanoscale Technologies to Ubiquitous Smart Sensors (EMINENT)” at the University of Siegen

Preamble

Within the framework of Erasmus Mundus funding by the European Commission, a total of 90 scholarships can be awarded to students of the EMINENT programme during the funding period from October 2024 to December 2029, each for a maximum duration of 24 months. 60 scholarships are funded by the European Commission, and an additional 30 scholarships are funded through the Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument – Global Europe (NDICI).

The scholarship amounts to €1,400 per month and is intended to help cover the costs incurred by the scholarship holder (travel expenses, living costs, visa fees, etc.).

1. Application

1.1 Eligibility Requirements

All applicants to the EMINENT programme are automatically considered to receive a scholarship. A separate scholarship application is not required.

For admission, the following minimum requirements must be met (§ 5 [EMINENT Examination Regulations](#))

1. A Bachelor's degree (BSc) in Electrical Engineering and Electronics, Mechanical Engineering, Physics, Material Science, Computer Science or equivalent programmes (Bachelor of Science, Bachelor of Engineering or equivalent) with at least 180 ECTS. The final grade will be translated to the German grading system using the modified Bavarian formula. The translated grade should be at least equivalent to 2.7 (“satisfactory+”). The Bachelor's degree must have been obtained by a nationally recognised university and be recognised by all partner institutions' national legislation.
2. Good English proficiency, both written and spoken: minimum level B2, demonstrated by a certificate such as TOEFL iBT (minimum score: 93) or IELTS Academic (minimum score: 6.5, with no individual score below 6). The result of the test should be valid at least 14 days after the application deadline. Applicants who have obtained their Bachelor's (or Master's) degree in a programme taught entirely in English in an EU country, or in Australia, Canada, Ireland, New Zealand, the United Kingdom, the United States, or Switzerland are not required to submit a language certificate. For nationals

of countries where English is the only official language, proof of English language skills is also not required.

An application is also possible if the qualification certificate (bachelor's degree, see above) is not yet available at the time of application. In this case, applicants must submit proof of enrolment at their current home university, a confirmation from the university stating the expected date of graduation, a list of remaining courses, current academic transcripts, and a current grade point average. These documents must not be older than one month at the time of application. The average grade will be considered in the selection process in place of the final grade. If the original language of the documents is not English, a certified translation must be submitted. The final degree certificate and official academic transcript must be submitted by 1 August of the respective year in order to complete the admission process. Otherwise, admission and enrolment in the master's programme will not be granted.

1.2 Application documents

In addition to the documents listed in section 1.1, the following documents must be uploaded via the application portal:

- Two letters of recommendation from scholars of the completed bachelor's programme
- Information on acquired soft skills, publications, and relevant experience (e.g. professional experience) – *optional*
- Curriculum vitae (CV)
- Copy of passport

1.3 Submission and deadline

Applications must be submitted exclusively in digital form via the University of Siegen application portal ([unisono](#)).

The application deadline is March 1. Any extensions of the submission deadline will be announced on the programme website (<https://eminent-master.eu/>). The student is responsible for ensuring that a complete application is submitted on time. Applications received late or incomplete will be rejected for formal reasons. The date of receipt of the application via the portal shall apply.

2. Award of Scholarships

2.1 Selection Committee

The internationally composed EMINENT Admission Committee is responsible for the selection and admission of students in accordance with the admission criteria, as well as for the selection of scholarship recipients in line with the geographical distribution of scholarships specified by the European Commission (see section 2.2). The committee consists of one delegate from each partner institution. The delegate of the University of Siegen (coordinating

institution) serves as the chair of the committee. The EMINENT Admission Committee meets at least once per year during the selection period. Meetings may be held either virtually or in person.

scholarship is paid in full during the first month of funding. Any missed days (e.g., due to a delayed arrival) or additional days carried over from the previous month will be deducted from the final payment. The last day of scholarship coverage is usually the graduation ceremony. In case the student graduates after more than 24 months, the scholarship payment ends with the 24th instalment.

2.2 Duration of the scholarship

The scholarship is typically awarded for a minimum duration of 12 months. An extension for a further 12 months is possible if the scholarship holder successfully completes the first two semesters with an average grade of 2.7 (German grading system).

The scholarship begins on 1 October of each year and ends on 30 September of the following year, or, in the case of an extension, on 30 September of the subsequent year. In accordance with section 2.3, payments for months in which the student was not fully enrolled or has already completed their studies will be reduced accordingly. The programme is considered completed from the date the certificate is issued, but no later than 10 weeks after the final examination has been taken or the Master's thesis has been submitted. If the degree programme is completed before the end of the 24-month scholarship period, the scholarship may still be paid until the last date within the programme in which the student physically participates - generally the programme's internal closing event.

2.3 Early termination of the scholarship

The scholarship will be terminated early if the scholarship holder is no longer enrolled in the EMINENT programme or if there is a reason for revocation under section 4.5 and the scholarship has been revoked for this reason.

3. Exclusion of funding, employment

3.1 A scholarship will not be awarded if the scholarship holder has previously received an Erasmus Mundus Joint Master scholarship or is receiving any other funding for the same study programme.

3.2 In the event of a suspension of studies, for example due to maternity leave or illness, the scholarship may either continue to be paid for a maximum of 3 months or be paused optionally. The scholarship may also be paused if the student is completing an internship in a company that is not part of the study programme (for example, not related to the Master's thesis project). A suspension is only possible with the approval of the EMINENT Steering Committee and may not exceed a maximum duration of 6 months. It should also be noted that the total maximum scholarship amount is €33,600 ($24 \times €1,400$). This means

that if payments continue during a study interruption, payments will end after 24 months, and the student must finance the remaining months until completion of the programme independently.

- 3.3 Employment alongside the scholarship is not recommended due to the workload of the study programme and the associated mobility requirements. Students who nevertheless wish to take up employment must obtain written permission from the EMINENT Steering Committee. The application for permission to engage in employment must include details of the scope, duration, and income of the planned employment.

4. Other terms

- 4.1 This funding guideline does not establish any legal entitlement to funding through the grant. There is also no right to information regarding the reasons for the approval or rejection of funding.
- 4.2 The scholarship holder is not obliged, in connection with the scholarship, to provide any specific service or to engage in any employment activity. The scholarship does not constitute an employment relationship. It is not subject to social security contributions, as it does not constitute remuneration within the meaning of § 14 SGB IV. The scholarship is tax-exempt under the conditions of § 3 No. 44 of the German Income Tax Act (EStG).
- 4.3 By receiving the funding, the scholarship holder agrees to inform the coordinating university (University of Siegen) immediately and without being asked of any changes relevant to the funding.
- 4.4 The university is obliged under the notification ordinance to report the payment of the scholarship to the relevant tax authorities.
- 4.5 The scholarship is awarded subject to revocation. It may be revoked and, if applicable, repayment may be claimed if it becomes apparent that:
- the information provided in the application documents is incorrect or incomplete,
 - it becomes evident that the scholarship holder does not make the necessary or reasonable efforts to achieve the purpose of the funding,
 - the funds for granting the scholarship cease to be available or are insufficient,
 - the scholarship holder fails to comply with their reporting or notification obligations,
 - the scholarship holder engages in unauthorised employment.