



CALL FOR APPLICATION

Erasmus Mundus Doctorate in

in

Sustainable Industrial Chemistry

SINCHEM

5th Edition (Academic Year 2017-2018)

The SINCHEM Consortium

Having regard to:

- The Decision No. 1298/2008/EC of the European Parliament and of the European Council on 16 December 2008 establishing the Erasmus Mundus 2009-2013 action programme for the enhancement of quality in higher education and for the promotion of intercultural understanding through cooperation with third countries;
- the selection results for the Call for Proposal EACEA/42/11 – Erasmus Mundus Action 1, establishing that the Erasmus Mundus Doctorate in Sustainable Industrial Chemistry (“SINCHEM”) is approved (project reference: 532475-1-IT-2012-1-ERA MUNDUS-EMJD), and recognizing the ALMA MATER STUDIORUM - Università di Bologna (Italy) as the beneficiary organization of the Action;
- the Framework Partnership Agreement nr. 2013-0037 established between the Education, Audiovisual and Culture Executive Agency (“EACEA”), acting under powers delegated by the Commission of the European Union, and the ALMA MATER STUDIORUM - Università di Bologna (Italy), acting as Coordinating Institution of the Erasmus Mundus Doctorate in Sustainable Industrial Chemistry (“SINCHEM”) and represented by its Rector;

Taking into account that:

- ALMA MATER STUDIORUM – Università di BOLOGNA
- Università di MESSINA
- University of NOTTINGHAM
- Ecole Nat. Sup. De Chimie de MONTPELLIER (ENSCM)
- RWTH AACHEN University
- Université de LYON
- Politecnico di TORINO

will co-operate for the implementation of the SINCHEM PhD programme according to the provisions contained in the Consortium Agreement;



Taking into account also that English is the official language of the Consortium;

AGREE TO THE FOLLOWING TERMS AND CONDITIONS

Article 1

(Implementation)

1. The public competition for the admission to the **5th Edition** of the PhD Programme “Erasmus Mundus Doctorate in Sustainable Industrial Chemistry – SINCHEM” (A.Y. 2017-2018) is open to European and non-European applicants, regardless of age and citizenship, in compliance with the admission requirements specified in Article 2. The Alma Mater Studiorum - Università di Bologna (Italy) is the coordinating institution of the PhD programme, dealing with any matter related to this selection.
2. The selection is a competitive process based on the evaluation of the academic excellence, curriculum vitae, professional experience, motivation, recommendation letters, English proficiency, and other qualifications, if any. Top ranked applicants, will be interviewed via tele- or video-conference. All the information related to the competition (research topics, number of positions, admission requirements, selection procedure and criteria) are available on the official SINCHEM website (<http://sinchem.eu>). All applicants will be notified by e-mail only.
3. The **deadline** for the submission of the application is **January 20th, 2017** (mid-night CET). Applications received after the deadline will be rejected. .

Article 2

(Admission Requirements)

1. The competition is open to applicants holding a 2nd Level Master’s Degree or a Single-Cycle-Degree in Chemistry, Industrial Chemistry, Chemical Engineering, Process Engineering, Bio-Engineering, Materials Science, or equivalent degree in a pertinent field of sustainable industrial chemistry, conferred according to rules and regulations in force in the Consortium institutions countries, or an equivalent foreign academic qualification awarded by a College, University or Technical School of recognized standing.
2. Applicants having a degree awarded by a University located in none of the Consortium Partners countries and deemed suitable, should the qualifications not have been already deemed equivalent, shall declare that the recognition be granted for purposes strictly connected to the public selection only. In such cases applicants shall also enclose the following documents:
 - a. a digital copy of the degree translated into English, the academic transcript containing the list of exams and the awarded scores translated into English;
 - b. any other academic certificate translated into English.



Article 3 (Application)

1. In order to participate in the admission procedure, candidates are required to properly fill in the Application Form, available on the SINCHEM website (<http://www.sinchem.eu/>), and to upload all the mandatory documents. Incomplete applications will be rejected. Applicants must previously register on-line on the SINCHEM website. Then, they have to login and upload all the mandatory documents, in electronic format, in compliance with the instructions provided in the Application Form. The receipt of the application will be acknowledged via e-mail. Should the applicant not receive the acknowledgement of receipt within 7 days, he/she has to contact the SINCHEM Coordinating Team (sinchem@unibo.it).
2. Under the applicants' responsibility and at risk of exclusion from the public selection, the application shall contain, the following:
 - i. name, date and place of birth, citizenship, residence address, mailing address, phone number, e-mail address and Skype Id;
 - ii. 4 (four) SINCHEM projects selected by the applicant from the SINCHEM catalog ranked in a list of priority, from 1 (the most favourite) to 4 (the last favourite);
 - iii. the awarded degree, date, grade and name of the awarding university or of the equivalent qualifications granted by a foreign university together with, in case of degree obtained in none of the SINCHEM Consortium institutions' countries, the declaration of acceptance for the sole purpose of this public selection. Applicants whose degree are to be awarded after the deadline of the call will be admitted *sub condicione*. In such a case, they must provide written evidence that the degree will be awarded mandatorily no later than October 31st 2017. Failing to provide such proof will entail the exclusion from the PhD programme.

Applications shall also include:

- i. applicants' CV (European format) duly dated and signed, including all the relevant information regarding the favourite research topic, short description of the thesis, previous research and/or work experience, any other relevant qualifications (including High School qualifications), certifications, publications, patents, etc.;
- ii. the digital copy of the degree translated into English, the academic transcript containing the list of exams and the scores awarded translated into English and any other academic certificate translated into English i.e. Bachelor, Master or equivalent, with translation in English with correspondent, Grade Point Average (GPA);
- iii. a motivation letter, duly signed, specifying motivations and connections between job expectations and PhD (max 1 page);
- iv. 2 (two) recommendation letters signed by a university lecturer or an expert in sustainable industrial chemistry. Such letters can also be sent directly by writers to the SINCHEM email address: sinchem@unibo.it;
- v. for non-native English applicants, an international English Certificate obtained in the last three years. Criteria: TOEFL iBT with minimum required score of 80, TRINITY



ISE ESOL II, IELTS with minimum score of 5.5, or equivalent tests to level B2 or higher. For those who studied in countries where the English is the official language (minimum 2 years), an official letter stating that the applicant university studies were undertaken in English;

Please note: applicants willing to register at Nottingham University must have a TOEFL iBT 79 (minimum 17 in Writing and Listening, 18 in Reading and 20 in speaking) or IELTS score of 6 (marks of at least 5.5 in each component) or PTE Academic 55 (minimum 51) or CELE pre-session course final assessment of "Pass"– and the certificate must have been obtained in the last two years (within 2 years before October 2015);

- vi. any other qualifications linked to the research areas of the SINCEM programme;
 - vii. copy of the passport and 1 passport-sized photo.
3. Applicants who make false statements shall automatically be excluded from the enrolment and any grants awarded shall be retroactively withdrawn. Further administrative and/or penal sanctions foreseen by the laws and regulations in force may also be applied.
 4. The SINCEM secretariat cannot be held responsible for any mistakes due to the malfunctioning of the electronic communication systems.
 5. The SINCEM Consortium reserves the right to enforce sanctions, even after the end of the public selection, excluding applicants who have failed to comply with or meet up the requirements herein established.

Article 4 **(Selection Process)**

1. The selection process is mainly aimed at evaluating the candidate aptitude for scientific research and it is carried out by the SINCEM Admission and Examination Committee (A&EC), on the basis of the evaluation of qualifications, followed by an interview. The selection process will be divided into different phases:
 - a) **Eligibility check:** at first the SINCEM Secretariat will check all the applications under the technical admission requirements (such as diploma & language requirements and the recommendation letters). Applicants who do not fulfill these requirements will not be academically reviewed;
 - b) **Evaluation:** secondly the A&EC will review all the applications and annexes, selected by the Secretariat. A priority list of doctoral candidates, eligible for an Erasmus Mundus grant, will be issued according to predefined, fair, transparent and objective evaluation criteria of CVs, academic background, scientific/professional experience, motivation and recommendation letters;
 - c) **Interview:** the top 20 applicants will be interviewed (through Skype or by phone, in order to better understand motivations and background). Then, the applicants will be ranked in a second priority list. During the interview, A&EC will evaluate also the pertinence of the applicants' skills with the specific research topics. Applicants shall also prove their proficiency in the English language. Information about the date of the



examination will be provided on the SINCHEM website. In order to take the interview, applicants will be asked to identify themselves providing the identity document enclosed in the Application Form.

- d) Successful applicants will be informed on the selection results via e-mail. Results will be also available on the SINCHEM website (<http://sinchem.eu>).
3. Geographical and gender balance. No more than two candidates having the same citizenship may receive an EMJD scholarship, with attention to preserve gender balance and equal opportunities issues.
4. Applicants for EACEA grants will maintain the same score also in case of participation to a call for additional places concerning the same cohort.

Article 5

(Admission & Examination Committee and Functions)

1. The SINCHEM Consortium will appoint an Admission & Examination Committee (A&EC) in charge of carrying out the selection process. The A&EC is composed of seven members, selected by the Steering Committee.
2. After the first evaluation phase, the A&EC will issue the ranking list based on the scores obtained. The ranking list will be available on the SINCHEM website: <http://sinchem.eu>. Short-listed applicants will be also informed about the date of the interview by e-mail. The final results will be made available both on the SINCHEM website and by e-mail.

Article 6

(Admission)

1. Eligible applicants can be admitted to the SINCHEM programme according to the ranking list issued. Those eligible for an EMJD fellowship are defined on the basis of provisions contained in artt. 2 e 3. Eligible applicants who are not adequately positioned to receive an EMJD fellowship, will be included in a reserve list, with possibility to access the courses in case of withdrawal of admitted applicants.
2. Applicants who successfully ranked in the final ranking list will be admitted to the PhD Programme only upon the approval of the Education, Audiovisual and Culture Executive Agency (EACEA - <http://eacea.ec.europa.eu>), according to the Erasmus Mundus Programme provisions.
3. In order to be admitted to the PhD programme, each PhD candidate and the SINCHEM coordinator must sign a Doctoral Candidate Agreement, defining the joint research activities and the training/research implementation rules, as well as mutual rights, obligations, and responsibilities of both parties from the academic, administrative and financial point of view.

Article 7

(Fellowships)

1. The SINCHEM Programme, through the European Commission, will offer a limited number of Erasmus Mundus fellowships. The following two categories are accepted:

- Partner Country Fellowship:



These fellowships are awarded to doctoral candidates who come from a Country other than an eligible applicant Country (the 28 EU Member States and the non EU Programme Countries Iceland, Norway, Liechtenstein, Turkey and Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia) and who are not residents nor have carried out their main activity (studies, work, etc.) for more than a total of 12 months over the last five years in one of these Countries. The only exception to this rule applies to doctoral candidates who have previously received an Erasmus Mundus masters scholarship in order to follow an Erasmus Mundus Master Course (EMMC);

- Programme Country Fellowship:

These fellowships are awarded to doctoral candidates who do not fulfil the Partner country criteria defined above.

2. Erasmus Mundus fellowships will cover a **maximum period of three years**. Individual EMJD fellowships are awarded exclusively for full-time enrolment. Doctoral candidates benefiting from a EMJD fellowship cannot benefit from other EU fellowships for the same period. EMJD fellowships cannot be assigned to more than two candidates having the same citizenship.
3. EMJD fellowships will be awarded on the basis of employment contracts (if national legislation provides for such kind of employment). In case not, the involved university shall adopt a different kind of methodology in compliance with the national legislation in force and the relevant social security coverage for the fellowship holders.
4. The number of EMJD fellowships available will be communicated from EACEA to the SINCEM Consortium only after the selection procedure. Presumably:
 - N° 5 Partner Country Fellowships;
 - N° 1 Programme Country Fellowships.
5. The EMJD fellowships' gross amounts are:

	Partner Country Fellowship	Programme Country Fellowship
Fixed contribution to travel, installation and any other type of costs	€7,500	–
Fixed contribution to doctoral candidate participation costs (education and research related costs, attendance at meetings, conferences etc.)	€7,200/year (total €21,600 over 36 months)	€7,200/year (total €21,600 over 36 months)
Fixed living allowance	€2,800/month (total €100,800 over 36 months)	€2,800/month (total €100,800 over 36 months)

For EMJD fellowship holders, participation costs (7,200 Euros/year) will be directly retained by the SINCEM Consortium from the gross amount of the individual EMJD fellowship. The net



amount of salary will result from deducting all relevant charges and taxes according to national regulations.

6. The total number of fellowships may increase, also after the call deadline, on the basis of specific agreements with public or private Institutions. The amount of such fellowships could be different from the amount of EMJD fellowships, and these additional fellowships will be assigned to eligible applicants, although not selected for EMJD fellowships. Both EMJD fellowships and additional fellowships do not cover:
 - i. any period prior to the official enrolment date, even if it includes the actual start of the course;
 - ii. any programme's extension;
 - iii. any additional period required to take the thesis defense.

Article 8

(Enrolment)

1. Failure to accept in writing the position within 8 (eight) working days after the publication of the final ranking list on the SINICHEM website (<http://sinichem.eu>), will result in losing the right to enroll. In such a case, the position will be assigned to the next eligible applicant according to the final ranking list and to the applicant's pertinence skills with the available specific research topics.
2. In addition, doctoral candidates will be asked to provide: i) a copy of an identity document or other valid identification document; ii) evidence that all procedures for VISA request have been properly submitted (for non-EU candidates only); iii) receipt of payment of the annual tuition fees (2,000 Euro/year) as indicated in Article 7 (non-EMJD fellowship holders only).

Article 9

(Withdrawals and Prohibitions)

1. The enrolment in a PhD programme is not compatible with the enrolment in other PhD programmes in Italy and abroad, First cycle and Second Cycle degree programmes (included the so-called "Vecchio Ordinamento"), First level and Second Level Master and Specialization Schools, not including co-tutorship agreements.
2. Failure to fulfill rules and procedures set by the A&EC, including the unsuccessful completion of the academic and research year or severe misconduct or inadequate scientific outcome, will result in the withdrawal of the fellowship and in the obligation for the candidate to return all the previous installments.
3. Doctoral candidates with scholarships who decide to withdraw from the programme, due to serious problems and providing duly evidence of such problems, can retain part of the fellowship calculated in proportion to the research activities already implemented.

Article 10

(Degree Awarding)

1. For a successful completion of the PhD programme, candidates have to:
 - a) regularly and fruitfully attend all the scheduled training/research activities;
 - b) carry out all the scheduled mobility periods;
 - c) pass the final public thesis defense.



2. A multiple doctoral degree, awarded by the University where the doctoral candidate has carried out the most part of his training/research activity (“Home University”) and by the full member Universities where the PhD candidate has fulfilled his compulsory mobility periods (“Hosting Universities”), will be awarded to successful PhD candidates in compliance with the relevant national regulations in force.

Article 11

(Personal Data Protection)

Pursuant to the Directive 95/46/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 24 October 1995 on the protection of individuals with regard to the processing of personal data and on the free movement of such data, all data and information provided by the applicants/candidates will be used for institutional purposes only, both at national and international level.

Article 15

(Availability and Information)

This announcement, the application form and any additional information are available on the SINCEM website. Any other matters not provided for in this announcement shall be ruled in accordance to provisions stated in the Erasmus Mundus Doctorate in Sustainable Industrial Chemistry proposal that was approved by the European Commission under reference number: 532475-1-IT-2012-1-ERA MUNDUS-EMJD.

Bologna, 20/10/2016