



Erasmus+

ONH Oslo New
University
College

FULLY FUNDED ONE SEMESTER SCHOLARSHIP AT OSLO NEW UNIVERSITY COLLEGE NORWAY

Are you interested in studying for a Semester in Norway? If you are registered for an MSc or MA at Egerton University, then read on!

An opportunity has arisen for three students who are registered for an MA or MSc degree at Egerton University to spend a full semester at Oslo New University College (ONH) in Norway, starting in August 2024.

Deadline for first step of application Friday 2nd February, 2024, 1700 hours, EAT.

Egerton University and ONH signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) in November 2022. This opportunity has arisen following that MoU, under an Erasmus+ KA 171 Programme whose overarching theme is titled "*Holistic Approaches to Conflict Management and Peace Building.*" This Erasmus Scholarship is fully funded, including tuition, travel, visas and all living and accommodation costs.

We are seeking applicants who are interested in contributing to the goal of this programme, namely: "*Building Locally Relevant Platforms for Dialogue and Peace Building among Communities in Heavily Politicised Resource Conflicts.*"

This goal is underpinned by three themes that relate to (a) the focus of the partnership between Egerton University and ONH, and (b) the courses that are on offer at ONH.

These three themes are:

1. Social and psychological aspects of conflict and peace building
2. Natural resources aspects of conflict and peace building
3. Legal and gendered aspects of conflict and peace building

If you are interested in applying, please choose one of these themes for your application. Further information about the Erasmus Project, ONH, and how to apply are given below.

The Erasmus Project

Building Locally Relevant Platforms for Dialogue and Peace Building among Communities in Heavily Politicised Resource Conflicts

This is an applied research project in the River Rongai area, Nakuru County that places local strengths, local people, the three MA/MSc students and Egerton staff at the heart of the program.

Climate change and other factors have added to the livelihood pressures facing African communities in an already complex development context. Conflicts have become increasingly politicised, geographically extensive and in many cases more intense. Addressing these conflicts requires a holistic approach that embraces local knowledge and culture; customary approaches to problem solving; and a comprehensive understanding of the economic, social, legal, political and environmental domains from which opportunities for conflict resolution will emerge.

Of special interest is the way in which several seriously conflictive resource issues have been solved by local leaders when they had all the hallmarks of the more usual escalation into violence. Our project will build on these strengths through practical research that embraces local people and other stakeholders as collaborators: research with, rather than research about, local peoples.

Rather than simply looking at ‘conflict management’ in terms of what went wrong and how to fix it, we will take a more positive, enabling approach to look at what is going right, and how we can encourage more of it.

Egerton university staff have already begun community engagement and research in three areas of Nakuru County where the issues are specific to the peoples there, but also speak to politicised resource conflicts in Africa generally. This project will focus specifically on the Rongai river catchment but may also include activities elsewhere in Nakuru County.

While each of the successful candidates will be working independently on their own master thesis, we anticipate that the three successful candidates will form part of an “Erasmus Core Group” working together in a collaborative way on field work and data sharing, alongside Egerton and ONH staff.

Oslo New University College

ONH is a small, friendly and highly regarded higher education institution in the centre of Oslo, Norway. ONH delivers ten bachelor degrees and one master degree. The main areas taught are in the social and health sciences. For exchange and study abroad students, ONH offers an “Oslo Semester” as part of their Peace and Conflict and International Studies programme.

The courses on offer for Egerton Erasmus students will be taught in English. Additional to the formal taught courses, the Erasmus scholars will have opportunities to visit other institutions such as the Nobel Peace Centre, research centres, international development organisations, museums, etc, and participate in wider research activities of Oslo and Norway’s research community.

Further information about ONH in English may be found at: <https://oslonyehoyskole.no/english/about-oslo-new-university-college>

Further information about Oslo and Norway may be found at: <https://www.visitoslo.com/en/>

HOW TO APPLY

Prospective scholarship applicants shall meet the following criteria:

- a) Registered MSc or MA at Egerton University,
- b) Completed Year 1 Course work with a CWA of at least 65%,
- c) Meet the social inclusion and fewer opportunities criteria as set by Erasmus + KA171-HED (https://erasmus-plus.ec.europa.eu/sites/default/files/2021-09/implementation-inclusion-diversity_apr21_en.pdf)
- d) Include the following documents in your step 1 application Note this should be sent as a single PDF file
 - i. Application cover letter
 - ii. A certified copy of Bachelor's degree certificate
 - iii. Certified copy of Bachelors transcripts
 - iv. Certified copy of Year 1 MA or MSc transcripts

STEP 1 EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

Deadline for STEP 1 of application Friday 2nd February, 2024, 1700 hours, EAT.

Prospective candidates will be required to submit an expression of interest (100 words) for the Erasmus + scholarship tenable at ONH. Only students who are registered for a Master of Science or Master of Arts program at Egerton University are eligible to apply for this prestigious scholarship. Submissions will be accepted from students who have completed their first year Semester One coursework with a Cumulative Weighted Average (CWA) of at least 65%. These students must be Kenyan citizens. Those who qualify at this stage will be shortlisted and invited for the next step.

STEP 2 CONCEPT NOTE AND LETTER OF MOTIVATION

Deadline for STEP 2 of application Monday 12th February, 2024, 17.00 hours, EAT.

Shortlisted candidates from step 1 will be invited to submit a 500 word "Concept Note" (how do they think their contribution would contribute to the development of the 'Research and Action' project we described in the application in line with any one of the thematic areas listed in the preamble. This will be accompanied with a "motivation letter" (Describing their personal self, why they would like to participate, how they see this adding value to their own careers).

STEP 3 PHYSICAL INTERVIEWS

Interviews will take place between 9th and 16th February, exact date to be confirmed and the three successful candidates will be notified within one week of the interviews.

A physical "face to face" interview with the shortlisted candidates from step 2 to ascertain courage, resilience, and perseverance and the embodiment of the Erasmus+ program's core values: promoting mobility, inclusivity, and excellence in higher education, for aspiring students who have overcome numerous hurdles to be where they are today.

Ultimately, a group of bright and dedicated students is chosen to embark on this transformative journey to Oslo New University College. The scholarship selection process has not only recognized academic excellence but has also embraced the diversity and resilience that characterize these aspiring scholars. We will also have a waiting list of three students in case unforeseen circumstances prevent the selected candidates from travelling to Norway.

SEND YOUR APPLICATION TO

Send you application package via email to:

Dr. Gilbert O.O. Obwoyere (Dr.rer.nat), gobwoyere@egerton.ac.ke

Associate Professor Landscape Ecology and Ecosystem Health, Department of Natural Resources, Egerton University,

Dr Scott Jones, scott.jones@oslonh.no

Associate Professor, International Development / Peace and Conflict Studies, Oslo New University College

Copy to:

Ane Louise Rud ane.rud@oslonh.no

International Advisor and Erasmus+ Coordinator

Oslo New University College