university of groningen

USP

CALL FOR APPLICATIONS 2026

Erasmus+ KA1-International Credit Mobility (ICM) Scholarships

for 3-Month-Research Internships between Universidade de São Paulo (USP), Brazil,

& University of Groningen (UG), The Netherlands

Scholarship Details

➔ Total number of scholarships available:4 - 5

➔ Period: three months (90 days)

➔ Type: Research stay

➔ Target group: Students at Universidade de São Paulo who are interested in undertaking a three-month research stay at the University of Groningen as part of a potential pathway toward future double degree PhD collaboration, including:

- Master's students with at least six months of enrolment in their current program
- First-year PhD students
- Final-year undergraduate students who are actively developing a funded research project and intend to apply to a direct PhD

➔ Implementation: The research stay must start between 11 January and 1 May 2027 and should be finished by 31 July 2027.

➔ Benefits:

- Travel: up to 1.700 euros
- Monthly allowance: 850 euros
- Optional: allowance add-on of 250 euros per month for two candidates who meet socio-economic underrepresentation criteria

1. Focus

This call aims to promote international collaboration between USP and UG under the Erasmus+ KA107 program, specifically supporting students conducting research aligned with their thesis projects. The program encourages students to explore opportunities for a subsequent double degree PhD through co-supervision between the two institutions.

USP and UG will select students who are interested in pursuing research internships rather than coursework. This program emphasizes the potential for developing a "Sandwich PhD" project, with flexible mobility start dates as long as the UG supervisor has agreed and the mobility complies with Erasmus+ program guidelines.

2. Eligibility

- ➔ Candidates must meet the eligibility requirements at USP, that may be set by the respective academic unit or study program.
- ➔ Applicants must demonstrate alignment between their research and potential UG supervisors' expertise.
- ➔ The focus is on selecting candidates interested in research internships.
- ➔ Applicants must actively consider pursuing a future Double Degree PhD with co-supervision by a UG researcher.
- ➔ Candidates must be USP Regular students (enrollment).

3. Matching with researchers at UG (and UMCG)

All students must have a University of Groningen (UG) supervisor who issues a pre-acceptance or invitation letter. Applicants are encouraged to contact UG researchers directly to check for academic compatibility and supervisor availability. When contacting potential supervisors, students should include:

- ➔ A CV in English
- ➔ Key information about their research topic via the Academic Matching Form.

Applicants must use our Academic Matching Form (available for download here) to facilitate this process. If you need help identifying a supervisor at UG or UMCG (University Medical Center Groningen), please contact latinamerica@rug.nl. You will be asked to complete the matching form and send it along with your CV to the previously mentioned email. Requests for support must be submitted no later than **September 20, 2026**. After this date, we may not be able to provide support.

Important Considerations:

- ➔ Ensure UG/UMCG has expertise in your area of research.
- ➔ Browse the UG website to locate potential supervisors. For UMCG, we recommend reviewing research programs from its five institutes. You may consult www.rug.nl or www.umcgresearch.org (biomedical sciences), or any other information source of your choosing.
- ➔ Using latinamerica@rug.nl for matchmaking support is optional. You are welcome to approach supervisors independently.
- ➔ Be transparent when contacting multiple potential supervisors. Clearly mention if you have reached out to others.
- ➔ Start early! Locating a supervisor and scheduling an interview may take time.
- ➔ Despite our efforts, finding an available matching supervisor may not always be possible.

Once an academic match is made and a UG supervisor agrees to host your stay, either the applicant or the supervisor can download the pre-acceptance or invitation letter template here. If you have trouble accessing the template, please contact latinamerica@rug.nl. Supervisors may also draft their own letter and include any additional relevant information for the selection committee to consider.

4. Application Process

The University of Groningen will be receiving applications from **September 1, 2026, until October 11,2026**

For this, all applicants must complete the following registration form.

In addition to this, applicants must also submit their full application package via email no later than October 11, 2026, at 23:59 (São Paulo time).

The email must be sent to: latinamerica@rug.nl and prpgadm@usp.br

All documents must be:

- Sent in a single email,
- Attached as one consolidated PDF file,
- Using the following naming format:
  LASTNAME-FIRSTNAME_UG_ICM.pdf
  Example: SOUZA-MARIA_Application_UG_ICM.pdf

  Subject line:
  LASTNAME-FIRSTNAME – Application_UG_ICM

Late or incomplete applications will not be accepted.

Note: Please ensure all do**cuments are converted to PDF format and that the total file size does not exceed 1 MB.**

Application Documents:

I. Application form. (Applicants should use the fixed template available for download here), including a motivational statement (instructions available in the application form);

II. English-language CV;

III. Proof of Registration as a full-time USP student

IV. Proof of English proficiency (exemptions possible if the UG supervisor is satisfied with the level of English of the candidate and explicitly mentions this in the pre-acceptance letter);

V. Transcript of records (academic grades);

VI. Pre-acceptance letter of the hosting UG supervisor (for template, please check point 3). It should explicitly mention that the supervisor has interviewed you. The supervisor may add to the template any information they consider will support your application;

VII. Letter of support from your USP supervisor for the mobility and your Master's or Direct PhD program (as applicable);

VIII. Research plan for mobility period at UG (Applicants should use the fixed template available for download here);

Optional Documentation

IX. Copy of the passport ID page (optional at the application stage; selected candidates will be required to submit a copy of their passport ID page)

X. Supporting documentation for socio-economic underrepresentation or other conditions of vulnerability (if applicable). This may include, for example, proof of attendance at a Brazilian public secondary school, proof of means-tested financial or student assistance, CadÚnico registration, documentation related to applicable affirmative-action criteria, or a self-declaration describing relevant socio-economic circumstances, underrepresentation, or other conditions of vulnerability.

5. Selection and Evaluation

Eligibility Check:

Applicants who do not meet the eligibility criteria outlined in Section 2 will not be considered for the evaluation process.

Evaluation Criteria:

Applications will be evaluated based on the following criteria:

➔ **Academic Excellence & Motivation:**

Candidates will be assessed based on their academic performance and the strength of their motivation to pursue research at the University of Groningen (UG). This includes evaluating the alignment of their research interests with the program's objectives and their overall academic achievements.

➔ **Cooperation Potential/Sustainability:**

The selection committee will consider the potential for long-term collaboration between the student, their home institution (USP), and the host institution (UG). This criterion examines the likelihood of developing sustainable research partnerships and progressing to a double/joint degree PhD program.

➔ **Socio-Economic Underrepresentation and Other Conditions of Vulnerability**

This criterion ensures that opportunities are accessible to students who might otherwise face barriers to participating in international research mobility, including those from economically disadvantaged backgrounds or underrepresented groups in higher education and research.

Examples of Supporting Documents:

- Proof of financial need (e.g., income statements, scholarship details, financial aid documents).
- Personal statement describing how financial circumstances impact their ability to participate in the program.
- Any other documents that can substantiate the socio-economic need (e.g., family income, employment status, etc.).

Scoring & Ranking:

Each application will be assigned a score based on the criteria listed. Applicants will then be ranked accordingly. The top-5 ranked applicants (see "Scholarship Details") will receive the scholarship. Students not selected will be placed on a reserve list.

Results Announcement:

The results will be announced via email to all applicants.

6. Implementation

- Research stays funded through the Erasmus+ ICM scholarship must last **90 days**, begin no later than **1 May 2027**, and end by **31 July 2027**.
- Scholarship recipients must confirm the proposed mobility dates with their host supervisor. The confirmed dates are subject to approval by the Mobility and Scholarship Desk (MSD).
- The University of Groningen Representative Office for Latin America will forward the list of selected recipients to the MSD, which coordinates the implementation of the mobility.
- Travel costs will be reimbursed based on actual costs, subject to prior approval by the MSD, up to a maximum of **€1,700**. Recipients should not purchase airline tickets or make non-refundable travel arrangements until instructed by the MSD.
- Scholarship funds are disbursed after the mobility has officially started. To initiate the payment process, recipients will be required to schedule an onboarding meeting with the MSD.
- Any changes to the approved mobility dates or other circumstances affecting the research stay must be communicated to the host supervisor, the University of Groningen Representative Office for Latin America, and the MSD as soon as possible.
- Recipients who are unable to complete a research stay of at least **60 days** may lose eligibility for the Erasmus+ ICM scholarship, in accordance with Erasmus+ programme regulations.

7. Call Timeline

Launch of Application Call:	September 1, 2026
Matchmaking Support Deadline:	September 20, 2026
Application Deadline:	October 11, 2026
Selection:	Late October - early November 2026
Notification to Students:	November 2026
Implementation dates:	11 January - July 31, 2027 Note: The mobility period runs from January to July 2027. Mobilities may begin as early as 11 January and no later than 1 May, ensuring all stays are completed by 31 July.

8. Contact

For questions or additional information regarding the scholarship, please contact us at: latinamerica@rug.nl. / prpgadm@usp.br

9. Disclaimer

- ➔ We have made every effort to ensure the accuracy of the information in this document. However, the institutions are not responsible for any errors or inaccuracies, and no rights can be derived from this information.
- ➔ Scholarships are subject to fund availability. Submission does not guarantee an award.
- ➔ If false documentation is found during the process, the application will be discarded.