

**EUROPEAN REGIONAL MA PROGRAMME IN  
DEMOCRACY AND HUMAN RIGHTS IN  
SOUTHEAST EUROPE**

**FREQUENTLY ASKED  
QUESTIONS**

**CfA AY 2025/26**

**University of Sarajevo & University of Bologna**

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## I ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

### I HAVE FINISHED A THREE-YEAR BA AND A ONE YEAR MASTER WITH A TOTAL OF 240 ECTS. AM I ELIGIBLE FOR THE PROGRAMME?

According to the legislation on higher education in Bosnia and Herzegovina, access to one year MA programmes (60 ECTS), such as GC SEE/ERMA is available to applicants holding a degree earned during studies which lasted for either 4 (or 5) years within the former undergraduate studies provisions, or 5 years (3+2) within first and second cycle studies in accordance with the Bologna system. Please note that the candidates who have graduated from a 3 year BA (180 ECTS) and a 1-year postgraduate degree (min 60 ECTS) in the same field, go through the recognition process at the University of Sarajevo, whereby it is recognised as a 4-year degree.

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### I HAVE AN ACADEMIC BACKGROUND IN NATURAL SCIENCES. CAN I APPLY FOR THE GCSEE/ERMA?

The GCSEE/ERMA Selection Committee will not be able to consider your application if your academic background is not in humanities and social sciences. According to the rules of the University of Bologna, candidates must hold a university degree from an accredited university in disciplines relevant to the field covered by the programme, in particular law, social, political sciences, and humanities.

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### I HAVE A UNIVERSITY DEGREE IN ENGLISH LANGUAGE AND LITERATURE. DO I NEED TO SUBMIT A PROOF OF ENGLISH LANGUAGE PROFICIENCY?

Students with a degree in English language and literature do not need to submit language test results. Their diploma and transcript are considered valid proof of fluency in the English language.

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### CAN I SUBMIT A LANGUAGE TEST CERTIFICATE AFTER THE DEADLINE FOR APPLICATIONS?

Providing valid proof of English language fluency within the application deadline is a precondition for the application to be considered. Please note that if admitted to the Programme, you will have to provide the original or certified copy of the test results upon enrolment.

### I HAVE THE CITIZENSHIP OF CANADA (for instance). CAN I APPLY FOR THE GCSEE/ERMA PROGRAMME?

Yes. As a citizen of Canada, you belong to a Target Group (TG) III. Students in this group are self-funded. Please note that the costs of the MA Programme are around 4 900 € including

enrolment fee (200 €), tuition fee (2,000 €) and costs of Term III in Italy (around 2700 €).

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### **I HAVE KOSOVAR CITIZENSHIP. CAN I APPLY FOR THE PROGRAMME?**

Keeping in mind that Bosnia and Herzegovina does not recognise Kosovo\*, citizens of Kosovo cannot be registered as students at local Universities, or apply for a residence permit, unless they also hold the citizenship / passport of another country.

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### **I WILL DEFEND MY THESIS SOON AFTER THE APPLICATION DEADLINE. AM I ELIGIBLE TO APPLY?**

Eligible candidates are only those who have finalised their previous studies before the application deadline and have proof of this. There are no exceptions to this rule.

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### **I HAVE DEFENDED MY MASTER THESIS BUT THE DIPLOMA IS STILL NOT ISSUED BY MY UNIVERSITY. CAN I APPLY FOR THE PROGRAMME?**

Yes. The GCSEE/ERMA will accept a graduation certificate from your respective University proving that you completed your studies and earned 240 ECTS. If accepted by the Programme, you will need to provide a certified copy (and a translation where needed) of the diploma upon enrolment.

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### **DO I HAVE TO HAVE WORK EXPERIENCE BEFORE I APPLY?**

It is generally desirable for the applicants to have some activist, volunteer and/or professional experience in the field of human rights and democratisation, however, it is not mandatory.

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## **II APPLICATION PROCESS**

### **CAN I SCAN MY DOCUMENTS AND SEND THEM VIA E-MAIL?**

No. All documents must be uploaded to the online application form available at the website of the Center for Interdisciplinary Studies of the University of Sarajevo in the ERMA CFA section: [ERMA CFA AY 2025-26](#)

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### **HOW WILL I KNOW IF MY APPLICATION IS ACCEPTED?**

Upon the CfA closing, all applications are screened by the Programme administration. If any mandatory supporting documents and/or information is missing, the administration will notify you as soon as possible. Please make sure to double-check the list of required documents and

make sure that you included them all in your application package before the submission.

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### **WHEN WILL I RECEIVE A DECISION ON MY APPLICATION?**

Candidates are informed of their application status within two weeks of the closing date of the Call for Applications (CfA)

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### **CAN I RE-APPLY IF I HAVE BEEN DECLINED?**

Yes, the Programme encourages highly motivated candidates to re-apply in the next academic year.

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### **IF I AM NOT SELECTED, CAN I ENROL AS A SELF-FUNDING STUDENT?**

Depending on the number and quality of applications from TG III, the Programme may offer some self-funding places to the candidates coming from the TG II (EU and Azerbaijan) who were not offered the scholarship.

### III APPLICATION DOCUMENTS

#### **DO I NEED TO SEND MY DOCUMENTS VIA POST OR DELIVER THEM IN PERSON FOR MY ONLINE APPLICATION TO BE VALID?**

No. Only the accepted students will be required to submit hard copies of their documents for enrolment during the first two weeks of October.

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#### **WHAT IS A TRANSCRIPT?**

A transcript is a list of all courses you have taken, either individually or as part of a study programme, with the result (grade) you obtained, and sometimes the credit value (ECTS) of each course. If you are currently studying, your university's registrar office will be able to produce a transcript of the courses you have taken so far. If you have completed your studies, the transcript may also show your final award (usually as a class or GPA).

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#### **MY COUNTRY DOES NOT ISSUE A CITIZENSHIP CERTIFICATE. WHAT SHOULD I DO?**

In such a case, the GCSEE/ERMA will accept a certified copy of any document that is specified as proof of citizenship in relevant laws of your respective country (e.g. identification card).

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#### **DO I NEED TO PROVIDE REFERENCE LETTERS?**

No. You will be asked to put the names, titles, and contacts of two referees, so the Programme can contact them if needed.

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#### **DO MY REFEREES NEED TO BE MY UNIVERSITY PROFESSORS?**

They can, but it is not obligatory. It is highly recommended that you include among your referees a supervisor from your professional engagement. You can include a professor and/or supervisor at your respective University as a second referee. If you do not have any prior professional engagement, both referees might be your University professors.

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#### **I HAVE A C1 LEVEL CERTIFICATE FROM A LOCAL SCHOOL OF FOREIGN LANGUAGES. CAN THIS BE ACCEPTED AS A PROOF OF LANGUAGE PROFICIENCY?**

Certificates from local language schools cannot be recognized as valid. The Master Programme recognizes the following international English Language proficiency certificates only:

1. **TOEFL** – minimum score of 560 paper-based, 220 computer-based, iBT not less than 83,

2. **IELTS** - minimum band 6.5 and no less than 6.0 in any of its subsections,
  3. **Cambridge C1 (former CAE) and C2 (former CPE) exams.**
  4. **Duolingo test** - min 115 points.
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## **IV FINANCIAL MATTERS**

### **IS ERMA SCHOLARSHIP ENOUGH TO COVER ALL LIVING COSTS IN SARAJEVO?**

Students from TG I and TG II receive study grants covering basic living costs during terms I and II in the overall amount of 4,800 € gross, in several instalments, which is about 600 € gross per month.

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### **I AM A CITIZEN OF TURKEY. AM I ELIGIBLE FOR ERMA SCHOLARSHIP?**

As a citizen of Turkey, you belong to a TG III which means that you are eligible to apply for the Programme as a self-funding student.

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### **CAN A TUITION FEE BE PAID IN INSTALMENTS?**

A tuition fee can be paid in two equal instalments. The first instalment is to be paid immediately upon enrolment and the second one until the end of March.

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### **IF I AM ADMITTED AS AN APPLICANT FROM THE TG III, HOW SHOULD I PAY THE COSTS OF THE PROGRAMME?**

TG III students can pay a tuition fee in two instalments: the first one (1,000 €) immediately after enrolment and the second one (1,000 €) by the end of March. The costs of the stay at the University of Bologna have to be covered directly to the University of Bologna's Residential Centre of Bertinoro, Italy.

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### **WILL THE GCSEE/ERMA PROGRAMME COVER MY DIPLOMA RECOGNITION COSTS?**

For students in TG I and TG II, the programme covers travel expenses, health insurance and other costs such as diploma recognition, residence permit, visa application processing and document translations, in a total amount of up to 2000 € during the entire academic year in 4 stages. If the costs of the recognition together with other costs are within this sum, then the costs of such recognition can be covered by the Programme.



## **V GENERAL**

### **DOES ERMA OFFER A JOINT OR A DOUBLE DEGREE FROM THE COORDINATING UNIVERSITIES?**

The GCSEE/ERMA awards successful students with a double degree. This means that graduates receive two diplomas, one from the University of Sarajevo and another from the University of Bologna.

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### **WHICH DEGREE DO ERMA GRADUATES OBTAIN?**

The GCSEE/ERMA awards the Master of Arts (MA) degree.

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### **DOES THE PROGRAMME PROVIDE ACCOMMODATION ASSISTANCE?**

Students must arrange their own accommodation for the lecture period in Sarajevo, as well as for the duration of their internships. The programme does, however, secure the lodging and meals during term III in Italy at the University of Bologna's Residential Centre in Bertinoro.

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### **ARE LEARNING MATERIALS PROVIDED BY THE PROGRAMME OR I HAVE TO PURCHASE THEM?**

All mandatory readings for each course are provided through the Moodle platform. Also, students get the credentials of the University of Bologna to access the electronic resources available for students of this University.

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### **IF I AM ADMITTED, CAN I DEFER THE PROGRAMME TO A LATER SEMESTER?**

No. The GCSEE/ERMA is a one-year full-time intensive programme with an obligatory 80% attendance rule. Students are required to follow strict deadlines, and the timeline of the programme.

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### **CAN I STUDY PART-TIME?**

No. The GCSEE/ERMA is a one-year full-time intensive programme with an obligatory 80% attendance rule. Students are required to follow strict deadlines, and the timeline of the programme.

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### **CAN A STUDENT WORK FULL-TIME AND PURSUE THIS DEGREE?**

No. The GCSEE/ERMA is a one-year full-time intensive programme with an obligatory 80% attendance rule. Students are required to follow strict deadlines and the timeline of the programme.

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## CAN I TAKE THE PROGRAMME AS AN EXCHANGE STUDENT?

Exchange students cannot be enrolled for the full duration of the Programme. However, if there is an agreement between your University and the University of Sarajevo, you may take one or several courses at the GCSEE/ERMA programme as an exchange student. For further information, please contact the [International Relations Office of the University of Sarajevo](#).

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## WHEN SHOULD I START THE PROCEDURE FOR OBTAINING A RESIDENCE PERMIT?

The legal deadline within which one should initiate a residence permit procedure is 90 days from the arrival. Students bear full responsibility for obtaining a residence permit within this deadline and are strongly advised to initiate the procedure immediately after the arrival.

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## WHAT IS THE PROCEDURE FOR OBTAINING A RESIDENCE PERMIT?

Please visit the official [website of the Service for Foreign Affairs](#) for information on the procedure and the necessary documents you should bring to Sarajevo.

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## WHEN DO I HAVE TO START A PROCEDURE FOR DIPLOMA RECOGNITION?

The request for academic recognition has to be submitted by the moment of enrolment at the GCSEE/ERMA programme at the latest. A formal request and supporting documentation should be submitted to the Center for Interdisciplinary Studies of the University of Sarajevo which will administer a diploma recognition at the university level. A diploma recognition certificate will be issued by the University of Sarajevo Rectorate.

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## DO I NEED TO HAVE A HEALTH INSURANCE WHILE RESIDING IN BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA AND ITALY?

Yes, all students are required to have health insurance for the full duration of the Programme. Students can claim reimbursements for a health insurance policy, in line with the rules of the Programme. Before arriving to Bosnia and Herzegovina, foreign students should purchase their travel health insurance policy covering the full duration of the Programme. Students from BiH should buy a travel health insurance policy before departing for the internship in another country and before the start of the mobility in Italy.