

Food Sustainability

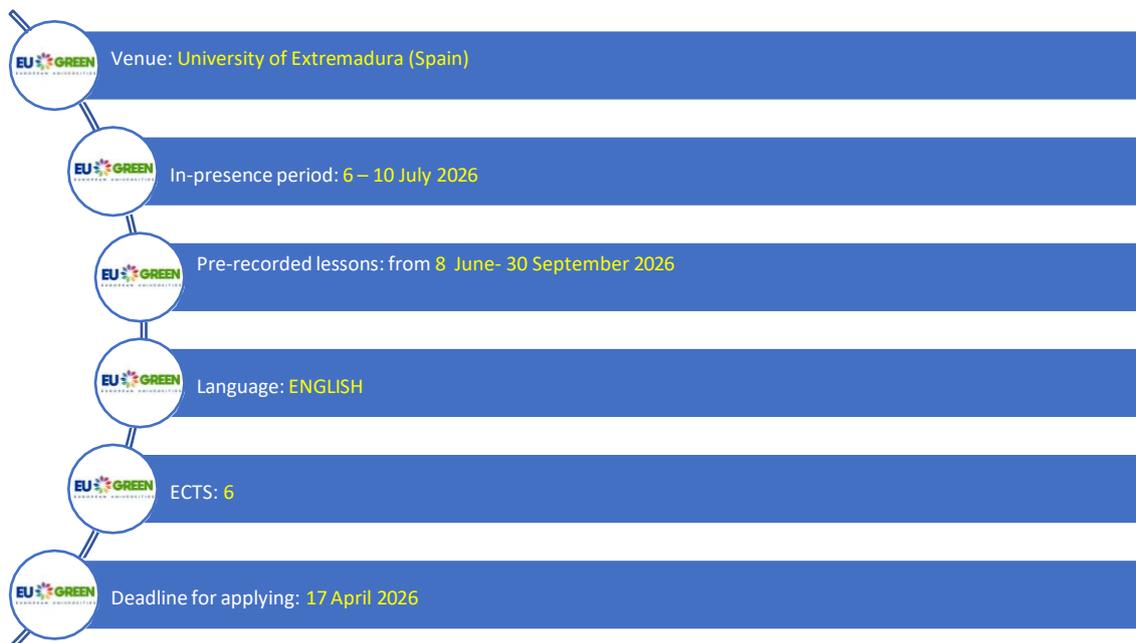
ERASMUS+ Blended Intensive Programme call for applications

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WROCLAW UNIVERSITY
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The University of Parma (Italy), jointly with the University of Angers (France), the University of Extremadura (Spain), the Wroclaw University of Environmental and Life Sciences (Poland)

offer the EU GREEN students the opportunity to participate in an ERASMUS+ Blended Intensive Program (BIPs). The Blended Intensive Program is officially approved by the EU in the framework of the ERASMUS+ 2021/2027 and is developed in the framework of the EU GREEN Network.

BIPs are one of the new and innovative formats of student mobility introduced by the new Erasmus+ 2021-2027 Program. These programs, jointly developed by multiple higher education institutions, feature advanced and innovative pedagogical approaches that combine short-term face-to-face (physical) mobilities with portions of virtual learning.

BIPs are inherently transnational and transdisciplinary, as curricula are developed and taught together by partner institutions in different countries. The combination of in-person and virtual learning spaces allows students and professors to experience and exchange highly collaborative, challenge-based, and research- steeped methods of teaching and learning.

Through the required virtual part of the program, students and professors alike have the opportunity to develop and hone their digital knowledge and skills, reflecting the European Commission's priority to harness the potential of digital technologies for teaching and learning and to develop digital skills for all.

Total number of participants per institution:

The Blended Intensive Program is open to a limited number of participants from each EU GREEN partner institution, and to an overall number of students. The number of participants agreed is 43.

BIP calendar (both virtual and physical periods)

Physical programme starts on July 6th and ends on July 10th, 2026. The Virtual programme starts on the 8th of June 2026, and it consists of pre-recorded lessons.

The BIP calendar consists of 3 phases:

- A virtual programme, starting on June 8th, 2026, and consisting of pre-recorded lessons.
- A physical programme, starting on July 6th and ending on July 10th2026.

ECTS credits (with credit equivalents for non-ECTS partners)

The successful completion of the program, both in its physical and virtual parts, awards 6 ECTS.

Teaching methodologies

Face-to-face lectures, on-field class, case-studies presentations, self-learning, and online group meetings for data analysis and discussion.

Venue for the physical period of attendance

The physical part of the BIP will take place at the University of Extremadura. The address is as follows:

University of Extremadura
School of Agricultural Engineering,
N-523, 06007 Badajoz

The call for applicants

Description of the program

The world population has reached the mind-boggling number of 8 billion people. Food production is running into an increasing demand for quantity and quality, but agro-livestock activity and the processing industry have a heavy impact on the environment and on Earth's health. With this BIP, we aim at making students conscious of the problems that must be tackled from different perspectives: sustainable and healthy diets, environmental protection and other related aspects. These will be discussed from an environmental, food production, business, consumers and legislative point of view. The program will be divided in five sections: the ecological, the food, the nutrition, the business/consumers, and the law modules. The ecological module supports students in understanding how the production of food may impact on environment and how to protect the environment while producing food. Students will be involved in case studies and a field trip presenting real case scenarios for which they will be asked to apply knowledge acquired during the BIP. The food module addresses the topics of sustainable food production integrating solutions for waste recovery, efficiency and sustainability of food production, food safety and food security, while also considering the environmental impact. The nutrition module will cover aspects related to the nutrition of food, including the relationship between healthy diet and sustainable consumption. Key issues of the business/consumers module will be the concept of transition in terms of potential contribution of innovative policies, localised production and distribution approaches, novel technologies and foods, and alternative consumption scenarios. The law module aims at familiarising participants with the holistic approach the European Union (EU) is undertaking towards food sustainability and novel foods regulation.

Motivation at the basis of the BIP

The BIP is born with the idea of sharing competences and skills present in the four Universities that participate in this initiative and share them with students coming from four different regions in Europe so that they will take home and possibly adapt to their reality what they will learn during the summer school.

Program learning objectives

Attending this BIP program the students, as well as the teaching staff, will have the chance to exchange experiences and knowledge. In all five modules students will be driven by teachers through a *knowledge to action* path, where they will learn how to deal with the complexity of the above issues and with the conflicts that they often produce, improving education, awareness-raising and human, professional and institutional efforts. In addition, they will actively participate in work groups in a field sample collection, in the data analysis, and, after the week of summer school, they will also have to collaborate through on-line meetings.

Language of teaching

All the modules and courses are taught in ENGLISH language (B1 minimum level required).

Program content, detailing physical and virtual components

Physical module

The program will consist of 25 hours in physical presence at the University of Extremadura (School of Agricultural Engineering, N-523, 06007 Badajoz) and of a one-day field trip in which they will collect data. The content is the following:

Ecological module (7 hours)

The ecological module analyses how the conversion entire natural watersheds into agroecosystems in most Europe has generated a significant amount of waste, liquid and solid, produced by agro-livestock activity and the processing industry. The resulting reduction in biodiversity, functionality and provision of ecosystem services threatens the functional balance of soils, the efficiency of depurative processes, the retention and transformation of nutrients and favours the invasive potential of some species. The dispersion of chemicals and excess nutrients in surface and groundwater has impaired their chemical and biological quality. Water pollution threatens the possibility of use for productive and drinking purposes, the achievement of community conservation objectives and agriculture is in danger of becoming a cause of degradation of the resources on which it depends. Such risk is exacerbated in the present period of climate change, where the timing of precipitation is going to be more and more different and unpredictable as compared to historical records. The ecological module will support students in understanding how to produce an inventory of pressures at the watershed scale, organized in a database and connected to a GIS, how to calculate soil system budgets and water pollution risk through real case studies and field trips and how to contrast such risk with nature-based solutions. Students will be finally driven by teachers through a *knowledge to action* path, where they will learn how to deal with the complexity of the above issues and with the conflicts that they often produce, improving education, awareness-raising and human, professional and institutional efforts.

Foods (5 hours)

All around our planet, food production is running into an increasing demand for quantity and quality, which is partly connected to the increase in population, and - not last - to the continuous change in people's lifestyle.

The food module addresses the topics of sustainable food production integrating solutions for wastes recovery, efficiency and sustainability of food production, food safety and food security, while also considering the environmental impact. Key issues of the module will be the understanding of different food production systems (Animal and plant-based foods), the new approaches to possibly reduce the impact of food production on the environment, food waste and food by product recovery and valorisation, and the introduction of Novel Foods in our diet and the impact of dietary habits on sustainability.

Business/consumers (6 hours)

Sustainable food systems are needed to ensure appropriate food production and reduce waste, while also safeguarding human and environmental health. The business/consumers module addresses the topics of sustainable food production and consumption models in contexts of high population density and socio-economic heterogeneity where concerns are growing around the economic and political dimensions of food systems, including concentration in the industry and retail sectors, power imbalances, lack of transparency, and issues concerning access to and control over natural resources, including land, water, energy and genetic resources.

Innovative approaches are thus increasingly called upon to play a greater role to connect environmental sustainability and social innovation, production and consumption, global concerns, and local dynamics. Key issues of the module will be the concept of transition in terms of potential contribution of innovative policies, localised production and distribution approaches, novel technologies and foods, and alternative consumption scenarios.

Nutrition (3 hours)

This module addresses key challenges in nutritional assessment and education across the life course, combining innovative clinical tools with community-based approaches. Nutritional diseases, including undernutrition and obesity, affect billions of people worldwide and require accurate assessment of body composition to support diagnosis and intervention. However, advanced techniques such as dual X-ray absorptiometry or computed tomography are not always

accessible. Nutritional Ultrasound (NU) has recently emerged as a validated, low-cost and widely available method to assess muscle mass, muscle quality and fat mass, already used in diverse clinical settings. In parallel, the module focuses on nutrition in ageing through *NutriSenior*, an educational and participatory project aimed at improving food literacy among adults aged 65 and over. By addressing food processing, labeling, health claims and dietary patterns through workshops, interviews, practical resources and a digital app, the project promotes informed decision-making, autonomy and the prevention of nutrition-related diseases, supporting healthy ageing within the community.

Law (2 hours)

The lecture will explore how international human rights norms can underpin the transition toward more sustainable food systems, while simultaneously strengthening efforts to combat climate change. It will be structured in three parts. The first part will examine the intersections between climate change, food sustainability, and human rights, while also introducing the foundational principles of international human rights law. The second part will present the key proposals advanced by human rights bodies to mitigate the adverse impacts of climate change on the right to food and to promote more sustainable food systems. Finally, the third part will assess the potential of human rights-based climate litigation before domestic courts and international human rights bodies both to remedy human rights violations and to foster a broader paradigm shift toward sustainability in food systems.

Virtual period

The programme consists of 12 hours of pre-recorded short lessons as well as reading material that will be made available for all the participants by the 8th of June.

The courses held in online mode are the following:

- Measuring the Economic, Environmental and Social Sustainability of Agri-Food Products Using Secondary Data
- Novel Foods and Edible Insects in the EU
- The multiple dimensions of Sustainable Development” focusing of the European approach to SD and on its intrinsic interdisciplinarity
- Green extraction from food by-products
- Sustainable Food Production Systems
- Sustainable Traditional and Local Products
- Risk assessment of Novel Foods

Eligibility and participation criteria

To apply for this program, students must be regularly enrolled at one of the participating universities ([EU GREEN partner universities](#)). Applicants must be enrolled in Bachelor, Master’s or PhD level degree.

At the time of the application submission, applicants must demonstrate proof of English language competence at the B1/B2 level (CEFR). This can be certified by the University of origin (see application procedures below). Level B2 will be a preferential criterion.

Participation to the program is open to students of the following disciplines and/or degree programmes:

- **University of Parma**
Any discipline related with contents related to the BIP
- **University of Angers applicants**
Any discipline related with contents related to the BIP
- **University of Extremadura applicants**
Any discipline related with contents related to the BIP
- **Wroclaw University of Environmental and Life Sciences**
Food Sciences and Environmental Sciences
- **Universitatea din Oradea**
Any discipline related with contents related to the BIP
- **Atlantic Technological University**

- Any discipline related with contents related to the BIP
- **Otto-von Guericke Universität Magdeburg**
Any discipline related with contents related to the BIP
- **Högskolan i Gävle**
Any discipline related with contents related to the BIP
- **Universidade de Evora**
Any discipline related with contents related to the BIP

Applicants should expect to hear back about the result of their application by 8 May 2026.

Selected students must communicate their acceptance or withdrawal within 7 days from the publication of the selection results by contacting their university program coordinator (see below).

Selected students will be contacted with further instructions upon completion of the selection procedures.

How to apply

Students interested in participating should fill out the [application form](#) by **17th April 2026**.

The application form must contain the following attachments:

- Copy of valid ID or passport;
- Transcript of Records (A certificate of enrolment at the home University with a list of passed exams and grades);
- Language certificate (If not already present as an exam in the Transcript of Records);
- Motivation letter (containing, if applicable, previous experiences abroad);
- Other documents and certificates (optional).

Selection criteria and procedures

An appointed Committee will carry out the selection procedures. Selection is based on the following criteria:

- Academic performance
- Motivation
- English language competence
- Evaluation of further qualifications and skills

Selected students must communicate their acceptance or withdrawal within 7 days from the publication of the selection results by contacting their university program coordinator (see below).

Selected students will be contacted with further instructions upon completion of the selection procedures.

Financial support

As a part of the ERASMUS+ Program, financial support may be guaranteed by the selected student's home University. Each partner university is responsible for the management of the financial aspects of the mobilities in accordance with the provisions of the competent ERASMUS+ National Agency.

No financial support is available for students from the University hosting the physical part of the Programme (University of Extremadura), as they will not be travelling for purposes of participation in this program (non-mobility participants).

Selected students from the University of Parma are granted the following Erasmus+ financial support:

Contribution	Amount	Conditions / Requirements	Tax Regime
Individual Support	79,00 € per day	For the 5 days of the BIP and 2 travel days	Tax-exempt
GREEN travel contribution	417,00 € one-off payment	Granted only if the round-trip journey is made using sustainable means of transport (train, ship, car pooling). Up to 4 additional travel days are also recognised for the mobility period	Tax-exempt
STANDARD travel contribution	309,00 € one-off payment	Only for students with ISEE < 27.000 € (ISEE 2025 for university student financial aid eligibility.)	Tax-exempt
Supplementary contribution	100,00 € per day	For the 5 days of the BIP and 2 travel days. Only for ISEE < 27.000 € (ISEE 2025 for university student financial aid eligibility)	Tax-exempt

For any questions or clarifications regarding financial support, applicants from the University of Parma may contact the following email address: bip@unipr.it

Applicants from the other partner universities should contact their respective Erasmus/ EU GREEN offices to find out the amount of financial support.

Available services at Extremadura University (in-presence period)

Services available to students during the in-person part of the program

- Administrative Support
- Accommodation Support
- Social events
- University services (Wi-Fi, library access, lab access, etc.)

University of Parma (Coordinator)

[Prof. Giovanni Sogari](#)

[Dr. Andrea Fuso](#)

[Dr. Jasmine Hadj Saadoun](#)

University of Extremadura

[Prof. Ana Isabel Andrés Nieto](#)

Contacts

University of Angers

[Prof. Gaelle Pantin-Sohier](#)

Wroclaw University of Environmental and Life Sciences

[Prof. Małgorzata Korzeniowska](#)