



*UniLaSalle is an engineering school offering three integrated degree programs accredited by the CTI (Commission des Titres d'Ingénieur) in Agronomy and Agro-Industry, Food and Health, and Earth and Environmental Sciences to its 2,500-strong student body.*

*UniLaSalle has two campuses, one in Beauvais, and the other in Rouen. Its areas of expertise include agro-resources, agronomic and animal sciences, agro-industrial sciences and techniques, food industry and nutrition, geosciences and environmental studies.*

*UniLaSalle is part of the worldwide network of 72 LaSalle Universities.*

Press contact:

Laurence Ecobichon  
+33 (0)3 44 06 38 35  
+33 (0)6 70 21 92 88  
laurence.ecobichon@unilasalle.fr

UniLaSalle  
Campus de Beauvais  
19 rue Pierre Waguet  
BP 30313  
60026 BEAUVAIS cedex  
FRANCE  
[www.unilasalle.fr](http://www.unilasalle.fr)

## **The Master's in Plant Breeding (emPLANT) coordinated by UniLaSalle is awarded prestigious Erasmus Mundus status**

The Master's program in Plant Breeding (emPLANT), run by a consortium of five European higher education institutions including UniLaSalle, has been awarded prestigious "Erasmus Mundus" status by the European Union. This Master's in plant breeding, crop improvement and creation of new crop varieties-fulfills the Erasmus Mundus quality criteria, which include outstanding academic quality, teaching in at least two institutions based in two countries, and the award of double, multiple or joint degrees by the various partner institutions.

The Master's in Plant Breeding (emPLANT), now an official Erasmus Mundus program, will enjoy a high level of international visibility. It is currently the only Erasmus Mundus Master's program on varietal selection in Europe.

The application for Erasmus Mundus status was made by the UniLaSalle International Relations Office, with the support of the four partner universities:

- Ege University (Turkey)
- Universitat Politècnica de València (Spain)
- Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences (Sweden)
- University of Helsinki (Finland)

In 2017, only 38 Erasmus Mundus applications out of a total of 116 were successful.

### **Erasmus Mundus : a European program to promote academic excellence**

Erasmus Mundus, set up in late 2003, promotes outstanding academic programs designed by consortia composed of several European universities and higher education institutions. The aim is to attract top international students to Europe, especially by offering a number of scholarships, and to promote international exchanges between higher education institutions.

The award of Erasmus Mundus status comes with five years of EU funding, covering a preparatory year (which gives the consortium partners time to set up the program and decide on



Co-funded by the  
Erasmus+ Programme  
of the European Union

### Consortium members:



HELSINGIN YLIOPISTO



UNIVERSITAT  
POLITÈCNICA  
DE VALÈNCIA



logistical arrangements, student application procedures, etc.) and scholarships for the first three student intakes.

Erasmus Mundus emPLANT is an offshoot of the European Plant Breeding College, an EU program that involved four of the five emPLANT Master's partners, together with Ghent University in Belgium. This two-year program, which came to an end on August 31, 2017, offered students from the five institutions intensive teaching programs, case studies and online seminars on the seed industry, in an intercultural context. The EPBC program served as a test bed to develop and set up the emPLANT Master's.

### A two-year program

The emPLANT Master's takes place over two years.

The first year involves core modules, taught in English, at one of the following two institutions:

- UniLaSalle, in Beauvais;
- Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences, in Sweden.

The second year gives students the opportunity to specialize in one of three areas:

- Breeding of Forest Trees & Field Crops, taught at the University of Helsinki (Finland, modules taught in English);
- Breeding of Fruit & Ornamentals, taught at the Polytechnic University of Valencia (Spain, modules taught in Spanish);
- Breeding of Grapevine & Vegetables, taught at Ege University (Turkey, modules taught in English).

The first students will begin this new Erasmus Mundus Master's in August 2018 with an introductory seminar on UniLaSalle's Beauvais campus.

There will be a single application process for the five partner institutions in the consortium. Applications will open on November 1, 2017.

emPLANT Master's website: [www.emplant-master.eu](http://www.emplant-master.eu)

European Plant Breeding College website: [www.epbc.eu](http://www.epbc.eu)