

Erasmus Mundus Joint Master Degree Programme
on the Engineering of Data-intensive Intelligent Software Systems
EDISS

STUDENT AGREEMENT

between

Åbo Akademi University, Finland,

The coordinating institution of the EDISS programme, on behalf
of the Consortium formed by the following partner universities

- Åbo Akademi University (AAU), Finland (Consortium Coordinator)
- Mälardalen University (MDU), Sweden
- University of L'Aquila (UAQ), Italy
- University of the Balearic Islands (UIB), Spain,

represented by Patrik Henelius, Dean of the Faculty of Science and Engineering at
Åbo Akademi University

and

the EDISS scholarship holder

First name(s):

Family name:

Nationality:

Date of birth:

Place of residence at application time:

Telephone number:

Email:

hereafter referred to as **"the Student"**.

Both parties have agreed to the terms and conditions stated below.

1 GENERAL PROVISIONS

1.1 All admitted students in the Erasmus Mundus Joint Master Degree Programme on the Engineering of Data-intensive Intelligent Software Systems (hereinafter EDISS) shall sign the Student Agreement, which regulates the Student's rights and responsibilities, before being enrolled in the programme.

1.2 The Student Agreement contains an Appendix which must be signed by the Student and the Dean of Åbo Akademi University in the second semester of the first academic year before the Student travels to the second-year university. The Appendix states the specialization track at the second-year university as agreed during the first academic year by the Student and the Consortium.

1.3 The Programme Board will define, and if needed can update, the content of the Student Agreement.

1.4 The Student is encouraged to get acquainted with the EMJMD action in general. The Consortium refers to the Erasmus+ Programme Guide and its section EMJD:
https://ec.europa.eu/programmes/erasmus-plus/programme-guide/part-b/key-action-2/partnerships-cooperation/erasmus-mundus-action_en

2 ADMISSION TO THE EDISS PROGRAMME

2.1 The Student declares that they meet the necessary admission requirements that are mentioned on the EDISS programme website (<https://www.master-ediss.eu/>) to follow the EDISS programme.

2.2 The Student declares that they have provided authentic information to the best of their knowledge during the application and registration periods.

2.3 The Student hereby commits to accept the study place in the EDISS programme.

2.4 The Student commit themselves to obtain their residence permit from the national and local authorities for their arrival in the host countries, if such permit is required.

2.5 The Student commits to register as present at the universities they study in according to the policies of these universities and to pay any compulsory fees (such as Student Union membership fee and the Student Healthcare fee) if such fees are required.

2.6 According to the policies at AAU, the Student must register as present at AAU also for the second academic year. The Student must pay the compulsory Finnish Student Union membership fee and the compulsory Finnish Student Healthcare fee also for this second academic year themselves.

2.7 If the Student will graduate later than in July 2027, the Student must register as present at AAU also for the first semester of the third academic year in order to receive their diploma from AAU. In this case, the Student must pay the compulsory Finnish Student Union fee and the compulsory Finnish Student Healthcare fee for this academic semester themselves.

3 ACADEMIC STRUCTURE OF THE EDISS PROGRAMME

3.1 The Student commits to complete at least 120 ECTS in the EDISS programme with the standard study period of two years. The programme is composed of the key elements mentioned below.

- The first academic year of studies takes place at AAU. The studies start with compulsory orientation activities which are organized during weeks 34 and 35 in Åbo, Finland. Teaching at AAU is given from September to May.
- Compulsory Winter School participation for the first time during the second semester of the first academic year.
- During the summer term, June – August, the Student commits to carry out and complete a compulsory internship at one of the associate partners or Consortium universities. The length of the internship should be at least two months. It should not interfere with the studies at the end of the spring semester of the first year and the beginning of the autumn semester, including the orientation week of the second-year university. Practical aspects regarding the internship such as supervision, reporting and choosing an appropriate institution and country for the internship, shall be discussed beforehand with the Consortium Committee Coordinator (slafond@abo.fi).
- The second academic year consists of studies on the specialization track at the agreed partner university. The second-year studies follow the academic calendar of the university in question. The Student shall take part in the orientation activities organized at the second-year university.
- Compulsory Winter School participation for the second time during the second semester of the second academic year.
- The Student will write a master's thesis during their second academic year. The topic of the thesis work must be validated by an academic supervisor from the second-year university according to the rules of the second-year university. The student must hence inform the local EDISS coordinator(s) about the hosting company or institute and the location where the thesis work will be performed. An academic staff member from the second-year university is the main supervisor of the master's thesis and an academic staff member from the first-year university can be the co-supervisor. There may be additional supervisors appointed, as necessary and always in compliance with the applicable regulations of the second-

year university. The academic supervisor from the second-year university must keep the contacts with the hosting company or institute and must follow the student as main supervisor. The EDISS students can perform their thesis work in any EU country. In case the thesis work is to be performed outside the country of the second-year university, the student needs approval from the local EDISS coordinator.

- Presentations and submission of the master's thesis, as well as a possible graduation ceremony will be organized based on the second-year university regulations. The Student shall graduate by the end of their second academic year and the Student shall receive a double degree from AAU and from the second-year university upon graduation.

3.2 The language of teaching of the EDISS programme is English. However, all the partner universities offer beginner level language courses in the local language/s to facilitate the Student's social and cultural integration. The Student is welcome to take these courses if they want to at their own expense, if a course fee is imposed.

3.3 Detailed information on the programme structure is published on the EDISS website <https://www.master-ediss.eu/>

4 EDISS CURRICULUM AND STUDY TRACKS

4.1 The first-year university is always AAU, Finland. The compulsory courses during the first year are the following

Data Science (5 ECTS), Artificial intelligence (5 ECTS), Machine learning (5 ECTS), Edge Computing for ML (5 ECTS), Internship (Associated and HEI partners) (5 ECTS), Winter school (Associated and HEI partners) (5 ECTS), Data Intensive Engineering I (5 ECTS), Data Intensive Engineering II (5 ECTS).

In addition to the above-mentioned courses, the Student must select at least four elective courses from the EDISS study plan during the first year at AAU.

4.2 The second-year university and specialization track will be one of the following:

- **MDU:** Industrial Machine Learning – Software Engineering
- **UAQ:** Model Driven Machine Learning – Software Engineering
- **UIB:** Computer Vision and Intelligent Systems

Both compulsory and elective courses are included in the second year studies. Further information on the second-year specialization tracks is found at <https://www.master-ediss.eu/index.php/second-year-specializations/>

4.3 The Student will be assigned to one of the three above-mentioned second-year universities on the competitive basis following the criteria below:

- Academic merit: the academic performance of the Student at AAU (GPA-point average of the Student's grades within the EDISS programme)
- The preference of the Student: the Student is required to provide the Consortium a preferable order of the second-year universities in the beginning of the spring semester.
- The number of points the student obtained for their application during the EDISS admission process.

The second-year specialization track of the Student must be approved by the EDISS Selection Committee on behalf of all the universities in the Consortium.

4.4 The Student must accept the decided second-year university even though it would differ from the preferences of the Student. Once the decision has been made, the Student and the Dean of the Faculty at Åbo Akademi University will sign the Appendix of this Student Agreement, where the name of the chosen second-year university will be indicated.

4.5 The Student is obliged to **study full time** in the EDISS programme, thus the Student is not allowed to start working on any vocational occupation with regular salary in parallel to their studies in the EDISS programme.

4.6 The Student is obliged to follow the courses of the EDISS programme so that they will obtain at least 60 ECTS during the first academic year (a minimum of 30 ECTS per academic semester), which is a prerequisite for continuing the studies for the second academic year and for keeping the scholarship. The Student commits to follow their individual study plan, which shall be approved by the EDISS Programme Board on behalf of all the universities in the Consortium. Should the study plan need to be changed, the new study plan must be approved by the EDISS programme board and the approval must be provided in writing.

4.7 The Student must follow the general rules of the hosting university, which apply to all students and staff members. The Student commits to behave in a responsible and ethical manner during their studies and to respect the rules and procedures for the use of equipment and installations. Any type of academic misconduct (e.g. cheating in an examination) will be taken to the Programme Board who can decide to exclude the Student from the EDISS programme. In addition, the Student must follow the regulations of the country where the studies take place.

4.8 The study programme includes physical mobility for all enrolled students (scholarship-holders or not) consisting of a minimum of two study periods in two of the consortium countries. These two countries must be different from the country of residence of the student at enrolment stage. Each of the two mandatory study periods must correspond to a workload of at least one academic semester (30 ECTS or equivalent).

4.9 In the case of pregnancy, the Student is entitled to maternity leave. The rearrangements concerning the study curriculum and scholarship payment schedule must always be negotiated in advance with the local EDISS Coordinator in the country where the studies take place at the time.

4.10 Throughout the studies, it is the Student's responsibility to keep their contact information updated in the student register of AAU and the Student register of the second-year university, as well as on the possible profile on the intranet of the partner universities.

4.11 The EDISS Consortium commits to provide the Student relevant and necessary administrative assistance together with the International Relations Offices at each partner university as well as access to the support services of the universities (such as counselling, tutoring, and academic supervision) with reasonable care and high professional standards.

4.12 Should the Student have any special needs, they shall be granted suitable and necessary services to be able to participate in the examinations and course work in the best way possible.

5 EVALUATION AND GRADING

5.1 The Student agrees to the assessment of their performance in the EDISS programme based on the assignments and examination of the specific courses and according to the policies at the EDISS partner universities. The examination procedures and evaluation criteria are described in the course descriptions or communicated by the designated lecturer in the first session of the course. Exam and holiday periods are organized according to the policies at the EDISS partner universities. Stipulations applying to students when registering to subjects and taking exams are those in force at the university where the subject is lectured.

5.2 The Student must regularly attend the courses in their study plan, and when required, complete all assignments and participate in mandatory activities such as examinations, intermediate tests, seminars and conferences. Justified "force majeure" cases, such as an acute illness, can be considered and approved by the local EDISS Coordinator, provided that the Student informs the local Coordinator of such an event without delay. Failed exams, lack of sufficient progress in the evaluation activities or failure to regularly attend the EDISS courses and mandatory activities can be grounds for suspending the payment of the scholarship.

5.3 The Student expressly complies with the procedures for handling cases of plagiarism as defined by the EDISS partner universities. The Student is aware that the partner universities do not accept plagiarism in any form and that the universities may and will use plagiarism detection software to identify possible cases of plagiarism. All cases of plagiarism shall be reported to the local EDISS Coordinator. If the Student has been found to have committed plagiarism, or they have shown other types of academic misconduct (such as cheating in an exam) the consequences (such as suspension or losing credits for the course) will be based on the policies at the university in question. Depending on the severity of the case, the Programme Board can decide to exclude the Student from the EDISS programme with the same economic consequences as described in § 5.2.

5.4 The grading scales for the universities are given below:

5.4.1 Grading scale (courses and thesis) at AAU and MDU

- A (5) EXCELLENT: outstanding performance with only minor errors
 B (4) VERY GOOD: above the average standard but with some errors
 C (3) GOOD: generally sound work with a number of notable errors
 D (2) SATISFACTORY: fair but with significant shortcomings
 E (1) SUFFICIENT: performance meets the minimum criteria
 F (FAIL): performance does not meet the minimum academic criteria.

Some courses are graded on a pass/fail basis

5.4.2 Grading at UAQ

UAQ Course Grading interval/ Grade	UAQ Thesis Grading	ECTS Grades	Term used in English
29- 30L	9-10	A	Excellent
26-28	8	B	Very good
23-25	7	C	Good
20-22	6	D	Satisfactory
18-19	5	E	Pass
<18		F	Fail

5.4.3 Grading (courses and thesis) at UIB

UIB Grading interval/ Grade	Term in Spanish	ECTS Grades	Term used in English
9-10	<i>Matrícula de honor</i>	A	Distinction
9-10	<i>Sobresaliente (Excel·lent in Catalan)</i>	A	Excellent
8-8.9	<i>Notable</i>	B	Very good
7-7.9	<i>Notable</i>	C	Good
6-6.9	<i>Aprobado</i>	D	Satisfactory
5-5.9	<i>Aprobado</i>	E	Pass
< 5	<i>Suspenso</i>	F	Fail

6 EMJMD DIPLOMA

6.1 The Consortium ensures that each Student who has been accepted to the EDISS programme and who has successfully completed their studies under this programme shall be awarded a double degree. One of the diplomas is always awarded by AAU (Finland), and the other diploma is awarded by the partner university that hosts the Student during the second-year specialization track. Both of the diplomas are officially recognized legal documents and they state that the Student has completed a master's degree at the university in question.

6.2 Depending on the chosen second-year specialization track followed during the EDISS programme, the Student will obtain one of the following degrees in addition to the *Master of Science degree (Technology) in Computer Engineering* received from AAU:

- *Master of Science in Computer Science* or *Master of Science in Computer Science with specialization in Software Engineering* (depending on the chosen courses) from MDU
- *Master's degree in Computer Science* from UAQ
- *Master's degree in Intelligent Systems* from UIB

6.3 In addition, each Student who has been accepted to the EDISS programme and who has successfully completed their studies in this programme shall receive a Joint Diploma Supplement alongside with the master's degree diplomas. The Joint Diploma Supplement will provide a description of the nature, level, content, context and status of the studies pursued and successfully completed by the student.

7 EDISS SCHOLARSHIP

7.1 The Student accepts to receive the EDISS scholarship according to what was stated in the letter of admission. The EDISS scholarship can be awarded to students from programme or partner countries.

The list of programme and partner countries is visible on the EDISS website: <https://www.master-ediss.eu/index.php/scholarship/> The EDISS scholarship includes the benefits, further described in the tables below.

7.2 EDISS scholarship

The EDISS scholarship is funded by own means within the EDISS Programme. The total amount of the scholarship over the 24-month period of the programme consists of:

	EDISS Scholarship student
Participation costs / academic year	9 000 €
Contribution to subsistence costs / month, 1 st year (max 12 months)	800 €
Contribution to subsistence costs / month, 2 nd year (max 12 months)	310 € *
Total	31 320€ over the 2-year programme

* for the 2nd year of the programme EDISS scholarship holders are eligible to apply for the Erasmus+ mobility grant (490€ - 540€ per month for the 2024-25 academic year)

7.3 The Student must primarily use the scholarship to cover expenses that are directly related to performing the studies in the EDISS programme. The above-mentioned grants shall be used e.g. for the following purposes:

a) The participation costs cover the educational expenses in the partner universities the Student studies in. These expenses include

- tuition fees, courses, academic supervision, exams and counselling
- administrative costs related to the issuing of the diploma and the joint diploma supplement
- university support services such as use of library services and use of IT services in accordance with university regulations and policies concerning degree studies
- orientation activities and student tutoring
- accident and health insurance in accordance with § 8 and the Winter School participation (travel costs if travelling with the whole group and accommodation costs).

The grant for the participation costs does not cover e.g. course material, student union fees, or additional fees related to participation in courses that are not included in the EDISS study plan. If the Student wishes to attend courses that are not included in the study plan (e.g. courses in the local language), they agree to pay in full any potential additional tuition and admission fees that may be incurred. A list of what is not included in the participation costs is also available on the EDISS website: <https://www.master-ediss.eu/index.php/scholarship/>.

b) The grant for subsistence costs shall be used to cover daily living costs such as housing and meals. The monthly allowance will not cover the periods when the Student is in their country of residence.

7.4. The Student must open a personal bank account in a Single Euro Payments Area (SEPA) country, and preferably in Finland, and provide full details of the account (the name of the bank, the BIC number and the IBAN account number) to the EDISS programme office in the local countries. The received scholarship (excluding the grant to cover participation costs, which are directly deducted from the scholarship) will only be transferred to this account. If a change occurs in the account details of the Student, they are responsible to promptly communicate these changes in the bank details to the EDISS Consortium. If the Student does not provide the bank account information, the Consortium cannot pay the scholarship.

7.5 The Student accepts the following tentative pay schedule for the scholarship:

- a. The participation costs will be directly deducted from the scholarship by the EDISS Consortium as EDISS participation costs.
- b. The contribution to subsistence costs are to be paid up to a maximum of 24 months, from September 2025 to August 2027. However, the first instalment for September 2025 will not be paid before the Student has arrived in Åbo/Turku, Finland, filled in a Grant Payment Form and provided the name of the Finnish bank/bank in a SEPA country, a BIC number and an IBAN account number where the scholarship shall be paid. The scholarship is not paid in cash nor on a non-European bank account.

7.6 The Student accepts that the Consortium reserves the right to change the scholarship payment schedule.

7.7 The main prerequisites for receiving the EDISS scholarship and continuing in the EDISS programme is sufficient academic progress according to the study plan (60 ECTS per academic year).

7.8 The Student shall pass the first year at AAU (minimum 60 ECTS) with the total average grade of 2 in order to continue their studies for the second year in the programme. Cases when the Student's average grade is below 2 will be taken to the Programme Board and based on the reviewing it is possible that the Student might lose their right for the scholarship.

7.9 The Student agrees to spend most of the study/teaching/research period in the European countries represented by the Consortium.

7.10 The EDISS scholarship can only be paid to the Student while they are studying. The scholarship is not paid while the Student is on maternity leave or sick leave.

7.11 The EDISS scholarship do not create or entitle an employer-employee relation between the student and the EDISS partner universities.

7.12 If the Student is unable to successfully finish their studies by the end of the second academic year (exact timing depends on the second-year university), the Consortium is not obliged to provide additional scholarships or other benefits for the Student.

7.13 If the Student is unable to successfully finish their studies by the end of the second academic year (exact timing depends on the second-year university), the Consortium is not obliged to provide additional scholarships or other benefits for the Student. Moreover the Student is liable to pay any potential tuition and admission fees to extend their studies with more than one additional semester.

8 INSURANCE

8.1 The Consortium provides a sufficient health and medical insurance from Erasmus Mundus Student Protection for all the enrolled students to carry out studies within the EDISS programme. The insurance is valid for the official programme duration and it follows the coverage set by the EACEA and requested by the Finnish Immigration Service in order to obtain a residence permit. The insurance is at no extra-costs for the Student.

8.2 The Student has received the terms of the insurance (including coverage, conditions, restrictions, helpdesk contacts) in March 2025 prior their arrival at AAU.

8.3 The Student is obliged to accept the provided insurance for the full duration of the maximum 24 months of studies.

8.4 The partner universities are exonerated from any responsibility for accidents, illnesses, injuries, losses or damages to persons or goods resulting from the activities that are the object of the present agreement.

8.5 For any additional need, the Student will take full responsibility for their health and social insurance.

9 DISCONTINUATION OF THE SCHOLARSHIP AND EXCLUSION FROM THE EDISS PROGRAMME

9.1 The Programme Board can exclude the Student from the EDISS programme if during the first academic year at AAU the Student

- a) does not start their studies
- b) does not regularly attend the compulsory course activities (e.g. lectures, seminars, tutorials, practical sessions, official meetings) and cannot justify the absence with medical certificates, or for which permission has not been granted by the local EDISS Coordinator beforehand;
- c) is the subject of disciplinary measures leading to exclusion from the EDISS programme;
- d) is the subject of legal prosecutions that prevent the student from attending the EDISS programme;
- e) drops out or withdraws from the EDISS programme of their free will or by “force majeure”;
- f) or shows insufficient academic results in regards to § 7.6 and § 7.7

In the case of exclusion during the first academic year, the Student will keep their student right at AAU but will lose the possibility to study at MDU, UAQ and UIB within the EDISS programme. The Student excluded from the EDISS programme by the Programme Board will be transferred to the international Master's Degree Programme in Information Technology, and will need to follow the general AAU regulations, including tuition fee regulation, to continue their studies at AAU. The Student will automatically lose their EDISS scholarship and will need to reimburse the already paid scholarship to the Consortium.

9.2 In addition to the above-mentioned cases, in the case of cancellation or discontinuing the programme, or unapproved deviation from the approved personal study plan, or having made false declarations during the application stage such as in regards to § 7.9, the payment of the scholarship will be cancelled. The Student could be obligated to reimburse the already paid scholarship based on the programme board's decision and the Consortium is not obliged to provide any financial support for the Student to be able to return to their country of residence.

9.3. If the Student discontinues their studies in the EDISS programme or is excluded from the programme during the second academic year, same rules apply as mentioned in § 9.2. However, the Student can continue their studies at the second-year university under the normal regulations of the university, including tuition fee regulation, on the condition that they still comply with the university policies.

10 MANDATORY PARTICIPATION

10.1 The Student is obliged to participate in the surveys, evaluations and final reports conducted by the EDISS Consortium as well as to participate in the surveys and evaluations of the Erasmus+ EMJMD surveys from the European Union Education, Audiovisual and Culture Executive Agency (EACEA).

10.2 Prior to graduation the Student must submit their master's thesis electronically in the Finnish database Doria and follow the electronic publication process at AAU called eGradu.

10.3 The Student commits to become a member of the Erasmus Mundus Students and Alumni Association (EMA) upon their enrollment in the EDISS programme. EMA is the international, professional and personal network for Erasmus Mundus students and graduates and serves as channel of communication for students, alumni, institutions and the European Commission (see: <https://www.em-a.eu/>)

10.4 The Student becomes automatically an EDISS alumna upon graduation and is encouraged to participate in activities within the EDISS alumni network.

11 PERMISSIONS

11.1 The Student gives the EDISS partner universities permission to share information within the Consortium on study records and other information that is relevant for teaching purposes or for following the Student's performance within the programme.

11.2 During the EDISS programme the Student may be photographed and/or filmed. These images are used for promotional purposes of EDISS and the partner universities only. The Student shall choose one of the options below:

I agree that the recorded images of me (photographs, audio, or video images and recordings) taken during the EDISS programme by the partner universities can be used free of charge in hard copy or digital form for any of the following purposes:

- The promotion, communication and dissemination of EDISS activities and programmes. These may be used on the EDISS website and the websites of the partner universities, leaflets, posters, social media, display screens and presentations that are relevant for the EDISS programme
- To generate training material (e.g. online learning materials or similar materials). These may be used by EDISS students and shared with other individuals involved in EDISS and may be presented at conferences

I don't want my image to be used as described above. I ask that my face is blurred in case it is recognizable on a photograph or a screen shot (apart from crowd shots for which no authorization is necessary)

12 USE OF PERSONAL DATA

12.1 The Student accepts the collection and processing of their personal data by the EACEA Agency (including the utilization of the EMT database). More information about the Privacy Statement document is available at https://ec.europa.eu/programmes/erasmus-plus/specific-privacy-statement_en

12.2 The Student accepts the collection and processing of their personal data by the Åbo Akademi University. More information is available at <https://www.abo.fi/en/processing-of-personal-data-at-abo-akademi-university/>

13 DISPUTE SETTLEMENTS

13.1 Should any disputes arise under the terms of this Student Agreement; attempts will be made in a conciliatory manner by the Student and the EDISS Consortium Coordinator.

13.2 If no agreement can be reached, the Student accepts that their rights of appeal shall be in accordance with the regulations and appeal procedures of the Consortium coordinating university, and any appeal will be dealt with by that university.

14 SIGNATURES

The signatories declare that they have read, understood and accepted the conditions laid down in the present contract.

Date and place

Signature of the Student

Date and place

Signature of the Dean of FNT Patrik Henelius

**Erasmus Mundus Joint Master Degree Programme on the
Engineering of Data-intensive Intelligent Software Systems
EDISS**

**APPENDIX to the
STUDENT AGREEMENT**

between

Åbo Akademi University, Finland,

coordinating institution of Erasmus Mundus Joint Master Degree Programme on the
Engineering of Data-intensive Intelligent Software Systems (EDISS),

represented by Patrik Henelius, Dean of the Faculty of Science and Engineering at
Åbo Akademi University

and

the EDISS scholarship holder,

i.e. The Student

First name(s):

Family name:

Nationality:

Date of birth:

Place of residence at application time:

Telephone number:

Email:

Have agreed to the following terms and conditions:

1. SECOND YEAR UNIVERSITY

1.1 The Student commits to continue their studies at the

(Institution name)

(Country)

The information provided in the Student Agreement applies also for the second-year studies.

2. SIGNATURES

The signatories declare that they have read, understood and accepted the conditions laid down in the present appendix to the Student Agreement

Date and place

Signature of the Student

Date and place

Signature of the Dean of FNT Patrik Henelius

