CAN I APPLY TO THE STRAINS PROGRAMME?

Before you actually start your application, you need to make sure you are eligible.

- **Academic requirements:** All applicants must hold a Bachelor of Science or Engineering degree in Mechanics, Mechanical Engineering, Civil Engineering, or equivalent with a strong background in Mechanics, Physics and Mathematics.

- **Language requirements**: All courses in the STRAINS programme are taught in English. All applicants are therefore expected to have a good level of proficiency in English (at least a B2 level according to the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages).

If you fulfill both of the requirements mentioned above, then you can start your application on our platform: **https://plateforme.master-strains.eu**

APPLICATION FORM

To apply for STRAINS, the first step is to fill in the application form.

You'll find more details on each section below.

REFERENCES

When you apply, you will be required to upload two recommendation letters. You will also be asked to provide the contact details of the two referees who have provided you with these letters.

Applicants are required to indicate **official university/institution email addresses**. Please avoid email addresses such as gmail and yahoo which are not official.

If the applicant has obtained his diploma a long time ago and has no contact with his/her former professors, he/she may indicate referees from his/her professional background. Please note that your referees' work needs to be related to your field in some way.

The letters have to be written in English and uploaded in a PDF format.

The preferred format for letters is as follows: headed letter from institution, signed by referee with official stamp. If it is not possible, a signature from your referee will suffice.

SCHOLARSHIP

In this section, you will be asked three questions:

- **Have you already benefited from an Erasmus Mundus Joint Master Degree scholarship or/and Erasmus Mundus Master Course/Joint Doctorate scholarship in the past?**

Students who have already benefited from these scholarships cannot benefit from an Erasmus Mundus scholarship a second time. If you are selected, this will be checked by the EACEA.

- **At the date of applicaion, have you lived, resided or carried out your main activity (work, study,etc) for more than 12 months over the last five yars in one of the following countries?**

The Programme countries include:

- the Member States of the European Union (Belgium, Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Denmark, Germany, Estonia, Ireland, Greece, Spain, France, Croatia, Italy, Cyprus, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Hungary, Malta, the Netherlands, Austria, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovenia, Slovakia, Finland, Sweden)

- some non-EU Programme Countries (United Kingdom, North Macedonia, Turkey, Norway, Iceland, Liechtenstein, Serbia)

If the answer to this question is yes, you are considered a Programme country applicant (even if you have a Partner country citizenship).

- **If you are not selected for an Erasmus scholarship, would you be willing to be a self-paying student?**

If you are not selected for a scholarship and placed on the reserve list, you will have to possibility to join the Programme as a self-funded student.

MOBILITY TRACKS

There are 4 mobility tracks available:

- Track 1: Mechanics of Structures
- Track 2: Computational Mechanics
- Track 3: Mechanics of Materials
- Track 4: Design and Manufacturing

Information about these tracks (mobilities, course content) can be found on the website.

Please choose carefully, as **you will not be able to change** your mobility track later on.

MOTIVATIONS

In this section, you must answer the following questions:

- Why have you chosen this Master's Degree STRAINS?
- Describe briefly the impact of this academic program on the development of your main activity/education/career?
- Tell us how you think participating in this Master's Degree will be life-changing and discuss your motivation to study abroad?

Applicants are not required to upload a motivation letter, which means that these questions are very important and **will be read carefully by reviewers**.

Make sure you answer the questions carefully and leave no errors and/or typos.

Each answer is limited to 500 words.

MANDATORY DOCUMENTS

Before you submit your application, you will have to upload a few documents.

You will find more details on each document below.

PROOF OF RESIDENCE

The purpose of the proof of residence is to determine your personal address at the time of application. It is often required for administrative purposes in France.

To be considered valid, all of the following elements must appear on the document:

- your **name**
- your **full address**
- the **date of issuance of the document**

Please note that the document must have been **issued within 12 months** before the submission deadline. If not, it will not be considered valid.

The address on the document must match the current address you indicated in your application form.

An ID/passport is **not** considered a valid proof of residence since we have no way of knowing if the address is still correct to this day. It will not be accepted, even if you tell us your address has not changed.

Any document can be considered a proof of residence as long as it fulfills the above-mentioned requirements. In France, we often use a utility bill, for example. Any type of bill containing all the information required will be accepted.

If you live with your parents or a family member and all of the bills are in their name, you can provide the bill along with a declaration of honour from your family member that states that you are living with them. The document must be signed and contain the following information: the name of your family member, your name, the full address and the date.

You can ask your university for a letter attesting your address or you can ask your town office to provide you a certificate/letter of residence containing all of the information written above.

If your document is not in English, you must provide us with a translation from an official translator. In that case, please upload both the original and the translation.

COPIES OF LANGUAGE TEST SCORES AND LANGUAGE CERTIFICATES

All applicants (except native English speakers) must provide **recent** evidence of their proficiency in English.

All of the following documents are accepted:

- TOEFL test results
- IELTS test results
- Cambridge English test results
- EF SET test results

Your test scores must be equivalent to a B2 level (according to the CEFR) minimum.

If you have taken another type of language test and are not sure whether it is accepted, you are free to contact the STRAINS office at master-strains@univ-lille.fr to ask for confirmation.

If you do not have a language test, you may provide a letter from your university attesting that the **medium of instruction** during your studies was English. If there was more than one language as medium of instruction, they need to specify how many classes were taught in English. However, keep in mind that **it is better to provide a document stating your level**.

COPIES OF DIPLOMA SUPPLEMENTS STATING COURSES FOLLOWED AND SCORES OBTAINED

In this section, you must include transcripts or diploma supplements. These must contain:

- **all of the courses** followed during your studies
- the **scores obtained for each course**
- a **grading scale**

The transcripts have to be **certified copies**, meaning they must be signed and/or stamped by your university. We do not accept student copies.

If you have trouble providing certified copies, it is best to contact us ahead of time at:
master-strains@univ-lille.fr

If your document is not in English, you must provide us with a translation from an official translator. In that case, please upload both the original and the translation.

LEGAL COPIES OF DIPLOMAS AND AN OFFICIAL TRANSLATION IN ENGLISH

In this section, you are required to upload a copy of your diplomas/degrees.

If you are still a student at the time of application and/or haven't received your diploma yet, you can provide us with a **certificate of enrollment** from your university, attesting that you have completed (or are on your way to complete) your diploma/degree. The letter has to specify **your name**, the **type of degree/diploma** and **the month in which you are expected to graduate**.

If you have graduated more than 3 years ago, temporary graduation certificates won't be accepted and you will be required to provide a copy of your diploma/degree. If that is your case and you are unable to provide a copy of your diploma/degree, contact us at master-strains@univ-lille.fr ahead of time to explain your situation.

If you already have a Master's degree, please upload both your Bachelor's and your Master's degree/diploma.

If your document is not in English, you must provide us with a translation from an official translator. In that case, please upload both the original and the translation.

CV

In this section, you are asked to upload a resume in a PDF format.
It doesn't have to be in a Europass format, but the content must be similar.

A COPY OF THE INTERNATIONAL PASSPORT

In this section, you are required to upload a copy of your passport.
National ID cards are **only accepted for European applicants**.

The passport must still be **valid** at the time of application (not expired).
We recommend to already have a passport that is valid for the whole duration of the programme (i.e. more than 24 months).

If your current passport has recently expired or will expire soon, you have to upload a copy and provide a proof that you have applied for a new passport.

ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTS

RANKING CERTIFICATE

If your transcript does not include your rank among your class, we ask that you provide us with **a letter from your university attesting your rank**. We also accept certificates of rank among specific departments.

Here are some examples found in different documents:

- First or second-class honours (upper division).
- The student was ranked 5th out of 73 students in his/her class.
- The student has the second best CGPA among all graduate students in his or her programme.

If you are unable to get an official ranking certificate from your university, you can also ask one of your referees to mention your ranking in his/her letter of recommendation. If the ranking does not appear clearly, please leave this section blank.

If it is impossible for your university to provide such document, you can apply without it. However, keep in mind that reviewers will have a better idea of your level with this document and that is always important in the selection process.

OTHER DOCUMENTS

You can add up to 3 documents that you think are relevant to your application.

Please upload documents separately, don’t upload all of your additional documents in the same slot. Each slot should be dedicated to one document (or one type of document).

Example of additional documents: motivation letter, abstracts to research papers you’ve written, internship certificates, documents related to projects, etc.

YOU'VE UPLOADED EVERYTHING?

Before you submit your application, make sure all of your documents are valid.

The STRAINS Consortium reserves the right to reject any incomplete application due to a missing or invalid document. Therefore, incomplete applications will not be taken into account.

A bit of advice…

The amount of care you put in your application reflects on your motivation to participate in the programme. If your application is sloppy (documents uploaded in wrong sections, invalid or barely legible documents, errors and typos in your texts, etc), it will reflect badly on you as an applicant.

Please keep in mind that all of your documents will be looked at by the administrative staff and the reviewers. A good first impression can make a difference in a highly selective programme such as STRAINS.

AFTER THE APPLICATION

Once you've submitted your application, your documents will be checked by the administrative staff. If your application is complete and validated, it will be sent to the reviewers shortly after the application deadline.

Each application will be reviewed by two members of the STRAINS selection committee (from different partner institutions of the STRAINS Consortium). The best applications will be selected and the applicants will be invited to an interview for the second step of the selection process.

After the interviews, the members of the selection committee will meet to discuss which applicants will be invited to join the STRAINS programme either as scholarship-holders or self-funded students.

The results will be published on the website in April and selected applicants will be contacted by email. Non-selected students will also be notified.

STILL HAVE QUESTIONS?

If you haven't found answers to your questions in this document, you are free to contact the STRAINS office for more information at:

master-strains@univ-lille.fr