European Microfinance Programme (EMP)

2027-2028

Brussels, November 2026

The European Microfinance Programme (EMP) was launched in 2005 and is jointly organized by **three European universities** (Université Libre de Bruxelles, Université de Mons and Université de Paris-Dauphine) and **four non-governmental organizations** ADA, BRS, CERISE and Humundi (SOS Faim). Since 2007, students graduating from the EMP obtain a **full Master's degree (European Master in Microfinance)**.

Introductive overview on Microfinance and social finance

The EMP is aimed at students who want to obtain an **introductive overview** on microfinance and social finance and get expertise through an **internship in a developing or emerging country.** EMP courses include the topics *general management and governance of microfinance and other social finance institutions*, *development issues and their link to social finance*, *tools for financial analysis*, *contracting and social finance products*, *macroeconomics and regulation of microfinance*, *rural and urban microfinance issues*.

Courses are held in **English** by Professors from the Université Libre de Bruxelles (ULB), the Université de Mons (UMONS), the Université Paris-Dauphine and microfinance experts. All classes take place at the ULB Campus USQUARE, on **4-5 evenings from 6pm to 9pm** during the week and sometimes on Saturday.

Admission Requirements

The admission to the EMP requires a **second cycle diploma (Master) (minimum 300 ECTS)** or equivalent, obtained at a recognized academic institution. The EMP welcomes graduate students specialized in the fields of development cooperation, economics, agronomy, management or finance (exceptionally, other qualifications may be accepted). Good academic results and former professional experience are highly valued.

International career prospects

With more than **80% of students coming from the South**, **22 nationalities** in 2026-27 and experts from all parts of the world, the EMP is a particularly international Masters programme, which allows to create and to keep new (professional) networks. Career prospects for EMP graduates: to work in NGOs involved in Microfinance and other types of social finance, International Aid Organisations, Social finance Rating Agencies, Impact investing and Investment Funds and Research.

Scholarships of the Commission de la Coopération Internationale (CCI)

Every year, 10 scholarships are granted from the Belgian CCI, exclusively to **students from developing countries**. For further information please visit the ARES-CCI website www.ares-ac.be/fr/ or contact the EMP coordinator (emp@ulb.be).

Application for the EMP 2027-28

The EMP application form 2027-28 and further information is available on the EMP website www.europeanmicrofinanceprogram.org. The first **application deadline** is **February, 15th 2027**. As all available places could be filled after the first and second application deadline, the **EMP Jury strongly recommends applying as soon as possible**.

For any further questions please feel free to contact the EMP coordination on emp@ulb.be.

For the EMP Team,

Prof. Marek Hudon, Scientific Coordinator