



Ad-Hoc Query on Exemption of fees for Erasmus Mundus and AFS students (only to AT, BE, DE, FI, FR, LU, NL, SE)

Requested by BE EMN NCP on 13th January 2015

Compilation produced on 19th February 2015

Responses from Austria, Belgium, Finland, France, Germany, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Sweden (8 in Total)


Disclaimer: The following responses have been provided primarily for the purpose of information exchange among EMN NCPs in the framework of the EMN. The contributing EMN NCPs have provided, to the best of their knowledge, information that is up-to-date, objective and reliable. Note, however, that the information provided does not necessarily represent the official policy of an EMN NCPs' Member State.

1. Background Information





Belgium has a new government and a government agreement dated since October 2014. This new agreement foresees that payment will be claimed for all applications for a residence permit submitted to the Immigration Office (except for asylum applications, applications for subsidiary protection and requests for regularization based on medical grounds). In this context, the BE NCP already launched a limited AHQ on this issue in November 2014. On 12 January, the BE NCP was contacted to launch an additional Query whether to know if there are exemptions for Erasmus Mundus and AFS-students. More in particular the BE State Secretary for Asylum and Migration would like to know whether the fees for students mentioned in the answers to the previous information request are also due for TCN students who come to study in the framework of an Erasmus Mundus-programme and AFS-programme, or are there exceptions for such students?

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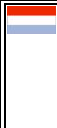
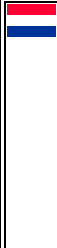
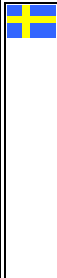
2. Responses

		Wider Dissemination?		
	Austria	Yes	There are no exemptions/special rules that apply for participants of the Erasmus Mundus-programme and AFS-programme. Same fees apply as to all other students from third-countries.	
			handling/issuance fee	handling/issuance fee
			visa application	residence permit
			Erasmus Mundus	<p>Schengen-Visa (up to 90 days): no fees (according to Art. 16 para 4 (b) EU Visa Code) [note: TCN of some countries are allowed to enter Austria without a visa for up to 90 days] D-Visa (from 91 days up to 6 months): visa application/issuance fees can be waived for students (especially if this is based on reciprocity, according to Konsulargebühren-Tarifpost 7 (3) 4, see http://www.bmeia.gv.at/fileadmin/user_upload/bmeia/media/Vertretungsbehoerden/Bruessel/Konsulargebuehr_ab_01012014.pdf). No difference is made between students coming with/without a certain exchange programme. (And due to the length of the Erasmus Mundus Programme TCN students normally apply for a residence permit)</p> <p>Yes. (no exceptions from fees are foreseen for students regardless of the participation in an exchange programme)</p>
			AFS	<p>Schengen-Visa (up to 90 days): no fees (according to Art. 16 para 4 (b) EU Visa Code) [note: TCN of some countries are allowed to enter Austria without a visa for up to 90 days]</p> <p>Yes. (no exceptions from fees are foreseen for students regardless of the participation in an exchange programme)</p>

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			<p>D-Visa (from 91 days up to 6 months): visa application/issuance fees can be waived for students (especially if this is based on reciprocity, according to Tarifpost 7 (3) 4 Konsulargebührenblatt). No difference is made between students coming with/without a certain exchange programme.</p>
	Belgium	Yes	In Belgium, until now, AFS-students have to pay the same handling fee for visa applications and issuance fee for residence permits as other TCN students. Some categories are exempted from the visa application fee like Erasmus Mundus and Tempus students, students who receive a grant from the different Belgian authorities in the framework of development cooperation and students who receive a grant from a Belgian university. All have to pay the fee for the issuance (that is to say the manufacturing) of a residence permit and the tax imposed by the municipality.
	Finland	Yes	In Finland <u>visa</u> means a short-term entry permit (max 3 months). Visa payments are based on the Visa Code (810/2009/EC) Article 16. The Article states that the visa fee shall be waived for school pupils, students, postgraduate students and accompanying teachers who undertake stays for the purpose of study or educational training. Therefore, according to the Visa Code, all students are exempted from the visa fee, including AFS and Erasmus students. For longer study periods (over 3 months), a student has to apply for a <u>residence permit</u> . The payment for student residence permit is the same for all students, regardless of the programme or organization through which the student is arriving in Finland. The cost of a first residence permit is 330 € for a paper application and 300 € for electronic application. If the student is minor (below 18 years), the cost is 230 € for paper application and 200 € for electronic application.
	France	Yes	In France, TCN students who come to study in the framework of an Erasmus Mundus-programme or AFS-programme have to pay the same fees for visa applications and residence permits as other TCN students. Please note that in France, visa applications are free of charge for French or foreign government-funded students.
	Germany	Yes	Only students who receive a scholarship from public funds for their stay in Germany as well as their spouses or partners and minor children, if these are included in the support (§ 52 para. 5 sentence 1 no. 1 Aufenthaltsverordnung(Ordinance on Residence)), are exempt from the visa fee. This would be aiming to public funds of the federal budget. Since Erasmus is not financed by public funds from the federal budget, but is financed from EU own resources, Erasmus students are not exempt from visa fees. The same might be applied to AFS scholarship.

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	Luxembourg	Yes	In both cases (Erasmus Mundus and AFS) there is a visa fee of 50 euros and an issuance fee for the residence permit of 50 euros. There is no exception made in the website of the Directorate of Immigration. See http://www.mae.lu/en/Site-MAE/VISAS-Immigration/Short-term-stay-inferior-to-90-days/Do-you-need-a-Visa/Visa-charges
	The Netherlands	Yes	The Netherlands does not make a distinction between Erasmus Mundus and AFS on the one hand and other TCN (students) on the other hand. The only exception is made for TCN students with long-term resident status in other MS. AFS-students are considered as exchange youngster and for this category a legal fee of 614 Euro has to be paid. For students following fees are applicable: - 154 Euro for foreigners with long-term resident status who wish to come to study in the NL. - 308 Euro for other third country nationals These fees are the total costs for the application for the Entry and Residence procedure (TEV and the residence permit).
	Sweden	Yes	According to the Swedish Aliens Ordinance, third-country nationals who apply for a residence permit for study purposes in Sweden and who have received a scholarship/study grant from the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (<i>sida</i>), other Swedish organizations or an international/intergovernmental organization (such as the EU or Unicef) are exempted from the requirement to pay a fee for their residence permit. Thus, applicants who have a scholarship/study grant from Erasmus Mundus or AFS do not need to pay a fee. In practice, when the Swedish Migration Board determines whether applicants have to pay a fee or not, the important issue is whether or not they have a scholarship/grant. When they have one, they do not need to pay a fee. Please note that this information relates to residence permits for study purposes. Swedish authorities do not normally issue visas for university studies in Sweden.
