

MARBLE Visiting Student Programme

Programme for visiting graduate students

Programme	Participants	Main purpose	Duration
MARBLE Visiting Student Programme	graduate students	study stay, research project, or graduate thesis at MARBLE	usually one semester

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1 Purpose of the Programme

The MARBLE Visiting Student Programme enables students of graduate studies, or an equivalent level of integrated studies, to spend part of their studies at the MARBLE Centre of Excellence, usually one semester, in order to gain research and practical experience in maritime robotics, autonomous systems, blue technologies, and the sustainable blue economy.

The Programme is particularly intended for students whose study programme provides for or allows:

- mobility outside the home institution;
- a research or professional semester;
- preparation of a graduate thesis at another institution;
- work on a research or development project;
- practical training in a research environment;
- acquisition of ECTS credits through activities carried out outside the home institution.

Participation in the Programme does not constitute employment, a scholarship, an employment relationship, or acquisition of Affiliated Researcher status at MARBLE.

2 Duration of Stay

The stay usually lasts one academic semester, or as long as provided by the study programme or the scope of the research project.

The exact duration is determined by the study-stay plan and, where applicable, by an agreement with the home institution.



3 Possible Forms of Activity

During the stay, the visiting student may:

- prepare a graduate thesis or its research component;
- participate in a MARBLE research or development project;
- develop and test algorithms, software solutions, or prototypes;
- participate in laboratory and field experiments;
- collect and analyse research data;
- work with autonomous vessels, underwater robots, sensors, and other research equipment;
- participate in seminars, workshops, and training activities;
- participate in preparation and writing of scientific publications;
- develop a project in cooperation with researchers and other students;
- acquire ECTS credits, where this has been agreed in advance with the home institution;
- prepare a final presentation, report, prototype, or other result.

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Activities are defined before the start of the stay and must be aligned with the student's study obligations and MARBLE's research interests.

4 Study-Stay Plan

Before the start of the stay, a plan is prepared containing:

- information about the student and the home institution;
- the duration and planned dates of stay, including the start and end dates;
- information about the MARBLE mentor;
- information about the mentor or coordinator at the home institution;
- the topic, objectives, and planned activities;
- the work plan and time frames for the planned activities (Gantt chart);
- expected results;
- required equipment and infrastructure;
- method for monitoring progress;
- expected study outcomes;
- number of ECTS credits, where applicable;
- evaluation method;
- confidentiality rules;
- rules on publication and use of data;
- intellectual property rules;



- method of financing the stay.

Where the stay is carried out under Erasmus+ or another mobility programme, the plan may be aligned with the Learning Agreement or another appropriate document.

5 MARBLE Mentor

Each visiting student is assigned a MARBLE mentor.

The MARBLE mentor:

- participates in defining the stay plan;
- helps the student select and develop the topic;
- monitors the implementation of research and development activities;
- coordinates access to laboratories, equipment, and other resources;
- connects the student with relevant researchers;
- provides expert feedback;
- confirms the implementation of planned activities;
- participates in the final evaluation of the stay.

Where the student prepares a graduate thesis, the MARBLE mentor may act as a co-mentor or external expert mentor, in accordance with the rules of the home institution.

The formal mentor of the graduate thesis remains the person appointed in accordance with the rules of the home institution, unless otherwise formally arranged.

6 Benefits for the Student

By participating in the Programme, the student may gain:

- experience working in an international and interdisciplinary research environment;
- access to research infrastructure and equipment not available at the home institution;
- practical experience in conducting experiments and developing technologies;
- support from a MARBLE mentor;
- the opportunity to prepare a graduate thesis on a current research or development topic;
- involvement in research projects;



- connections with researchers, doctoral candidates, industry partners, and other students;
- development of technical, research, communication, and teamwork skills;
- strengthening of the student's CV and professional profile;
- a better understanding of opportunities for continuing education at doctoral level;
- a foundation for future cooperation with MARBLE;
- the possibility of acquiring ECTS credits or recognition of other study obligations, where agreed with the home institution.

7 Benefits for MARBLE

The Programme enables MARBLE to:

- attract talented graduate students;
- identify potential future doctoral candidates and researchers at an early stage;
- develop cooperation with Croatian and international universities;
- involve students in research and development projects;
- develop prototypes, analyses, software solutions, and other results;
- increase MARBLE's international mobility and visibility;
- develop new topics for graduate and future doctoral research;
- strengthen the Centre's educational role;
- create a network of young professionals connected with MARBLE;
- develop long-term institutional partnerships.

8 Non-Financial Support from MARBLE

MARBLE may provide the visiting student with:

- a workspace during the stay;
- access to laboratories, research infrastructure and equipment, research vessels and test sites, as well as software tools, data, and computing resources;
- participation in seminars, workshops, and internal events;
- participation in experiments and field activities;
- connections with other students and researchers;
- technical and organisational support for agreed activities;
- a certificate of completed study stay.



Access to individual resources depends on availability, safety rules, the student's prior training, and MARBLE's obligations toward third parties.

9 Financial Support from MARBLE

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As a rule, the student or the student's home institution independently provides:

- travel costs;
- accommodation costs;
- meal costs;
- insurance costs;
- visa and residence-permit costs;
- other personal costs during the stay.

The stay may be financed from:

- Erasmus+ and other mobility programmes;
- scholarships of the home institution;
- national and international mobility programmes;
- projects in which the student's home institution participates;
- other external funding sources.

Depending on available funds and a special decision, MARBLE may:

- partially or fully cover individual costs of the stay;
- provide accommodation or assist in finding it;
- cover justified costs of field activities;
- cover materials directly required for the approved project;
- enable participation in events or training activities.

Financial support is not an automatic right and must be approved in advance.

10 Intellectual Property and Publication of Results

Participation in the Programme does not in itself transfer intellectual property rights from the student, the home institution, or MARBLE.

Existing knowledge, data, software solutions, documentation, and other rights remain the property of the party to which they belonged before the start of the stay.

Rights to results created during the stay are regulated in accordance with:

- the actual contribution of the student and other participants;
- the rules of the home institution;



- MARBLE's rules;
- the rules of the project within which the activity was carried out;
- applicable contracts and laws.

For projects with potential protection or commercialisation of results, rights and obligations may be regulated by a separate agreement.

The student retains the ability to fulfil academic obligations, including submission and defence of the graduate thesis, while respecting confidentiality obligations and protection of results.

Publication of results may be temporarily postponed where necessary for:

- protection of confidential information;
- filing a patent application or another right;
- fulfilment of contractual obligations;
- protection of the interests of the student, MARBLE, or other involved parties.

11 Confidentiality, Safety, and Insurance

The visiting student is required to:

- comply with occupational safety and health rules;
- complete the necessary training;
- use equipment and premises responsibly;
- protect confidential information;
- comply with data-management rules;
- observe ethical rules and academic integrity;
- have appropriate health and other necessary insurance;
- obtain the necessary visas and permits;
- comply with MARBLE's rules of conduct.

Before access to confidential information or projects, a confidentiality agreement may be concluded.

12 Application to the Programme

The application contains:

- the student's curriculum vitae;
- transcript of grades;
- motivation letter;
- information on the study programme and home institution;



- description of the desired area of work;
- proposal of a topic or activity, if any;
- expected results of the stay;
- proposed duration and dates;
- information about the mentor or coordinator at the home institution;
- recommendation or confirmation from the home institution;
- information on required infrastructure and equipment;
- method of financing costs;
- confirmation or consent of the home institution, where required.

The student may propose a MARBLE mentor, but the final decision on mentor appointment is made by MARBLE.

13 Application Deadlines

The call for applications is permanently available on MARBLE's website.

As a rule, the application is submitted at least three months before the planned start of the semester.

For students who require a visa, residence permit, or more complex administrative preparation, it is recommended that the application be submitted at least six months in advance.

14 Selection Criteria

Applications are assessed on monthly basis by a 3-member committee according to:

- the quality and relevance of the proposed activity;
- alignment of the topic with MARBLE's research areas;
- the student's motivation;
- previous academic achievement;
- prior knowledge and skills;
- potential to achieve concrete results;
- availability of a suitable mentor;
- availability of the required infrastructure;
- possibility of recognition of the activity at the home institution;
- potential for continued cooperation;
- organisational and financial conditions of the stay.

MARBLE may organise an interview with the candidate before making a decision.



15 Monitoring and Evaluation

The student and the MARBLE mentor regularly monitor implementation of the work plan.

At the beginning of the stay, the student gives a presentation on previous work.

At the end of the stay, the student:

- submits a final report;
- presents the results in the form of a presentation;
- submits the agreed result, for example an article, a prototype, software solution, analysis, dataset, or draft graduate thesis.

The MARBLE mentor prepares a certificate and a short evaluation of the student's work using the relevant template.

16 Alumni Network

The student becomes a member of the MARBLE Visiting Student Alumni Network after:

- completing the approved study stay;
- carrying out the agreed activities;
- submitting the final report;
- delivering the final presentation;
- receiving confirmation from the MARBLE mentor of successful completion of the Programme.

Members of the alumni network may:

- receive information about future educational and research opportunities;
- participate in selected MARBLE events;
- maintain contact with mentors and other former students;
- present the stay experience to future participants;
- receive information about doctoral studies, projects, and other opportunities connected with MARBLE.

Membership in the alumni network does not constitute employment, a scholarship, or another contractual relationship with MARBLE.