

Okayama University at the Leading Edge of ERASMUS Activities in Japan

As a part of a long haul holistic international development, Okayama University is gradually and firmly improving its global engagement through a strengthened commitment to ERASMUS mobility programs. These initiatives—supporting both inbound and outbound exchanges with Europe (KA-171) — are increasingly drawing partnerships with leading universities dedicated to academic excellence. They are usually declined along 3 lines:

1 - MASTER students: The integration of research and coursework in MASTER students' mobilities—structured to **earn 30 ECTS during a six-month secondment** at partner universities—represents an innovative initiative rarely seen among Japanese universities. This unique program is increasingly attracting European students—and, though with more difficulty, also Japanese Master's-level students. Despite these challenges, the initiatives have seen considerable success, with all deliverables being met in Europe and in Okayama University: mainly **activity reports** and **oral presentations** in addition to exposures to cultural aspects of the host country as expected from ERASMUS underlying policies.

At the time of the NEWS (Fall 2025): about 10 MASTER are performing a ERASMUS mobility - Among the Oka-Dai students on the move: 1 for 6 months at USMB (Savoie Mont-Blanc University) and 3 X 6months at Sorbonne. In the opposite way 5 ERASMUS from Sorbonne are expected at Oka-Dai.

NB: A former 2024 ERASMUS student from Oka-Dai at USMB has decided to further enhance his international academic trajectory by applying for a three-year PhD program at the same university.

2 - STAFF: ERASMUS - KA-171 also offers opportunities to Staff and Faculties for 1 week training at partners. These secondments also naturally permit dual promotion among partners. Specific International weeks are organised, supported by ERASMUS funding.

At the time of the NEWS (Fall 2025): 3 ERASMUS mobilities of Oka-Dai staff are underway: 1 at Sorbonne and 2 at USMB.

3 - EVENTS, such as ERASMUS-Days at Okayama (now organised in Hybrid mode: see for instance **URL: <https://chenevier-ura-okayama-univ.com/2023/05/30/erasmus-day-3rd-edition-okayama-university-april-11th-2023/>**) or **International Week at USMB** meet large audiences.

Next Edition of **ERASMUS-Days** at Okayama: late April 2026