




# PETaL EMJMD

PLAY, EDUCATION, TOYS AND LANGUAGES



Co-funded by the  
Erasmus+ Programme  
of the European Union



The Erasmus Mundus Master's Programme that  
boosts the power of play and toys for learning and  
development in 21<sup>st</sup> century Early Childhood  
Education.

PETaL EMJMD is rated by EACEA as outstanding.

## Description

This **Erasmus Mundus Joint Master Degree** focuses on **Play, Education, Toys and Language** (hereinafter PETaL). Its design is based on the best practices and expertise of the participating institutions. It is built by three programme country institutions [the University of Cordoba (Spain), the Polytechnic Institute of Lisbon (Portugal) and Marmara University (Turkey)] on a unique framework. The study programme, including the curriculum content, will be jointly delivered by the teaching staff of all the institutions involved plus the enriching contribution of expert guest scholars from all over the world (e.g. the USA, Africa, South America, and Europe). Each of the programme countries will deliver **30 ECTS of the taught credits**, resulting in a **fully integrated curriculum of 120 ECTS (90 ECTS plus 30 ECTS Master Thesis)**.

**Play, toys and games; intercultural education (IE); early second language acquisition (ESLA), and early childhood education (ECE) are the key topics of PETaL**, which until now have only been offered in isolation. By embedding these topics in a single, coherent programme we offer both European and international students the chance to develop a unique portfolio of skills and knowledge.



The **course modules** are designed to intertwine pedagogical aspects with culture in order to **emphasize the importance of culture in the practices of game and play within a plurilingual and intercultural context**, such as it is 21<sup>st</sup> century society. The impact of culture on education in general, and on ECE and child development in particular, has always been an interesting area for research; however, a programme like PETaL EMJMD that incorporates play, toys, language and intercultural education has not been introduced up to now. Through toys and play, children explore and know the rules and symbols of their communities, as well as recreate roles and situations that reflect their sociocultural and 21<sup>st</sup> century plurilingual world.

Given all sociological factors and when they are evaluated together with the psychological ones, we can see that there is a current need for action to increase the amount and quality of play provided to children. Since discrepancies are observed between urban and rural areas and between different cultures, there is also need for action to start programs where cultures can learn and take advantage from the experiences of each other. In summary, the **PETaL EMJMD** reflects a common and integrated approach by the consortium that **will provide graduates with an internationally recognised joint degree**.

Students mobility is key to develop abilities that improve their professional profile and help them interact more successfully in the global environment where we live.

### PETaL EMJMD Student Mobility Programme

Our mission is to encourage our students to undertake academic stays in different institutions for each academic period of the master curriculum.

Let's Start Learning

## Providing practical information about **mobility** to **PETaL EMJMD** students

PETaL EMJMD **first semester**, entitled 'General Introduction', will be delivered at the **Universidad de Córdoba (Spain)**. Its main goal is to provide students with the fundamentals of the four areas of expertise included in this EMJMD (that is, psychology of children play; Early Childhood Education; Intercultural Education; Early Second Language Acquisition).

PETaL **second semester courses** will be delivered at the **Instituto Politécnico de Lisboa (Portugal)** that will complement and enrich students' knowledge about the role of play and toys for learning in ECE in different cultures.

**Third semester courses** are offered by **Marmara University (Turkey)**, highly specialized in the Sociology of play and children.

**The fourth semester** will be devoted to the planning and writing of the Master's Thesis (30 ECTS), which can take place at any of the three participant Universities in collaboration with the associated partners. A wide range of possible topics is available for MT projects carefully designed to ensure relevant skills and subject training.



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