

SPECIALISED MASTER IN MICROFINANCE

Graduate profile

The European Microfinance Programme (EMP) was launched in 2005 in response to a growing demand for training in development activities, particularly in microfinance. Currently, the EMP is jointly organised by three European universities (Université libre de Bruxelles, Université de Mons and Université de Paris-Dauphine) and four non-governmental organisations ADA, BRS, CERISE and SOS Faim. Its purpose is to train microfinance professionals from both North and South and contribute to the strengthening of microfinance institutions worldwide in accordance with the highest international standards.

It offers a multidisciplinary approach to development issues in the microfinance sector, combining solid theoretical foundations, practical knowledge, and on-site internship.

The microfinance sector is developing at a rapid pace creating a growing demand for experienced professionals within microfinance and credit institutions, banks and development investment funds in Europe and abroad. The EMP is the first microfinance education programme with a European scope and perspective. It offers the combined expertise of academics and experts working in the field. Professors from three partner European universities provide a solid theoretical foundation. Practitioners from the five non-governmental partner organisations give insights into the latest techniques used by international microfinance institutions.

It is a particularly international master, attracting students from 20 to 30 different countries. Around 50% of them come from Southern countries. The programme provides students with a broad overview of the field of microfinance followed by a compulsory internship in a microfinance institution in a developing country.

EMP graduates are well-trained multi-disciplinary professionals, ready to innovatively address the challenges that the sector is facing today. They typically work in :

- > NGOs working in Microfinance
- > International Aid Organisations
- > Microfinance Rating Agencies
- > Investment Funds
- > Research

On completion of this programme, students are expected to reach the following learning outcomes:

LEARNING GOALS	LEARNING OBJECTIVES « OUR GRADUATES WILL BE ABLE TO...»
LG 1 Microfinance	LO 1.1 Integrate sustainable development into problem analysis
	LO 1.2 Identify and apply the relevant analytical tools, scientific knowledge and corporate financial techniques to perform in-depth analyses of microfinance-related issues
	LO 1.3 Articulate key macro and microfinance-specific facts and economic trends in the banking sector with mechanisms of management and governance of microfinance institutions
	LO 1.4 Collect, organise and analyse data to assess the performance of microfinance institutions using a multidisciplinary approach
LG 2 Academic mindset	LO 2.1 Adopt a scientific approach to data collection, research and analysis and communicate results with clear, structured and sophisticated arguments
	LO 2.2 Display critical thinking and develop autonomous learning strategies and techniques
LG 3 Analytical skills	LO 3.1 Apply quantitative and qualitative techniques to support data analysis using standard office and statistical software
LG 4 Professional skills	LO 4.1 Work and communicate effectively as part of a team in an international and multicultural environment