Admission criteria breakdownof points – EPS Programme

1. **Academic Excellence: average grades from previous degrees** (based on Transcripts of Record). Local grading cultures should be taken into account here.

20 points (top 5% of applicants)	Honours or equivalent, no marks below a B in the ECTS grading system, range and quality of courses taken into account.
16 points (top 10%)	Second-class honours, most marks in the above-average range (B), range and quality of courses taken into account.
12 points (top 25%)	Regular 'merit' or equivalent, some marks above average with a few exceptions at the C level.
8 points (50%)	Average marks around the C level.
4 points (bottom 25%)	Below-average marks. No range or proof of course quality.

2. **Academic Excellence – University of previous degree(s).** The ranking of the university of the previous degree is taken into account here – the top 1000 universities according to Times Higher Education world university rankings from the previous year are given from 10 to 6 points, average universities are given 5 points, and other institutions are in the 4 to 0 range.

10 points	THE top 100 universities
9 points	THE top 300 universities
8 points	THE top 500 universities
7 points	THE top 750 universities
6 points	THE top 1000 universities
5 points	Outside of THE top 1000 but with a proven standard of excellence.
4 points and under	Accredited public/private universities without a proven standard of excellence.

3. **Academic Excellence –Motivation Letter (including research statement).** The student's motivation to study in this particular MA programme as well as his/her academic interests and proposed research topics are taken into account here and evaluated. Writing style, originality and depth of reflection should be taken into consideration.

20 points	A well-written, original motivation that highlights the applicant's motivation to study this particular programme, outlining reasons (courses, mobility, approach, etc.); that highlights the added value that the student will bring to the programme and student body; that presents in a clear way a research idea that is suitable for the MA programme.
15 points	A well-written motivation that encompasses the 20-point criteria but may be less specific about the applicant's motivation to study this particular programme (but something similar), less focus on originality or added value.
10 points	Average motivation, unclear research focus and added value but may have potential.
5 points	Below standard motivation, copy paste, vague, no research proposal (not admissible).

4. **Academic Excellence: Recommendation Letter.** The applicant needs to provide 1 reference letter, which should be from an academic referee.

5 points	Recommendation letter from an academic referee who supports the applicant in a meaningful way and considers the applicant among the top students in their class. The title/position of the academic referee should be taken into account here – referees with a senior position/title should receive more points. If the reference letter is professional, the referee should point out the applicant's outstanding qualities in a meaningful way.
3 points	Reference letter submitted, but one that is average, rather generic, and does not support the candidate in a meaningful way.
0 points	No references submitted. This may disqualify the applicant from being admitted to the programme.

5. **Practical / Professional Experience – Richness of Extra-Curricular / Professional Activities.** Professional and extra-curricular experience is evaluated here, based on the quality of jobs, internships or other activities (volunteering, etc.) that are relevant to the high-skilled market and that clearly reflect the student's skills.

15 points	Over one year of professional/practical experience that is **linked in a meaningful way** to the EPS programme themes. This may include jobs in related fields, full time internships/secondments in international institutions, NGOs, media, etc. A full 15 points is given to students who demonstrate a richness of interests and activities with depth of experience.
10 points	6 months – one year of professional/practical experience that is relevant to the EPS programme and the high-skilled market. A variety of skills/experience is marked here.
5 points	Less than 6 months of professional/practical experience that is relevant to the EPS programme and the high-skilled market.
0 points	No professional practical experience **in a relevant field.**

6. **Practical / Professional Experience - Language skills.** While English is **not** evaluated (as it is a standard requirement of the MA programme), knowledge of other non-native languages is assessed here. English native speakers are at an advantage here, but non-natives may be given extra points for English skills that go above the requirements (i.e., proficiency).

5 points	**Non-native English speakers**: 2 or more languages at a B1 or higher level (one of which should be at a C1 level) + bonus English Proficiency (CPE). **English native speakers**: 3 languages at a B1 or higher level (one of which should be at a C1 level).
4 points	**Non-native English speakers**: 1 language at a C1 level + 1 or more at an A1/A2 level or above. **English native speakers**: 2 languages (one of which should be at a C1 level) + the other(s) at an A1/A2 level.
3 points	**Non-native English speakers:** 1or more languages at a B1/B2 level. **English native speakers:** 1 or more languages at a B1/B2 level.
2 points	**Non-native English speakers:** 2 or more languages at an A2 level. **English native speakers:** 2 or more languages at an A2 level.
1 point	**Non-native English speakers:** 1 or more languages at an A1/A2 level. **English native speakers:** 1 or more languages at an A1/A2 level.

7. **Practical / Professional Experience – time spent abroad or in international settings.** Student exchange, work placements, volunteering abroad or experience locally with international students/professionals etc. that reflect the student's capacity to thrive in the programme and in future international settings.

5 points	More than one year in an international setting (full programme abroad, work experience, volunteering, etc.). Is visibly drawn to this kind of setting.
4 points	6 months – one year in an international setting (Erasmus exchange, job, internship) that visibly has given the applicant an international perspective. The applicant also needs to show local engagement with international settings.
3 points	Under 6 months international experience, but longer-term local commitment to international settings (work in an international setting, volunteering, etc.).
2 points	Short study/work stays abroad, including conferences and organised study trips. Shows some level of local engagement with international settings.
1 point	Some travel (tourism) abroad and eagerness to engage in more international settings.

8. **Other.** General competencies, suitability for the programme, added value.

20 points	The applicant is an excellent fit for the programme, highly motivated, originality of application, stands out.
16 points	The applicant would be a good asset to the programme, motivated, interesting application. Good potential.
12 points	The applicant is good but does not stand out as an excellent student. May have other extra curricular activities that would potentially be of added value.
8 points	The applicant is average, nothing that stands out particularly, but admissible.
4 points	The applicant is rather weak but may have some added value that could make them admissible.