

PSRS AMB January 12, 2023

Participants:

- Amine Nait-Ali (UPEC)
- Jyrki Saarinen (UEF)
- Carlo Ricciardi (PoliTo)
- Nathalie Destouches (UJM)
- Crane Rogers (UJM)
- Noora Heikkilä (UEF)

Agenda

Jury of Semester 1

Semester 1 results for all 18 cohort 2022-2024 students were given in Excel table. Choice of concentration tracks: 6 at POLITO, 5 UPEC, 7 UJM.

10 students validated 30 ECTS for Semester 1. Four of these students performed very well with average grades A and B and are very good and motivated in their studies.

Four students validated 25 ECTS and one student 28 ECTS for Semester 1. These students are accepted with EMJMD scholarship to Semester 2, but they must validate the missing credits at UEF to obtain total of 60 ECTS for the M1 studies.

One student did not validate the required number of credits (25 ECTS) to pass Semester 1. He validated only 23 ECTS for Semester 1. It was decided by AMB that he is accepted to Semester 2 without the EMJMD scholarship. He must validate 25 ECTS for Semester 1 in retake exams and total of 60 ECTS for Semesters 1 & 2. The suspended scholarship for the Semester 2 can be paid in August if the required credits are validated. This practice is the same as we had last year with two students.

One student (POLITO) failed with only 6 ECTS over 30. It was confirmed by AMB that the student is not accepted for Semester 2.

One student left the program in September 2022 due to personal reasons. She can join as M1 student next year.

Grades: AMB agreed to apply the rule to round both singular exam grades and final average grade to upper first digit for all students. However, this is possible only in UJM and UPEC (Jury points), not in POLITO or UEF.

General remarks about 3rd cohort (Semester 1)

Cohort 2022-2024 students seem to have more problems with interaction, motivation, and behavior in class than the previous cohorts. Students have lots of non justified absences and lots of complaints. There were also some cheating issues with two students but after discussions with the students they didn't do this again. One student also had some psychological problems and stress. Many students dropped out the French courses (extra curriculum).

Student ranking in the 2022 selection process

Ranking of the students in selection 2022 does not correlate very well to student performances in Semester 1. We should think how to improve the selection process. It seems that those students who

come with pure physics education don't succeed as well as those who also have background in engineering and programming. This is something that should be paid more attention to when ranking the applicants in next selection.

Comments about Semester 3

- UJM: 3 students with excellent behavior and very good results. Wonderful team.
- UPEC: Group is very good, no problems. One student studied all the courses online.
- POLITO: Exams will be organized mainly in February, so no feedback on grades yet. Student representative has told that everything is going smoothly with all students.

Other issues

Budget will be discussed in the next PSRS AMB meeting on January 24, 2023 at 9:00 (CET).

PSRS AMB January 24, 2023

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- Amine Nait-Ali (UPEC)
- Carlo Ricciardi (PoliTo)
- Nathalie Destouches (UJM)
- Crane Rogers (UJM)
- Noora Heikkilä (UEF)

Meeting notes

Scholarship budget and projections

The EU Commission allocates a budget of 40 K€ per programme country student and 49K€ per partner county student. However, scholarships are distributed according to EACEA rules, so we do not always distribute the total amount initially allotted and can use these credits for additional scholarships.

The meeting PowerPoint, distributed the 25th of January following corrections, provides information on current and projected scholarship spending. As one student, who abandoned from the 2022-2024 cohort, may return in 2023-2025 to start again in M1, there are 2 possible situations for the number of scholarships offered to the upcoming cohort:

- 5 programme + 14 partner scholarships,
- 6 programme + 14 partner scholarships.

Candidate evaluation and selection process

The application deadline is the 6th of February. Evaluations have already started.

- 1st round: only one partner evaluates the application. Score < 3/5 eliminates the candidate.
- 2nd round: a second partner evaluates the candidate : Average score < 3.5/5 are eliminatory.

Candidatures will be grouped by country and distributed to evaluators, so that all candidates from a given country will be attributed to the same evaluator in round 1.

We are trying to have the platform updated so evaluators can access, modify and save scores after evaluating a candidate, during a given round, and to display an average reviewer score for each candidate.

Evaluation schedule

- 06/02 to 12/02 2023: First round according to Assignment as indicated on the platform
13/02 to 15/02/2023: Second round (2nd assessment of all applications $\geq 3/5$ after the first round)
16/02 to 23/02/2023: Third round (the remaining 2 partners will evaluate candidates $\geq 3.5/5$)
24/02 to 07/03/2023: Interviews of the pre-selected students (each retained candidate $\geq 3.5/5$ after 4 full-partner evaluations is interviewed by one partner)
09-10/03/2023: Selection committee meeting at UPEC

Current application pool and recommendations

We currently have 62 applications, which is approximately the same number as last year at the same date. However, many of them are incomplete because we haven't received the recommendations. We therefore decide as follows:

- We include all candidates for the first round, including those that have not received the 2 required recommendations.
- For those that are $>3/5$ after the first round, we will contact referees directly by email to obtain their recommendations during the second round.

Indications to evaluators

In general, going back over results for the current and previous cohorts, we have noticed that the most successful candidates typically have:

- Double skills (physics/math + computer programming)
- Electrical engineering degrees
- Professional/research experience
- Strong motivation and a particular, sincere interest for PSRS

During Round 1 we advise that you only give <3 scores to candidates who are clearly not able to do PSRS; for borderline cases it is better to keep them in the pool for a second opinion during the second round.

If a candidate is missing his/her recommendations but looks acceptable, give his/her $>3/5$ score to maintain the student in the competition until we can get his/her recommendations.

Also, please try to carefully rank the candidates from a given country. We can only offer 3 EMJMD scholarships per country, but some students can find other financing or can self-finance their studies.

Other news and forthcoming events

- **Budget for the current and next years:** to be updated and discussed again since Polito does not agree with the proposal presented in November. A new one will be proposed.
- **Financial agreements 2022-2023** will be ready after validation of the budget.
- **Selection meeting:** on 9-10/03/2023.
- **PSRS 2.0 meeting:** 8th of March in Paris. To be confirmed
- **QAB meeting:** may be held online on 10/03. To be confirmed by Polito.