



**CHARM-EU  
MASTER'S IN**

# GLOBAL CHALLENGES FOR SUSTAINABILITY

**5TH EDITION**

Enhanced version – 120 ECTS 09.2025  
[www.charm-eu.eu](http://www.charm-eu.eu)



## TESTIMONIALS

### MARJANNEKE VIJGE

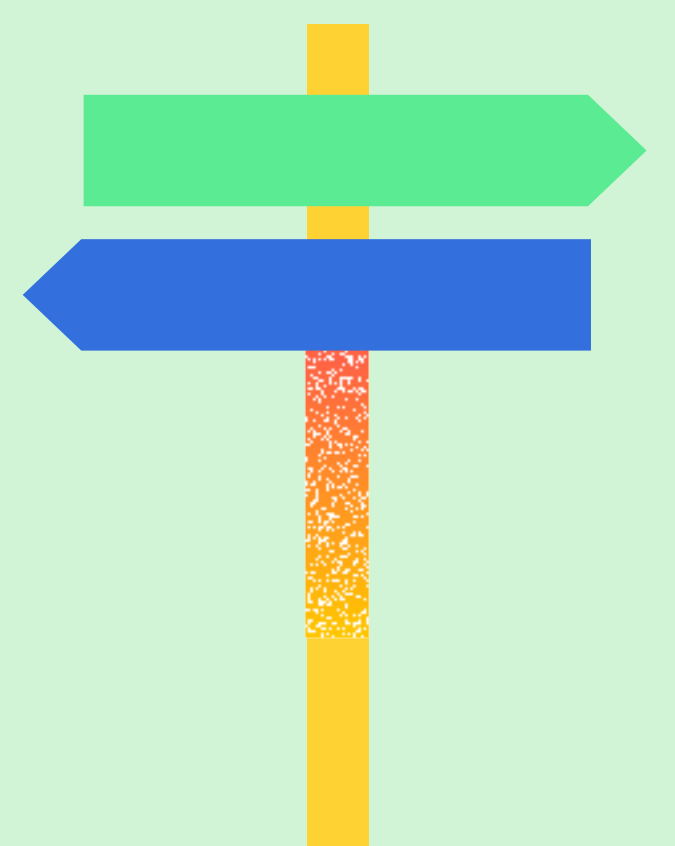
– **Academic Director  
(Utrecht University)**

“Through tackling sustainability challenges together with societal actors: government, organisations, business and civil society, students will acquire knowledge and skills that are crucial for their future careers.”



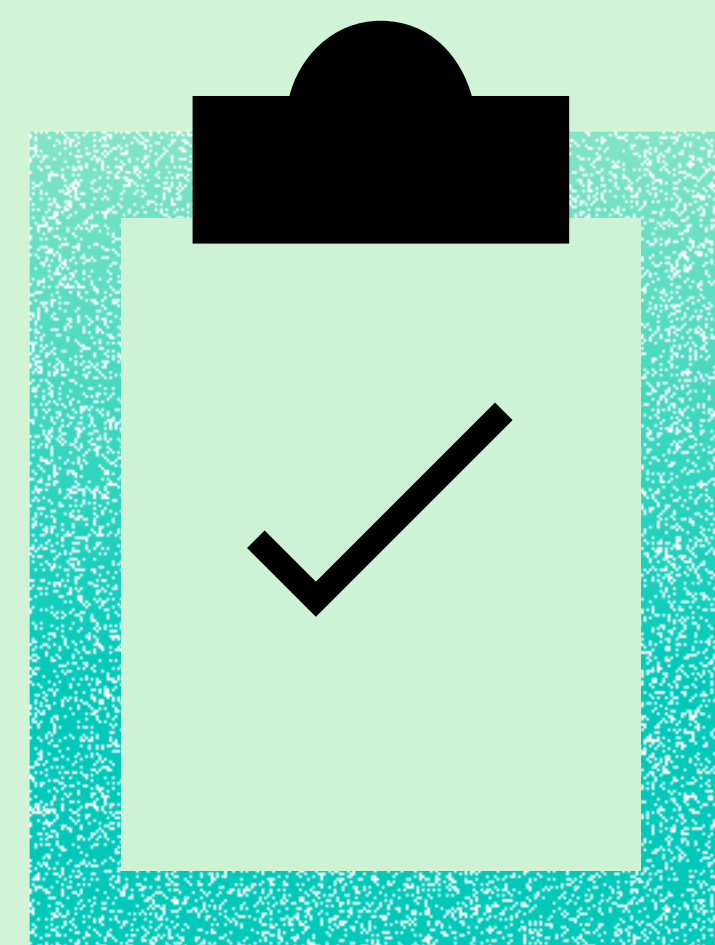
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## PRACTICAL INFORMATION



**TITLE: Master's in Global Challenges for Sustainability**

**START AND END DATE: September 2025 to June 2027**

**CREDITS: 120 ECTS**

**OFFICIAL LANGUAGE: English**

**MODALITIES: In person delivered in hybrid classrooms**

**WEBSITE: [click here](#)**

**APPLY: [click here](#)**

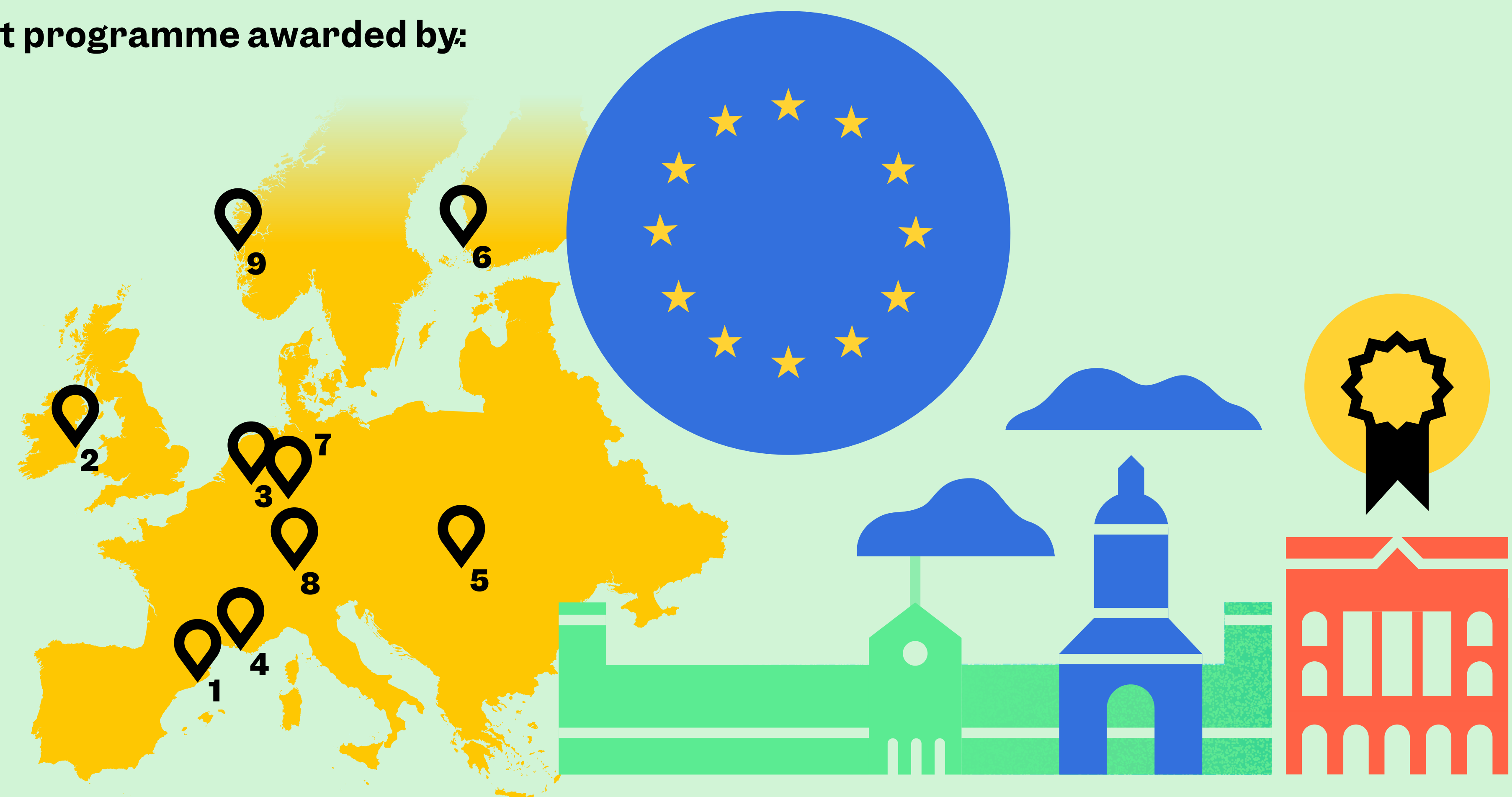
**“The CHARM-EU Master’s in Global Challenges for Sustainability is an international, innovative, flexible, inclusive programme with a challenge-driven, research-based curriculum, enabling transdisciplinary approaches, addressing global societal challenges and skills shortages, and focusing on reconciling humanity with the planet.”\***

\*Quoting students, staff or external stakeholders

## NINE PARTNERS DELIVERING THE JOINT AWARD

The Master's in Global Challenges for Sustainability is a joint programme awarded by:

1. University of Barcelona: Spain
2. Trinity College Dublin: Ireland
3. Utrecht University: The Netherlands
4. University of Montpellier: France
5. Eötvös Loránd University Budapest: Hungary
6. Åbo Akademi University: Finland
7. Ruhr West University of Applied Sciences: Germany
8. Julius-Maximilians-University Würzburg: Germany
9. University of Bergen: Norway



The programme was re-accredited by the European Approach for Quality Assurance of Joint Programmes in December 2024. [Check the status of the programme's accreditation here.](#)





## ABOUT THE MASTER'S

Aimed at graduates from all disciplines with a passion for sustainability, the Master's in Global Challenges for Sustainability will equip you to lead the global response to the climate crisis.

### INTERNATIONAL COLLABORATION TO SOLVE GLOBAL CHALLENGES

The world is facing an uncertain future and people with key skills in sustainability and innovation are essential to address global challenges ahead. In this programme, students will work inside and outside

the classroom to address real-world problems and collaborate with civil society, NGOs, institutions, business, industry, policymakers and more to find new solutions to these issues. Students' personal and professional development is individually supported by dedicated mentors throughout every phase of their journey.

The 120 ECTS CHARM-EU Master's is a flexible, 4-phase degree which students complete over two years. Students are encouraged to travel between our partner universities, to gain valuable work experience and career skills, and to develop a transdisciplinary approach in a challenge-based learning environment.

**Phase 1:** A Preparatory Phase with modules on Social Innovation,

**Transdisciplinarity: brings multiple disciplines together with students and extra-academic actors to examine challenges, synthesise approaches and mobility to take action.**

Sustainability and Transdisciplinary Research (30 ECTS).

**Phase 2:** A Flexible Phase with transdisciplinary modules focusing on one of four sustainability paths chosen by the student: Water, Food, Life & Health, and Energy & Sustainable Cities (30 ECTS).

**Phase 3:** An Experiential Phase with modules to prepare students for real-world application of their knowledge through internships or projects (30 ECTS).

**Phase 4:** A Capstone Phase focusing on a sustainability challenge in collaboration with external partners in business, local communities and wider society academic actors (30 ECTS).





## ABOUT THE MASTER'S

### PROGRAMME OBJECTIVES

#### As a graduate, you will be able to:

- Research and evaluate complex societal challenges from different perspectives.
  - Assess and integrate disciplinary and transdisciplinary knowledge and research methodologies into your work.
  - Engage confidently with the latest technological tools to source, analyse, handle, use and communicate complex bodies of data ethically.
- Communicate and collaborate effectively on challenging issues.
  - Formulate an advanced understanding of transdisciplinarity and demonstrate expertise in the facilitative, communicative, reflexive and collaborative skills to support its practice.
  - Demonstrate advanced transversal competencies in problem solving, entrepreneurship, innovation, and digital skills.
  - Think critically and creatively about the global challenges facing our world.

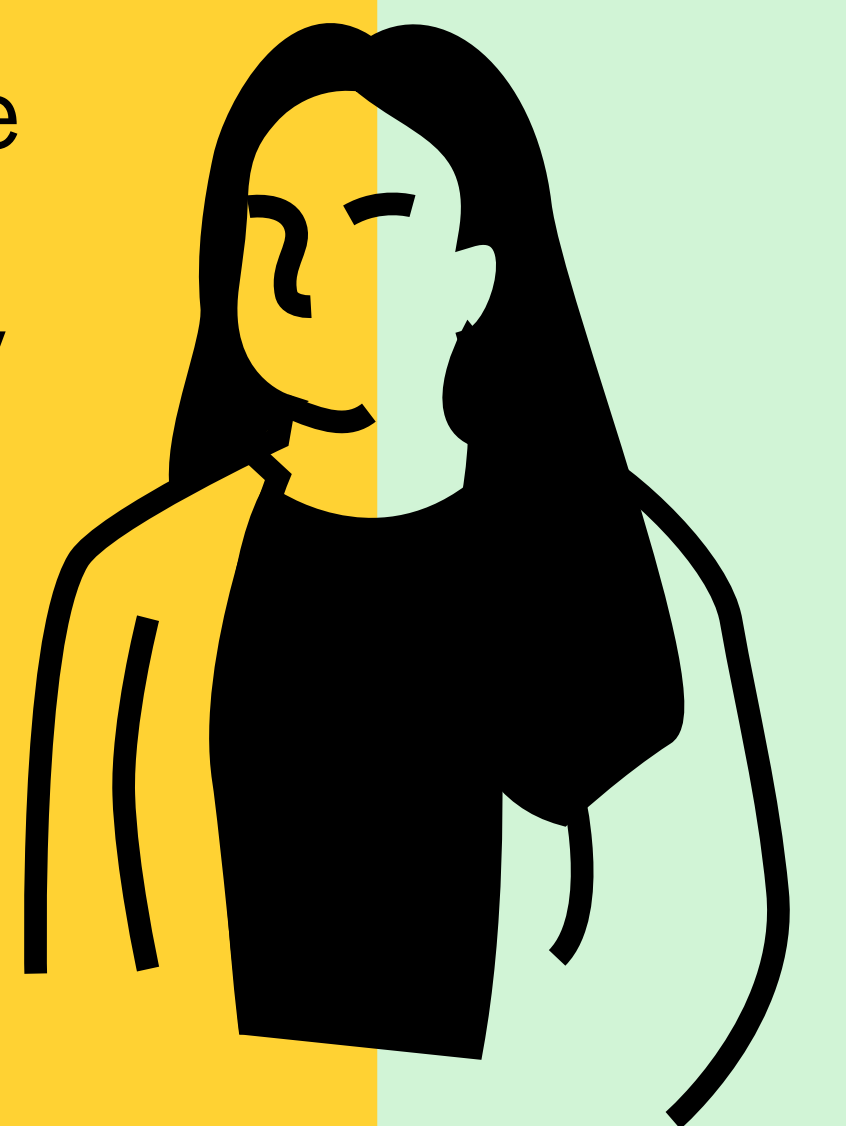


## TESTIMONIALS

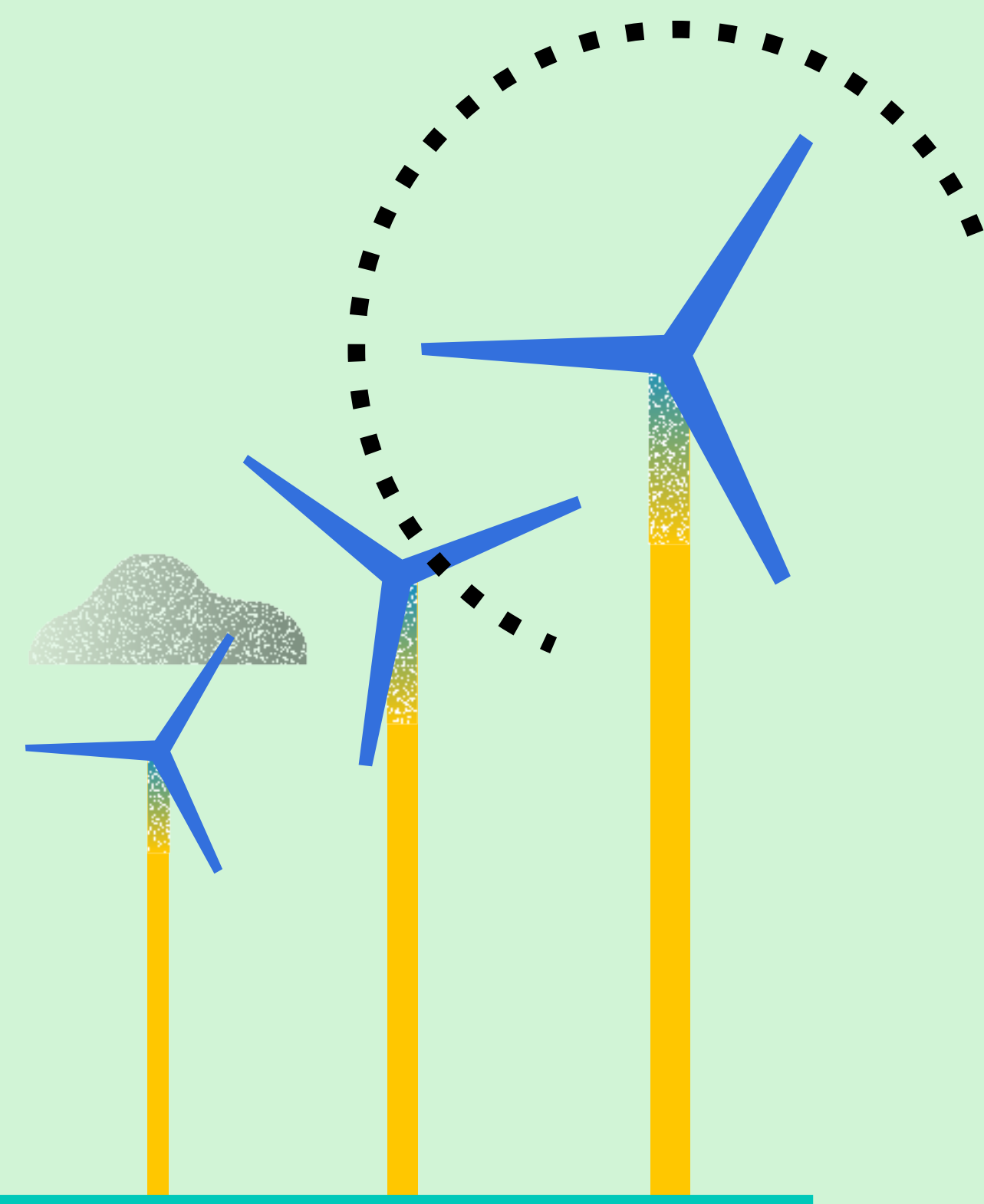
### HAZEL BYRNE

#### – Alumni

“The CHARM-EU Master's is an innovative programme that allows us to bring our ideas and interests to the forefront of our studies through its flexibility and collaborative nature. It pushes students to critically evaluate their worldview and the system in which we live and broadens our perspectives of what sustainability encompasses. It allowed me to work both independently and collaboratively in teams of multidisciplinary students, and to explore a broad range of areas in my projects which included consumer behaviours, sustainable food system transformation and waste reduction and management.”



# WHY CHOOSE THE CHARM-EU MASTER'S?



**You can be a force of positive change for our planet.**

**A First-of-Its-Kind Degree:** gain an international Master's awarded by 9 prestigious European universities.

**Innovative Curriculum:** explore a transdisciplinary, challenge-based programme that addresses real-world problems through innovative learning methods. Our students come from a diverse range of cultural, academic and professional backgrounds and are empowered to self-direct their own learning and study modules that align with their interests.

**Exceptional International Exposure:** over 4 semesters, you'll study at up to 4 of our partner universities. Travel throughout

**“The Master's in Global Challenges for Sustainability enhanced my employability and gave me the chance to study in different countries and work on real-world challenges. It was a great opportunity!”** Quoting students, staff or external stakeholders

Europe, live in different cities and explore their diverse histories, languages and cultures.

**Real-World Professional Experience:** your learning will bring academic and practical learning to life. You'll have the opportunity to do an internship and, during your final capstone project, you will work with external partners including international organisations, NGOs, and research centres to solve complex challenges.

Our graduates are employed in diverse roles including sustainability policy, consultancy, business transformation, communications and academia.

**Expert Guidance:** learn from a network of experts in sustainability,

education, research and innovation from our 9 partner universities.

**Inclusive Environment:** experience a welcoming, equitable learning environment that values diversity at every level. CHARM-EU welcomes applications from candidates from all backgrounds, lived experiences and access needs who meet the admission requirements.

**Check when admissions are open!**





## AN INNOVATIVE LEARNING EXPERIENCE

**The Master's gives students a one-of-a-kind learning experience, drawing on innovative approaches to education from experts across the 9 partner universities.**

**Challenge-based learning:** you'll tackle real-life challenges in collaboration with academics, companies and external partners in business, local government and community groups.

**Holistic assessment:** Students take part in continuous assessment with a focus on student development and reflection throughout the programme. Students are encouraged to set their own learning goals to align with their interests and will develop their own e-portfolio which they can share with prospective employers. All assessments and feedback from teachers, mentors and peers are recorded in the e-portfolio.



## TESTIMONIALS

### ÁDÁM TÓTH

– **Researcher  
(Utrecht University)**

“Challenge-based learning is at the hearth of the CHARM-EU Master's. This method fosters teamwork, creativity and innovation by translating knowledge into impactful solutions.”



## TESTIMONIALS

### NADJA SIMONS

– **Local programme coordinator  
& Professor  
(Julius-Maximilians-University  
Würzburg)**

“The programme is a great opportunity for anyone looking to broaden the scope of their education and work on the most pressing challenges of our times with an interdisciplinary perspective.”

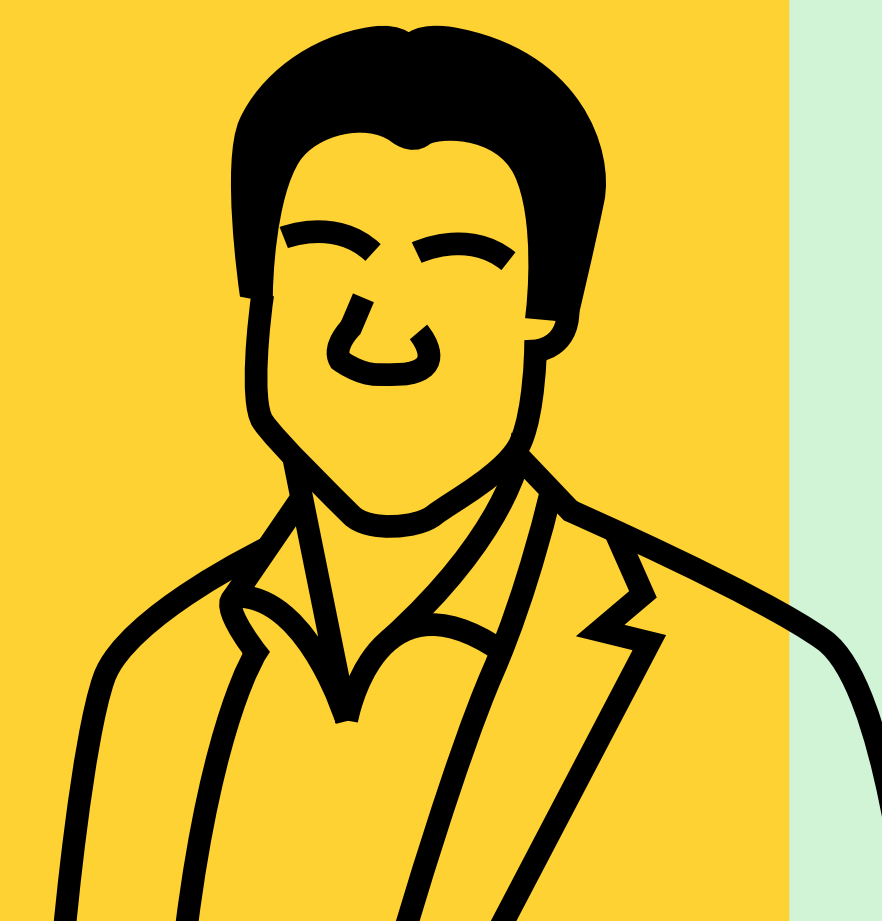


## TESTIMONIALS

### NIELS BOVENSCHEN

– **Module Coordinator & Professor  
(Utrecht University)**

"Working together with intercultural perspectives is essential to tackle the complex global challenges."





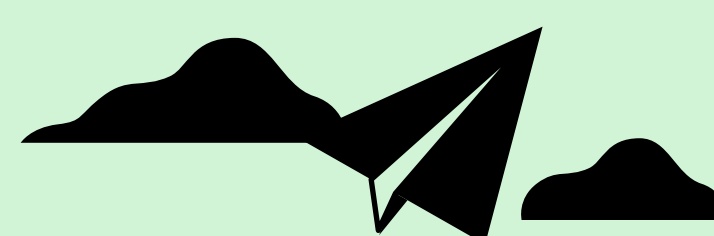
## STUDY ABROAD

We believe learning has no borders.

**You'll study in at least 2 of our partner universities and up to four of our partner universities**, alongside students and staff from across the world.

Classes take place in **hybrid classrooms** which connect students with their classmates in other CHARM-EU universities. Using the latest digital learning technologies, a lecturer in Barcelona can deliver a lecture to students in a classroom in Dublin, Bergen, Budapest or Montpellier – and vice versa. This gives you access to a huge network of academic and teaching staff with expertise in a wide range of research areas.

**Learn more about the student Journey here.**



## TESTIMONIALS



### DR LUCA ALEXA ERDEI

**– International Coordinator of  
CHARM-EU Mobility Work Package  
(Eötvös Loránd University,  
Budapest)**

"CHARM-EU enables students to pursue a highly personalised and ambitious learning journey. A key innovation of the programme is the integration of traineeship mobility to extra-academic partners, providing students with invaluable international professional experiences that enhance the overall value of their education."



**“An exciting part of the CHARM-EU journey is the wide range of opportunities for students to interact with international classmates both online and in person, to develop academic, personal, social and professional competencies and to strengthen communication and language skills in a unique intercultural environment.”**

Quoting students, staff or external stakeholders

## STUDENT SERVICES

Students will have access to student services from all partner universities. Specific support will be available for CHARM-EU students through the Joint Virtual Administrative Office (JVAO) which will help students with any queries.



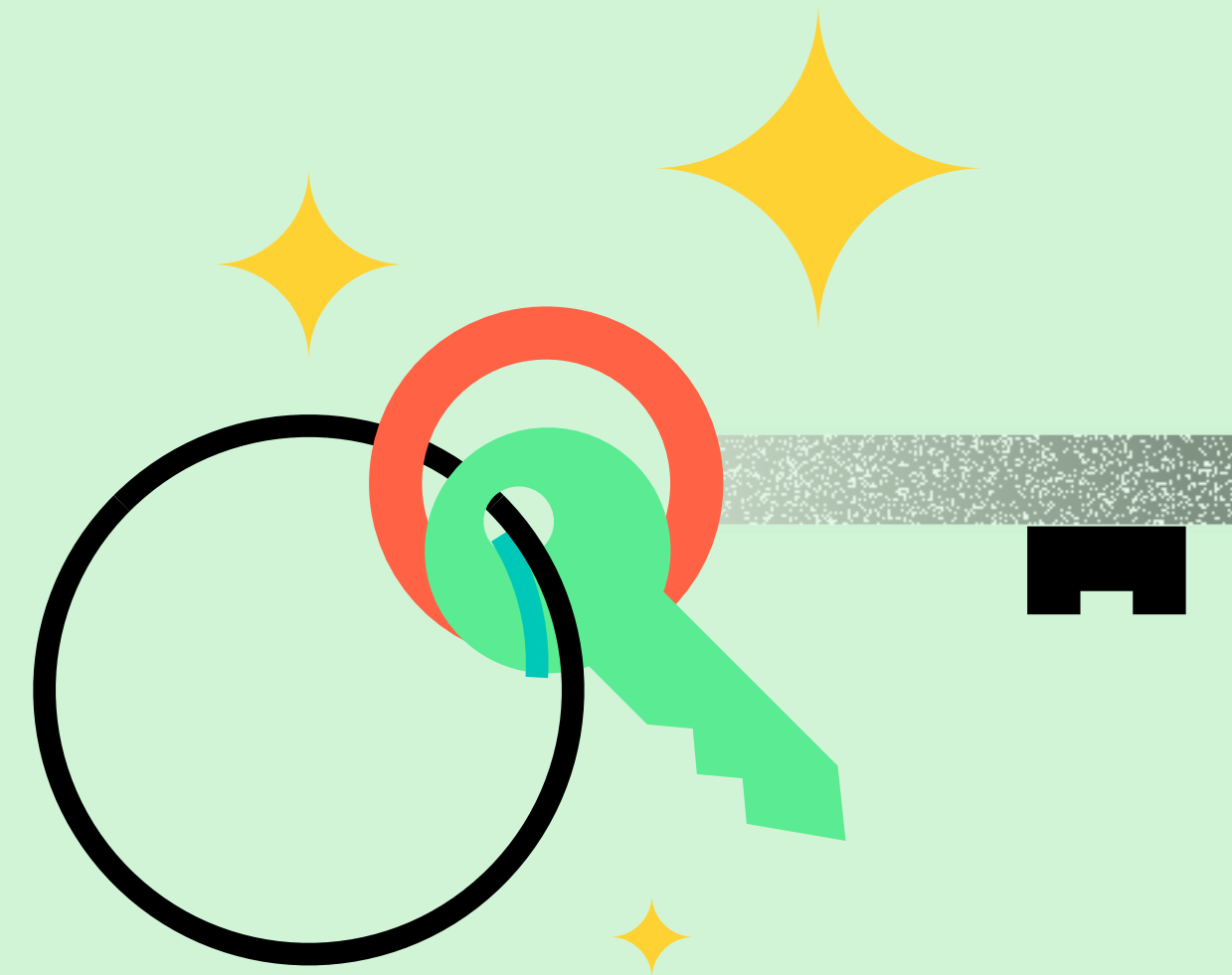


## CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

Our alumni work as consultants, project managers, researchers and more in educational institutions, energy consultancies, government bodies, urban mobility initiatives, environmental organisations, NGOs, media, and urban development projects.

**The Master's in Global Challenges for Sustainability puts an emphasis on developing career-ready graduates with demonstrable real-life skills.**

You'll work closely with businesses, NGOs, industry partners, civil society organisations and local



government bodies throughout the programme, preparing you for a wide range of careers in several professional areas through identifying multiple career pathways, aligning learning outcomes to industry, business and civil society needs, and fostering a broad industry-ready skillset.

This programme is supported by external stakeholders and will enable students to connect with the business and society sector, to create a strong network and be prepared to work with companies and institutions worldwide.

## TESTIMONIALS



P.12

### ITZIAR SALAZAR CABALLERO

#### – CHARM-EU Alumni

“A key aspect of the programme that has enhanced my employability is its focus on preparing students to work in remote, interdisciplinary and intercultural environments. This experience has been invaluable in my current and future roles as we move towards a more globalised world where effective communication and teamwork across borders is essential.

I must also acknowledge that I graduated with a strong network of professional contacts - from peers and professors to industry and institutional partners - which continues to foster new opportunities. After graduation, I received job offers from a variety of sectors, including public institutions, private companies and academia. I believe this reflects the programme's ability to prepare students for a wide range of career paths in sustainability.”





**“The diverse exposure to different cultural context I experienced at CHARM-EU is useful in a UN environment.”**

Quoting students, staff or external stakeholders

## CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

CHARM-EU graduates have skills for a wide range of careers, including but not limited to:

- **Consultancy for business, government institutions and NGOs**
- **Sustainability management and business transformation**
- **Sustainability policy, advocacy, and communications**
- **Business innovation and entrepreneurship**
- **Social innovation and action**
- **Academia and research**

CHARM-EU alumni highlighted five core competencies they gained during the programme:

1. Sustainability perspectives: improved understanding of sustainability in a transdisciplinary context.
2. Challenge-based problem-solving: solutions-based problem-solving and real-world experience.
3. Collaboration: people skills and group management.
4. Flexibility and adaptation: dynamic responsiveness to multi-faceted challenges with diverse stakeholders.
5. International experience: exposure to international perspectives and experiences with multi-lingual and multi-cultural groups.



# MASTER'S ADMISSIONS

## FEES AND HOW TO APPLY

Student tuition fees for the programme (24 months) are:

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**FEE PER EU/EEA STUDENT:**  
2,500€ per academic year

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**FEE PER NON-EU/EEA STUDENT:**  
12,000€ per academic year

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All programme information and online application details are available at this link.

## REQUIREMENTS

Bachelor's degree OR recognised equivalent (EQF level 6 or higher).

English language certification (C1).

More information is available at this link.

**“The overall awareness of sustainability concepts, legislations and trends were a key to my choice of employment.”**

Quoting students, staff or external stakeholders

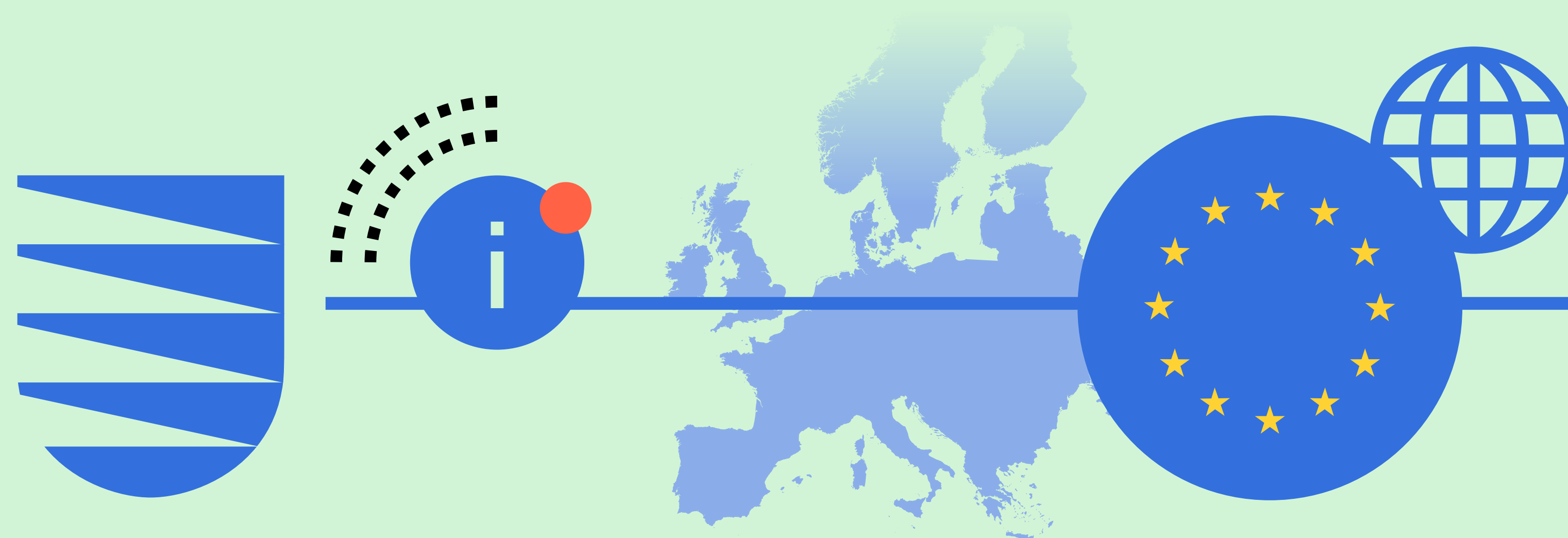




## ABOUT THE CHARM-EU INITIATIVE

Our world needs new solutions for a sustainable future. CHARM-EU is the Challenge-driven, Accessible, Research-Based and Mobile European University Alliance. We're here to co-create a new, innovative model for European Higher Education in line with the European Values, the European Green Deal and the UN's Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Made up of 9 partner universities across Europe, CHARM-EU brings together diverse cultures, histories, languages, cultures and economic perspectives. Our students have access to a wide range of Master's programmes, short and online courses and more to equip them with the skills they need to address the challenges of the 21st century.



## TESTIMONIALS



### MERITXELL CHAVES

– **CHARM-EU Secretary General**

“Our mission and vision are to become game changers in sustainability and contribute to shape the future of Higher Education. To achieve this, CHARM-EU uses innovative transdisciplinary and intercultural approaches to education, research, innovation, and collaboration. We prepare students and staff together with industry, government and other changemakers to design solutions that address the challenges of the 21st century.”

CHARM-EU is part of a European flagship initiative to strengthen the European competitiveness (65 European alliances integrating more than 570 European Universities).





## TESTIMONIALS



### NÚRIA CASAMITJANA

– Chair of the CHARM-EU  
Academic Council  
(University of Barcelona)

“This master’s contributes to a new generation of professionals that are deeply committed to address societal challenges through collaborative teams, and who stand firmly on sustainability to make this world a better place.”

## CONTACT US HERE



### CHARM-EU ADMISSIONS

**[info@charm-eu.eu](mailto:info@charm-eu.eu)**

**[Learn more here.](#)**

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 **@charm.eu**

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 **@charm-eu**

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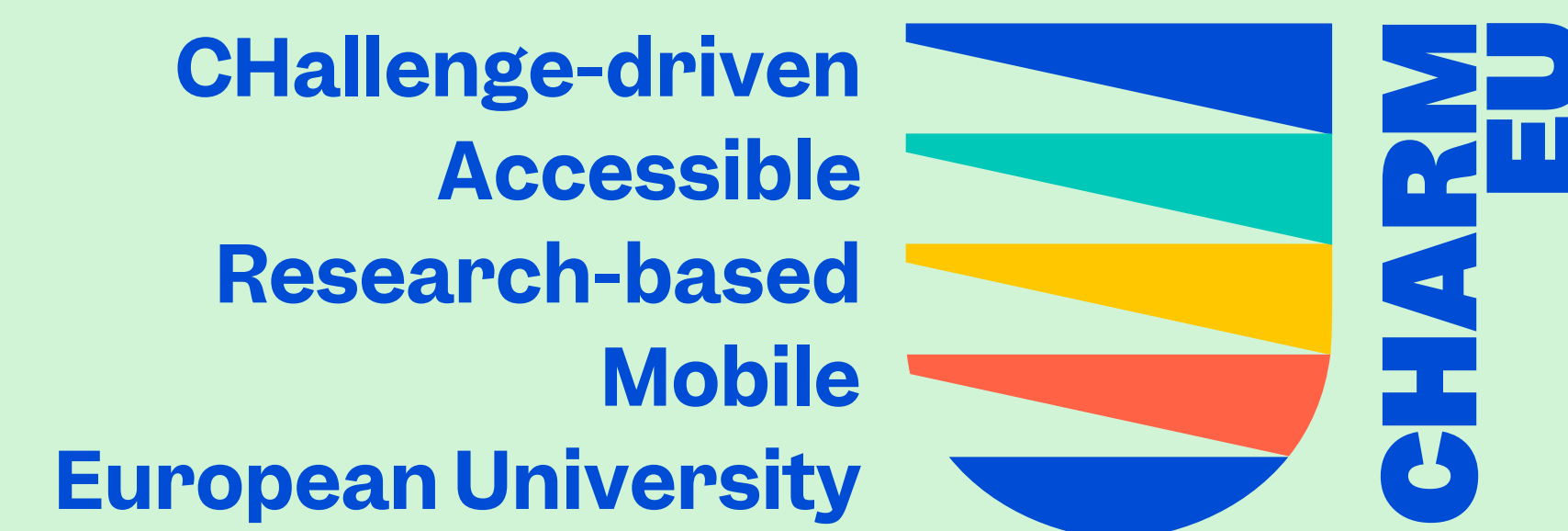
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# MASTER'S IN GLOBAL CHALLENGES FOR SUSTAINABILITY

