



D04.5 - Arqus Students Ambassadors Guidelines

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D04.5 – Arqus Students Ambassadors Guidelines

GENERAL DESCRIPTION

The Arqus Alliance Ambassadors Programme is a unique opportunity for students to represent their home university while gaining international experience and building a network of contacts within the Arqus Alliance community.

As Arqus Ambassadors, students will have the opportunity to participate in a variety of training and activities, such as promoting and participating in events, facilitating communication between their home university and other members of the alliance, and contributing to the development of joint projects.

The programme offers students the chance to develop valuable skills, such as cross-cultural communication, teamwork and leadership, while also gaining a deeper understanding of the academic and cultural contexts of the Arqus Alliance partner universities.

Ambassadors will have access to a range of resources and support, including training and networking opportunities, to help them succeed in their role. They will also be recognized for their contributions through/with an official Arqus Alliance certificate.

The Arqus Alliance Ambassadors programme is a great way for students to get involved in an international academic community and to promote the values of the Arqus Alliance within their own universities and communities.

The Programme provides a unique and rewarding opportunity for students to gain valuable experience, make meaningful connections, and contribute to the development of a dynamic and collaborative international community.

INTRODUCTION

- **On the Alliance**

The Arqus Alliance is a European university alliance that brings together nine universities from across the continent. The alliance was established in 2018 with the aim of fostering cooperation and exchange between its member universities, promoting joint research projects, and enhancing the quality of education and training for students. The Arqus Alliance universities are all research-intensive universities that share a commitment to academic excellence and international cooperation. The alliance is located in various European countries and has a diverse range of academic programmes and research strengths. The current member universities of the [Arqus Alliance](#) are: the [University of Granada](#), the [University of Graz](#), the [Leipzig University](#), the [University of Lyon 1](#), [Maynooth University](#), the [University of Minho](#), the [University of Padua](#), [Vilnius University](#), and the [University of Wrocław](#).

Together, these universities represent a vibrant and diverse community of scholars, students, and staff who work collaboratively to advance knowledge and promote mutual understanding. Through the Arqus Alliance, they have established a wide range of joint activities, including research collaborations, joint degree programmes, student and staff mobility programmes, and joint outreach and engagement initiatives.

The Arqus Alliance is committed to promoting the values of openness, diversity, and excellence in research and education. It seeks to foster international cooperation and to provide students with the skills and knowledge they need to succeed in an increasingly globalised world.

- **On the Ambassadors Programme**

The Arqus Alliance Ambassadors programme is an initiative led by the Arqus Student Agora and aims to create a network of student ambassadors of the Arqus Alliance member universities. The programme offers students the opportunity to promote the values of the Arqus Alliance and engage with other students, staff, and members of local communities. The programme is designed to strengthen the Arqus Alliance's position in the international academic community and to raise awareness on the Alliance's activities and initiatives.

The ambassadors are a point of contact for other students who are interested in learning more about the Alliance and its programmes. The Arqus Alliance Ambassadors programme is open to all students enrolled at the member universities of the Arqus Alliance. The programme seeks to recruit students who have experienced the values of the Arqus Alliance and are committed to promoting them, have good communication skills, and are passionate about engaging with others.

Arqus Ambassadors will be responsible for disseminating events and activities, promote the Arqus Alliance and engage with other students and staff members. They will also have the opportunity to participate in a training session and workshop on effective communication, leadership, and other relevant topics. The Arqus Alliance provides support and resources for the ambassadors, including promotional packs for events and activities, access to exclusive events, and the opportunity to network.

Ambassadors will enhance personal and professional profile, experience cultural diversity, and expand their international network. It is a valuable experience that can help them in their future academic and professional endeavours.

WHAT IS THE STUDENT AGORA

The Arqus Student Agora aims at promoting student participation and enhancing student engagement at Alliance level, enhancing the students' Arqus experience through student-led creative projects, accelerating students' personal and professional development, enhancing Arqus student services.

The project has a very unique feature. Every university forms a group of "student contributors" that meet and design together with the team the student-centred programmes included in the Arqus Student Agora. The contribution does not stop at the moment of implementation, but rather goes beyond the process and implies the yearly monitoring and updates of the deliverables.

PURPOSE

- **Advocate for the Arqus Alliance.** The main purpose of the Arqus Students Ambassadors programme is to support the Arqus Alliance and its mission. By engaging with students, staff, and

stakeholders at the member universities, ambassadors raise awareness of the Alliance and its activities, and promote the benefits of international collaboration and cooperation.

- **Foster cultural exchange and international cultural collaboration.** The Arqus Students Ambassadors programme brings together students with diverse cultural and academic backgrounds to work collaboratively with each other and with students from other member universities. Through this platform, ambassadors not only share knowledge, ideas, and experiences but also learn from each other's cultural backgrounds and perspectives, promoting cross-cultural understanding and communication and developing a greater appreciation for different cultures.
- **Provide leadership and professional development opportunities.** The Arqus Students Ambassadors programme provides students with leadership and professional development opportunities by giving them the chance to organise and lead events, work collaboratively with other ambassadors, and take on responsibilities in a supportive and inclusive environment. The skills developed as an ambassador, such as communication and leadership, are transferable and can be applied in future academic and professional settings.
- **Enhance the student experience.** The Arqus Students Ambassadors programme aims to enhance the student experience by providing students with the opportunity to engage in meaningful activities that promote international collaboration and cultural exchange. Ambassadors gain new skills, make new friends, and contribute to a positive and inclusive community.

REQUIREMENTS

- **Enrolment in one of the Arqus member universities.** To be eligible for the Arqus Students Ambassadors programme, students must be enrolled in one of the member universities. The Alliance looks for students who are in good academic standing and have demonstrated a commitment to their studies.
- **Interest in international collaboration and cultural exchanges.** The Arqus Students Ambassadors programme is designed for students who have a strong interest in international collaboration and cultural exchange.
- **Previous international experience.** Students who have previously participated in study abroad programmes, language exchange programmes, Arqus exchange programmes or other international activities are well-suited for the role.
- **Good communication skills.** As ambassadors, students will be responsible for communicating with a wide range of stakeholders, including fellow students, faculty members, and members of the public. Therefore, strong communication skills, both written and verbal, are essential. The skills will be checked during an interview.
- **Creativity and initiative.** Ambassadors are expected to take initiative and be creative in their approach to promoting the Arqus Alliance.
- **Language skills.** Students who have good language skills are well-suited for the role. The Alliance requires a good level of its working language - English (B2 or higher).

The qualifications are to be mentioned in the CV and the Motivation statement.

The statement shall demonstrate motivation in terms of institutional engagement (involvement in institutional activities), experience working with international students and in an international setting.

The pre-selected candidates will have to undergo an interview.

RESPONSIBILITIES

- **Promoting the Arqus Alliance.** Ambassadors are responsible for supporting, both online and offline, the Arqus Alliance and its activities to students, faculty members, and other stakeholders. The ambassadors will participate at events, creating and sharing promotional materials, and engaging with the higher education community through social media and other channels.
- **Representing the Arqus Alliance.** Ambassadors are the face of the Arqus Alliance at their home university and within the Alliance. As such, they are expected to represent the Alliance in a professional and constructive manner at all times, and to uphold the values and principles of the Alliance, as mentioned in its [mission statement](#).
- **Disseminating and participating at events.** Ambassadors are responsible for disseminating and participating at events organised by the alliance. Such events may include, but are not limited to, cultural festivals, language exchange programmes, study abroad fairs, and other activities that bring together students from different cultural backgrounds.
- **Supporting incoming students.** Ambassadors may be called upon to support incoming students who are new to the university and the Alliance. This may involve providing contact information and guidance on academic and non-academic matters, helping with the integration process, and serving as a point of contact for new students.
- **Engaging with the Arqus Alliance community.** Ambassadors are expected to engage with the Arqus Alliance community by promoting the Alliance meetings, events, and other activities. They will collaborate with other ambassadors from different universities and work with the Arqus Alliance staff to promote the Alliance's goals and objectives.
- **Providing feedback.** Ambassadors have to provide feedback to the programme coordinators about students' concerns they gather during the events they attend and are encouraged to provide feedback on the Alliance's activities, programmes, and initiatives. This feedback may be used to improve the Alliance's services and to ensure that the needs and perspectives of students are considered in Alliance decision-making.

TRAINING AND SUPPORT

- **Access to resources.** The Arqus Alliance will provide ambassadors with access to a range of resources, including open-source materials, training, communication channels space, guidance on best practices, and access to events and resources offered by the Alliance's action lines.

- **Visibility, recognition and networking opportunities.** The Arqus Alliance will recognize ambassadors' contribution to the programme, by promoting the achievements of the ambassadors through its communication channels, providing them with visibility on the Arqus website's dedicated page. The Arqus Alliance will provide ambassadors with networking opportunities in order to help them build valuable connections and learn from other professionals in their field.

BENEFITS

- **Leadership development.** The Arqus Students Ambassadors programme provides students with the possibility to develop their leadership skills by participating and disseminating events, working collaboratively with other ambassadors, and taking on responsibilities in a supportive and inclusive environment.
- **International networking.** Ambassadors will have the opportunity to network with other Ambassadors and with members of the Alliance, access to exclusive events and resources, and the opportunity to develop valuable skills that can be applied in future academic and professional settings.
- **Professional development.** The skills developed as an Arqus Alliance Ambassador, such as communication, and leadership, are transferable and can be applied in future academic and professional settings. The ambassadors programme will be especially helpful for students who want to work in a European context, since it will provide students with a comprehensive understanding of the inner workings and implications of European projects.
- **Personal growth.** Being an Arqus Students Ambassador is a unique opportunity for personal growth and self-discovery. Ambassadors will have the opportunity to learn from their peers, challenge themselves, and develop their self-confidence.
- **Cultural exchange.** The Arqus Students Ambassadors programme promotes cultural exchange by providing a platform for students to learn from each other's cultural backgrounds and perspectives. This can help ambassadors develop a greater understanding and appreciation for different cultures.
- **Access to resources.** Ambassadors will have access to a range of soft skills building materials and training, including an expert-led training session, free access to courses offered by local universities, access to events and resources offered by the Arqus Alliance, and priority when applying for the Alliance activities.
- **Recognition and visibility.** Being an Arqus Alliance Ambassador is a prestigious role that can be recognized and valued by future academic institutions and employers. Ambassadors will also have the opportunity to promote their activities and achievements through the Arqus Alliance's communication channels.

REWARDS

- Arqus Alliance promotional pack (prepared by each partner university);
- Programme participation certificate.
- Recommendation letter (upon request).
- Open badge on Arqus student engagement.
- Academic and transversal skill acquisition.
- Visibility on the ambassadors web page of the alliance and Arqus social media.
- Priority in attending Arqus events.
- Mentoring from the Arqus Student Agora team.
- Online Kick-off event and training.
- Academic and transversal skill acquisition.
- Experience acquisition.

CONCLUSION

The Arqus Alliance Ambassadors programme is a great opportunity for students to get involved in an European academic community and a platform to develop leadership, communication, and organisational skills, and to engage with others who share their passion for promoting international cooperation and understanding.

ARQUS AMBASSADORS' CODE OF CONDUCT

As an Arqus Students Ambassador, you represent our alliance and community, and your behaviour reflects on us. We expect all our ambassadors to uphold the highest standards of professionalism, integrity, and respect. The following code of conduct outlines the expectations we have for all our ambassadors:

- **Professionalism and Ethics.** Arqus Students Ambassadors should always behave in a professional manner, both online and offline. Ambassadors should be ethical in their conduct and not engage in any activities that could harm the reputation of Arqus Alliance or its partner universities.
- **Respect for Diversity.** Arqus Students Ambassadors should respect and celebrate diversity in all its forms, including but not limited to, race, gender, sexual orientation, religion, nationality, and ethnicity. Ambassadors should refrain from any behaviour or language that could be considered discriminatory or offensive.
- **Communication and social media.** Arqus Students Ambassadors should use appropriate and respectful language in all communication channels, including social media. Ambassadors should not engage in any behaviour that could be perceived as cyberbullying or harassment.

- **Confidentiality.** Arqus Students Ambassadors may have access to confidential information related to the organisation or its partners. Ambassadors should maintain the confidentiality of such information and not disclose it to unauthorised parties.
- **Commitment to the Programme.** Arqus Students Ambassadors should be committed to the objectives and goals of the programme and actively participate in its activities. Ambassadors should act as positive role models for other alumni and promote the values and mission of the Arqus Alliance.

If you have any inquiries, reach the Arqus Student Agora at student-agera@arqus-alliance.eu

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