



EU universities welcome Filipino post-grad school aspirants

More and more millennials have become attracted to the prospects of having more than just a college degree—seeking new learnings locally and abroad.

The Philippines, for example, has posted more post-grad enrollees, especially in the fields of law, medicine, and business administration, than in decades before. Pursuing a post-graduate degree has become important and millennials feel that an undergrad degree just won't cut it in the age of more demanding and competitive job markets.

To study in European universities has become a top choice as this is the next phase of every graduate's post-grad aspirations.

Thankfully, one of the European Union's (EU) long-term objectives is to present mobility and higher education programmes through its member states' university offerings to deserving students outside the EU.

On Nov. 10, 2016, at Fairmont Hotel, students, faculty, academicians and those who are aspiring to pursue post-graduate studies abroad will have a chance to know more about EU higher education systems and their institutions at the European Higher Education Fair (EHEF).

This year's EHEF, with the theme "Sustaining Innovation and Excellence," will feature top notch schools and universities from EU countries, as well as their different post-graduate programs and specific requirements to orient aspiring students.

EHEF is organized by the European Commission in the Philippines and the EU Delegation in the Philippines, in cooperation with Commission on Higher Education (CHED).

EU Delegation to the Philippines' Minister Counsellor Mr Mattias Lentz said that EU universities are known for their strong emphasis on creativity, innovation, and most of all, cutting-edge technology for curriculum support.

"EHEF will pave the way for Filipino students to experience these diversified and excellent programmes, including masters and doctorate degree programmes of EU universities.

Europe welcomes foreign students from all over the world, social activities are well programmed to make the students feel at home and mobility of the students across Europe and other countries outside Europe is also incorporated.

Nicolai Holdgaard Hansen, a 25-year old Danish law student from the University of Copenhagen, is currently undergoing his internship at Embassy of Denmark in Manila. He advises students to search diligently to find their perfect post-graduate school.

“In recent years, some of the most popular courses in Denmark are International Business, International Business, and Politics. These are new courses, and together with the more classic courses like Law, Medicine and Political Science, they have become very popular. In the recent years, Denmark has also seen a need for teachers, nurses, and engineers, and they have therefore become more and more popular as university degrees,” Hansen said.

Hansen said that the Philippines and Denmark share a lot of culture and learning which makes Denmark an ideal place for Filipino students.

“Currently we have 19 students from various Universities in the Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao region. Most of them are enrolled at Aarhus University. Aarhus is the second-largest city in Denmark. Most of them are taking Masters in Journalism and some in Sustainable Development,” said Hansen.

Fernando Zapico, Education Adviser at the Embassy of Spain, said studying in Spain offers a unique perk: language spoken by nearly 500 million people in the world. “All of this, surrounded by a multicultural environment with tens of thousands of foreign students around you. While all European countries offer many degrees taught in English, you will be able to learn some of the most spoken languages in the world, which will boost your career prospects,” Zapico said.

The most popular course in Spain for foreign students, Zapico said, is Business Administration. Three of Spanish business schools are in fact in the top 10 according to The Economist and The Financial Times. Other top courses include Health Studies (Medicine and Nursing), Engineering, Humanities, Architecture, Tourism and Culinary Studies.

Ms Noa Sainz Lopez, an Environmental Science degree holder from the University of Barcelona, said that European learning culture is rooted in excellence. Lopez is currently a Junior Professional at the EU Delegation to the Philippines.

“You can find the oldest universities there, where student culture is deeply in cities' life. Some are still outstanding universities in their fields. Apart from its history and quality, you can easily increase your net of contacts and absorb new ideas from different countries,” said Lopez, who also gained a Master of Science (MSci) in Water and Coastal Management from the University of Plymouth in the United Kingdom.

“One of the unique aspects [in studying in Europe] is that you can study for an entire year in an EU university, and continue the years in another, should you change schools. Moreover, you can learn a second or third language as well as different methods of teaching,” said Lopez, who is currently taking her Ph.D. in Marine Coastal Management program under the Erasmus Mundus programme.

Another reason to study in EU is that many universities offer various degree programmes in English.

According to German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) Lecturer Katharina McGrath, there are 280 Filipino students enrolled in Germany, majority of whom are enrolled in Law, Economy & Business, and Social Sciences courses.

“Education is free, regardless of their financial background, and living expense assistance is provided by the German Government. Facilities are state-of-the-art, and courses offer even greater in-depth specialization, even at the undergraduate level,” Katharina said.

EHEF is supported by media partners Philstar.com, Business Mirror, and Crossover 105.1. Admission to EHEF is free. Students, faculty and academicians are invited to register early at <http://ehf-philippines.com/en/registration> or visit www.ehef-philippines.com, for more details, or check EHEFPhilippines on Facebook.