

# Eastern WATCH



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# Globe-trotting with Science

**Ronelle Ramsamy**

DREAMS do come true and twice for Brackenham's PhD student, Geraldine Lazarus, who has been selected to participate in a European Union (EU) research scholarship involving 21 top research institutions in 12 countries in Europe.

Being awarded the prestigious Erasmus Mundus scholarship, the 26 year-old becomes the only PhD student in Zululand to conduct part of her research in the Spanish city of Granada for six months from December.

This follows her whirlwind arts and culture expedition of England and Scotland last year, when Geraldine scooped the prestigious Abe Bailey Bursary joining 18 students from universities country-wide.

The purpose of the Erasmus Mundus Scholarship is to foster institutional co-operation in the field of higher education between the EU and SA through a mobility scheme addressing academic exchanges.

'After graduating with my Masters this year, I wanted to add a European dimension to my research and that's when I started my Erasmus Mundus application,' said Geraldine.

'Having already seen northern Europe, I chose to go to Spain to experience the exotic, Mediterranean culture.

'My PhD research is based on biochemistry combined with nanotechnology.

'It will be a collaborating project between Universidad de Granada in Spain and SA,' added Geraldine.

### Nanotechnology

Excited about her imminent 'Española' adventure, Geraldine told Eastern Watch that the promise brought by nanotechnology was largely becoming a top priority for international countries.

'The research entails the use of specific nanoparticles in drug delivery and disease diagnosis, more especially cancer research.

'In a nutshell, a nanometre is one billion times smaller than a metre and this makes it efficient for drug delivery into tiny cells in the human body.

'Imagine what it could do for cancer research!

'How scientifically exciting!'

And continuing on the current trajectory, the former John Ross College pupil is set to become a prominent woman in Science.

'I'm grateful to my parents for their prayers and support.

'With God at the centre, every day just gets better.'

But for now, Geraldine is still trying to grasp the Spanish language.

*'My advice to younger people is to live beyond your imagination and reach for the stars because life is what you make of it.'*



The sky's the limit! Richards Bay PhD student Geraldine Lazarus has just been awarded the prestigious Erasmus Mundus scholarship on the back of receiving the Abe Bailey Bursary last year



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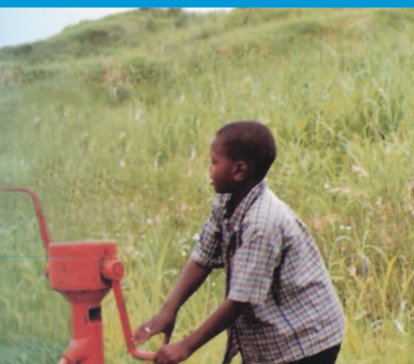
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