

THIS IS AN UNOFFICIAL TRANSLATION

Please note that an unofficial translation is intended for information purposes only. The original text in the Slovenian language provides the legal basis for any cases relating to this call for applications.

Number: 1101-6/2014-5

On the basis of Article 49 of the Scholarship Act (Official Gazette of the Republic of Slovenia No. 56/13 and 99/13 ZUPJS-C), the Regulation on awarding Ad Futura Scholarships (Official Gazette of the Republic of Slovenia No. 76/14) and the Business and Financial Plan of Slovene Human Resources Development and Scholarship Fund for the year 2014 adopted by the Government of the Republic of Slovenia on 3 July 2014, the Slovene Human Resources Development and Scholarship Fund (hereinafter referred to as the Fund) hereby announces the following

Public Call for applications for scholarships for foreign nationals to study in Slovenia based on development agreements in the year 2014 (Call for Applications No. 187)

1. Subject matter of the Call for Applications

The subject matter of this Call for Applications is the award of Ad futura education scholarships to a maximum of 3 (three) applicants who are nationals of Palestine for post-graduate studies at higher education institutions in Slovenia for individual level of education:

- Master's studies (second level) or
- Doctoral studies (third level).

Under this Call for Applications, an applicant cannot receive a scholarship for a uniform master's study programme.

A scholarship is granted for the current or the following academic year, depending on the date of application, until the completion of the study programme. The decision to grant a scholarship for the current or following academic year is based on the actual commencement of studies. The scholarship covering living costs may also be granted for the period from the conclusion of the study programme to the attainment of a degree, but only for a maximum of 12 (twelve) months after the conclusion of the study programme.

2. The amount of resources available for the Call for Applications and the value of the scholarship

The total value of the Call for Applications is EUR 100,000 for the entire period for which the selected applicants are awarded scholarships.

Scholarships are awarded for:

- **Living costs** in the amount of EUR 700 per month, transferred on a monthly basis. The scholarship covering living costs is intended to cover the costs of health insurance, accommodation and food, as well as other costs related to studying in Slovenia.
- **Tuition fees** covering tuition costs, transferred in compliance with Article 56 of the Scholarship Act.

The tuition fee is the amount paid annually by an individual to an educational institution to participate in a study programme, and does not include any other mandatory or non-mandatory payments required by educational institutions, such as enrolment fees, the cost of study materials, laboratory insurance or other fees.

3. Conditions for participation

Applicants must meet the following conditions:

- 3.1 They are nationals of Palestine and are not at the same time nationals of Slovenia, they have not acquired a long-term resident status in Slovenia and will not obtain citizenship of the Republic of Slovenia throughout the duration of their studies subject to scholarship under the present Call for Applications;
- 3.2 They have been nominated for scholarships for the current Call for Applications by a relevant institution in Palestine;
- 3.3 They are admitted to or enrolled on a master's or a doctoral programme at an accredited educational institution in the Republic of Slovenia for an accredited programme, whereby they will attain a recognised level of education and obtain a valid degree upon completing the programme;
- 3.4 The level of education achieved by the study under the previous point will be higher than the highest level they have already achieved or will achieve from any studies that they are about to complete;
- 3.5 They have not yet been enrolled in the same year at the same level of education or higher;
- 3.6 They have not been admitted to, or enrolled on a uniform master's study programme;
- 3.7 They will have a valid permit for temporary residence in Slovenia for the purpose of study, in accordance with the Aliens Act (Official Gazette of Republic of Slovenia No. 45/14 – official consolidated text) and will also reside in Slovenia;
- 3.8 They will hold student status in Slovenia for the duration of their studies subject to the scholarship under the present Call for Applications;
- 3.9 The study programme concerned is not organised in the form of distance learning or conducted only through occasional consultations in the Republic of Slovenia;
- 3.10 They will not be receiving a state or Zois scholarship throughout the duration of their studies subject to the scholarship under the present Call for Applications;
- 3.11 They will not be receiving any other scholarships or any other grants or similar funding for studies awarded under other regulations in Slovenia;
- 3.12 They will not be employed or self-employed in Slovenia or abroad for the duration of their studies subject to the scholarship under the present Call for Applications;
- 3.13 They will not be registered as an unemployed person with the Employment Service of Slovenia or with a relevant institution of this type abroad for the duration of their studies subject to the scholarship under the present Call for Applications;
- 3.14 They will not obtain the status of manager in a corporation or a director of a private institute throughout the duration of their studies subject to the scholarship under the present Call for Applications;
- 3.15 On the first day of receiving the scholarship they have not yet attained 28 year.

Any applicants who are granted a scholarship under this Call for Applications must meet the above conditions for the duration of their studies subject to the scholarship.

4. Documentation

Applicants must submit the original completed and signed **application form**.

In accordance with point 6 of the present Call for Applications, **when applying for a scholarship**, an applicant not yet residing in Slovenia **must grant power of attorney** to a person with residence in Slovenia for all actions related to the procedure for awarding scholarships.

Applicants must also submit the following **documents to verify that they meet the conditions and criteria**:

- 4.1 Certificate of citizenship and residence of the applicant in a foreign country issued by the relevant authority, or a copy of a valid passport, which will be used by the Fund to establish citizenship and residence abroad;
- 4.2 Letter of acceptance or proof of enrolment in a master's (second level) or doctoral programme (third level) issued by the relevant Slovenian higher education institution, including the full title of the programme, the academic year in which the applicant will commence the programme, and the amount of tuition fees if charged to the applicant;
- 4.3 Letter of nomination issued by the relevant Palestinian authority.

The documents referred to in the preceding paragraph may be photocopies. However, the Fund reserves the right to request original documents. Documents issued electronically are considered copies. Submitted documents will not be returned.

Documents may be submitted in a foreign language; however, the Fund reserves the right to request a Slovenian translation.

5. Selection procedure and criteria

The procedure for the Call for Applications is conducted by an official in accordance with the provisions of the General Administrative Procedure Act.

Scholarships are awarded to applicants who meet the conditions and until all the available funds have been spent or a maximum of three available scholarships awarded, whichever is earlier, in the order of receipt of complete applications.

Should several complete applications meeting the above conditions arrive on the same day and should the total amount of funds applied for exceed the funds available for this Call for Applications, selection will be made on the basis of the highest average grade achieved in the last fully completed education programme in which grades were awarded. In this case, applicants will be invited to submit a certificate verifying the grades awarded in their last fully completed educational programme with a numerical grading system and the official grading scale, issued by the educational institution at which the candidate completed the educational programme, or by another relevant institution.

The Fund shall not award a scholarship to an applicant who would be eligible for only a portion of the scholarship taking into account the funds still available under the present Call for Applications if the available funds would not suffice for the award of the scholarship in the amount as set in the point 2 of this Call for Applications.

Applications received after all available funds have been spent or the maximum of three available scholarships awarded will be rejected.

6. Power of attorney

Applicants living abroad during the procedure under this Call for Applications must grant power of attorney to a person residing in Slovenia. Applicants may not hold their own power of attorney.

The power of attorney form is part of the documentation and is available at the website or the head office of the Fund.

The power of attorney form must be submitted in the original and must be signed by both the applicant and his trustee.

7. Deadline and submission of applications

The Call for Applications has a rolling deadline, starting on the date of publication, until all available funds have been spent or the maximum of three available scholarships have been awarded, whichever is earlier (closing date).

The application (the completed and signed application form, including the required documentation) must be submitted to the Fund: Javni sklad Republike Slovenije za razvoj kadrov in štipendije, Dunajska 22, 1000 Ljubljana (on the envelope: Call for Applications No. 187).

The application may also be submitted to the Fund in person during office hours, or by post.

An application is considered on time if it is received before the closing date. If the application is sent by registered mail (R), the sending date is considered the date of receipt.

Applications received after closing date will not be processed.

An application is considered complete if it is submitted on the application form and includes all the required documents and information.

Applicants whose applications are incomplete will be invited to supplement them. If they fail to do so by the deadline specified in the invitation to complete the application, their application will be rejected.

Applications sent by e-mail will not be processed.

In accordance with Article 28, item 26, of the Administrative Fees Act (Official Gazette of the Republic of Slovenia No. 106/10-UPB5), no administrative fees are charged for applications under this Call for Applications.

8. Decisions and contractual relationship

The Fund will issue decisions on the outcome of the Call for Application to all applicants. The deadline for issuing the decisions is 60 days after the receipt of a complete application.

After the positive decision has become final and the documents required in the decision have been submitted to the Fund, a scholarship contract will be concluded with the selected applicants.

The decision issued by the Fund generally requires proof of enrolment in the appropriate year of study and academic year for which the scholarship has been awarded, and a statement or proof that a temporary residence permit has been obtained for the purpose of studying in Slovenia if such documents were not enclosed with the initial application, or other documents, if required.

The payment of the scholarship is possible only after the scholarship contract has been signed, in accordance with Articles 7 and 54 of the Scholarship Act.

The provisions of chapters VI and VII and point 5 of chapter IV of the Scholarship Act shall apply to the administration of payment of scholarships, the obligations of scholarship holders, and also to temporary suspension or termination of the scholarship contract.

9. Accessibility of documentation

The text of the Call for Applications, the application form and the power of attorney form are available at www.sklad-kadri.si or at the head office of the Slovene Human Resources Development and Scholarship Fund at Dunajska 22 (6th Floor), Ljubljana, during office hours.

10. Additional information

Additional information is available at the website of the Fund, www.sklad-kadri.si, under the heading Calls for Applications and 187th Public Call (*187. javni razpis*), by telephone or in person at the Fund's head office during the following office hours: Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 9.00 to 12.00, and Wednesday also from 14.00 to 16.00. The contact person is Ms Doris Sattler, telephone: +386 1 434 58 92, e-mail: doris.sattler@sklad-kadri.si.

Javni sklad Republike Slovenije za razvoj kadrov in štipendije (Slovene Human Resources Development and Scholarship Fund)

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