

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS - ANSWERS
for the
“2nd Call for H.F.R.I. Scholarships to PhD Candidates”

I. ELIGIBILITY CONDITIONS

Q. 1. What is the maximum time period allowed to have elapsed from the approval date of the PhD Candidate’s registration until the application submission start date (15/6/2018)?

A. 1. The time period in question (between the registration approval and 15/6/2018) may not exceed 24 months.

Q.2. Which exact date should be taken into consideration in order to calculate the 3-years interval that should not be exceeded after the year the postgraduate degree was awarded (31/12)?

A. 2. The exact date in question is the application submission start date (15/6/2018). Consequently, an application may be submitted by PhD Candidates who have been awarded their postgraduate degree after 31/12/2014, since the start date of the 3-year period is 31/12 of the year the degree was awarded, without prejudice to any deadline extension for military service or pregnancy reasons.

Q. 3. Is it permitted to apply for a funding award, if a PhD proposal has been submitted, but its evaluation and therefore the approval of the PhD Candidate’s registration are still pending?

A. 3. The approval of the PhD Candidate’s registration by the General Assembly or the Department body in charge is a prerequisite for submitting a funding award application.

Q.4. In case the pregnancy started during the postgraduate studies programme and continued after the postgraduate degree was awarded, how should we calculate the extension of the (3 years) interval that has elapsed after the award of the postgraduate degree?

A. 4. In such a case, the maximum time limit after the award of the postgraduate degree shall be increased by a period equal to the pregnancy time that followed after the award of the postgraduate degree.

Q.5. What happens in case a candidate has received a military service deferment for health reasons?

A. 5. PhD Candidates who have received a military service deferment can submit a funding award application, provided they meet the remaining eligibility conditions. This condition should be valid when the final results are issued.

Q. 6. What happens if the military service deferment duration is less than the scholarship duration the PhD Candidate applies for?

A.6. According to the Call, male candidates should have fulfilled their military obligations or have been legally exempt of them or have received a military service deferment. These conditions should be met by the time the final results are issued and they should be valid throughout the scholarship award period.

Q.7. If a PhD Candidate has been accepted by exemption as a PhD Candidate, without having obtained a postgraduate degree, can they submit an application? If yes, how shall the application be scored?

A. 7. Those who have been accepted by exemption as a PhD Candidate, without holding a postgraduate degree, can apply for a scholarship. The related criterium will not be scored when evaluating the scientific profile of the PhD Candidate.

Q.8. Can a PhD Candidate who is a public sector employee submit a scholarship application, when they have received or are to receive unpaid leave for writing their doctoral thesis?

A.8. According to the Call, critical importance is attributed to the existence of an employment relationship with the Greek State or a public sector institution and not to the actual employment or non-employment in the Greek State or a public sector institution or the receipt of a fee or a salary from these institutions or the Greek State.

Q. 9. How is the PhD Candidate's income basis, upon which a solidarity contribution is imposed, specified?

A.9. The income, upon which a solidarity contribution is imposed, is mentioned as INCOME BASIS FOR CONTRIBUTION IMPOSITION in a separate position of the Tax Return Clearance Certificate for every fiscal year. The special solidarity contribution is imposed on incomes exceeding twelve thousand (12,000) euro, considering the total income, taxable or exempt, real or imputed, which results by adding revenues from payroll, business activity, capital and capital transfer appreciation. The income of persons who are totally blind as well as persons with serious mobility impairments amounting to a level of eighty per cent (80%) or above and compensations for termination or cancellation of employment as provisioned in article 12(3e) of Law 4172/2013 (Income Tax Code) and in article 14(1f) of the Income Tax Code are exempted and shall not be calculated. Furthermore, long-term unemployed persons registered in the unemployed records of the Greek Manpower Employment Organisation as well as those receiving an unemployment benefit from the previously mentioned organisation are also exempted from paying the special contribution, provided they have earned no real income during the imposition year.

Q. 11. Is it possible for a PhD Candidate who is receiving an unemployment benefit to submit a scholarship application?

A.11. It is permitted for a PhD Candidate to receive an unemployment benefit when submitting the funding award application. However, the unemployment benefit should be discontinued, in case their application is approved, in order for the PhD Candidate to receive the scholarship.

II. SCHOLARSHIP DURATION

Q. 1. How is the maximum duration of the funding/scholarship award calculated?

A. 1. The funding (scholarship award) may last 12-36 months. Its duration depends on / is determined by the time interval between the approval date of the PhD Candidate's registration by the Department body in charge and the application submission start date (15/6/2018). This time interval (between the registration approval and 15/6/2018) may not exceed 24 months. If less than 30 days have elapsed from the approval date of the PhD Candidate's registration by 15/6/2018, the PhD Candidate may apply for funding of a maximum duration of 36 months. If 12 months have elapsed, the PhD Candidate may apply for funding of a maximum duration of 24 months. If 15 months have elapsed, the PhD Candidate may apply for funding of a maximum duration of 21 months and so on (the maximum possible sum of the time interval between the approval date of the PhD Candidate's registration and 15/6/2018 **on the one hand**, and the maximum funding duration **on the other hand** may not exceed 36 months, when added). The date, on which the scholarship was included in the budget of the SARF or the Special Account, depending on the case, is regarded as the funding start date.

Q. 2. In what way is the funding duration affected by the time interval between the submission of the application and the issuance of the results?

A. 2. The funding start date is the date, on which the scholarship was included in the budget of the SARF or

the Special Account, respectively. Therefore, the time needed for the evaluation of the applications is not included in the funding duration and does not amend the scholarship award period.

Q. 3. Are any insurance contributions included in the scholarship?

A. 3. The amount granted is purely a scholarship and does not cover any obligation to pay insurance contributions of any kind. Apart from this, the relevant provisions of the legislation in force shall apply.

III. APPLICATIONS SUBMISSION

Q.1. Is it allowed to mention member details of the persons participating in the three-member committee in the application, so that references can be asked?

A.1. The Call mentions that applicants should provide the details of two scientists, from whom references may be asked, without excluding the possibility of their participation as members in the three-member committee.

Q. 2. In case the undergraduate or the postgraduate degree was obtained from a foreign educational institution, is it necessary to submit an equivalence / correspondence certificate?

A. 2. According to the Call, in case the undergraduate and/or postgraduate degree was obtained from a foreign Higher Educational Institution, it is required to submit the degree equivalence/correspondence certificate by the Hellenic National Academic Recognition and Information Centre (Hellenic NARIC), when filing the application online (par. 5, page 7 of the Call).

Q. 3. What about the Integrated Master?

A. 3. In line with the article 46(2) of Law 4485/2017, in order for a degree to be designated as an Integrated Master, the Minister of Education, Research and Religious Affairs is required to issue an ascertaining decision following a relevant request sent by the Senate of the Higher Educational Institution. After the decision is issued, the Integrated Master is regarded as obtained from the date the degree or the diploma was awarded and is also valid for those who graduated before Law 4485/2017 entered into force. In case the PhD Candidate holds an Integrated Master, they may apply for a scholarship, provided their registration as a PhD Candidate has been approved by the General Assembly or the Department body in charge. During the evaluation of their scientific profile, the Integrated Master will be scored (depending on the grade) both as an undergraduate and as a postgraduate degree (par. 7.1, page 10 of the Call). In case the candidates hold an undergraduate degree, which lasts at least ten (10) academic semesters, but is not recognised as an Integrated Master by an ascertaining decision of the Minister in charge based on the above, and the doctoral thesis application of such candidates has been approved without holding any other postgraduate degree, the criterium pertaining to the postgraduate degree will not be scored, when evaluating their scientific profile.

Q. 4. In case the PhD Candidate's doctoral thesis application has been approved ("registration approval") at the same time as the appointment of the three-member committee, should the candidate submit two separate certificates in the platform?

A. 4. In such a case the candidate may attach the same certificate in the respective platform fields, provided that the certificate's content clearly proves that the doctoral thesis/subject approval and the appointment of the three-member advisory committee happened simultaneously. The corresponding approval decision of the Department's Assembly is regarded as "registration approval", according to the Call.

Q. 5. In case the doctoral thesis is not written in Greek, is it possible to write the abstract of the doctoral thesis' subject in the thesis language?

A. 5. According to the Call, the application should be drafted exclusively in Greek. By exception, PhD Candidates writing their thesis in another language can fill in the application's part pertaining to the subject of the doctoral thesis (title, abstract, extended summary) in the language the thesis is written in. The possibility of writing the thesis in another language (other than Greek) is documented by submitting to the platform either the relevant approval decision by the Specialised General Assembly Composition (SGAC) of the Department or a Solemn Declaration of the PhD Candidate with regard to the language the thesis is written in.

IV. EVALUATION

Q.1. How is the postgraduate degree evaluated when it doesn't mention a grade or distinction?

A. 1. When the postgraduate degree or (in case of a postgraduate degree obtained from a foreign educational institution) the NARIC certificate does not mention any grade or performance distinction, this criterium is not taken into consideration when evaluating the PhD Candidate's scientific profile and the score range pertaining to the candidate's scientific profile is 15-45 points. The maximum total score for all criteria in this case is 85 points. The final score will be formed after conversion to the rating scale featuring a maximum score of 100 points.