

FREQUENT QUESTIONS – ANSWERS

under the

"2nd Call for H.F.R.I. Scholarships to PhD Candidates"

I. ELIGIBILITY CONDITIONS

Q. 1. What is the maximum period that may have elapsed from the date of PhDC registration approval to application submission start-date? (15/6/2018);

A. 1. This time period (between registration approval and the date of 15/6/2018) cannot exceed 24 months.

Q.2. What is the time point by which no more 3 years may have elapsed from the year (31/12/) the post-graduate degree was obtained in?

A. 2. This time point is the start-date for applications (15/6/2018). Therefore, eligible to apply are PhDCs who have received their post-graduate degree after 31/12/2014, since the starting point of the 3-year period defined as December 31st (31/12) of the year of obtaining the title, subject to any deadline extension due to military service or pregnancy.

Q. 3. Can a funding application be allowed to submitted, when although a proposal to carry-out a PhD has been submitted, its evaluation is pending and therefore so is the PhDC's registration approval?

A. 3. A necessary condition for submitting a funding application is the PhDC's registration approval by the General Assembly or the Department's competent body.

Q.4. In case where the pregnancy started during the postgraduate programme, and continued after obtaining the postgraduate degree, how is the time extension (of 3 years) that has elapsed since obtaining the postgraduate degree calculated?

A. 4. In this case the maximum time elapsed after receiving the postgraduate degree, will be increased by a period equal to that of the pregnancy after receiving the postgraduate degree.

Q.5. What happens when army enlistment has been postponement due to health reasons?

A. 5. A PhDC who has had his enlistment postponed can apply for funding, so long as he meets remaining eligibility conditions. This condition must be met when final results are issued.

Q. 6. What happens when enlistment postponement is of a shorter duration than the period for which the PhD Candidate is applying for scholarship?

A.6. During the Call, male candidates shall have completed their mandatory military service or have been legally exempt of serving or have had their enlistment postponed. These conditions must be met at the time when final results are issued and cover the full duration of the scholarship.

Q.7. If a PhDC has been accepted by exemption as a PhDC, without having obtained a post-graduate studies title, can they submit an application? And if so, how are they to be graded?

A. 7. Those who have been admitted as a PhDC by exception without holding a postgraduate degree

can apply for a scholarship. When the PhDC's scientific profile is being evaluated, said criterion shall not be graded.

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

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

Q. 9. How is the solidarity contribution imposition income of the PhDC defined?

A.9. The solidarity contribution imposition income is listed on the clearing note of each tax year in a separate position, and reads SOLIDARITY IMPOSITION INCOME. The special solidarity contribution is imposed on incomes over twelve thousand (12,000) euros and, whereby to be imposed, taken into account is total income, as resulting from the sum of paid work income, from business activity, from capital, from capital transfer surplus value, taxable or exempt, real or imputed. Excluded and not accounted are incomes of people who are completely blind, as well as people with severe mobility disabilities to the percentage of eighty percent (80%) and above, the compensation for the termination or indictment of the employment relationship of case e` of par. 3 of article 12 under law 4172/2013 (Income Tax Code) and case f` of par. 1 of article 14 ITC. Additionally, exempt from the obligation to pay the special contribution are the long-term unemployed who are registered in the OAED unemployment registers, as also those receiving unemployment benefits from said organization, provided they have no real income during the year being cleared.

Q. 11. Can a PhDC who is receiving an unemployment benefit apply for a scholarship?

A.11. The PhDC is allowed to be receiving unemployment benefits at the time of applying for funding. In case their application is approved and in order for the PhDC to receive the scholarship, the receiving of unemployment benefits should be discontinued.

II. SCHOLARSHIP DURATION

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

A. 1. Funding duration (scholarship award) may last from 12 to 36 months and is dependent to/ determined by the time elapsed between the registration approval date by the competent Department body, and the application submission start-date (15/6/2018). This time period (between registration approval and date (15/6/2018) cannot exceed 24 months. If, by the date of 15/6/2018, 30 days shall not have elapsed from PhDC registration approval date, the PhDC may request funding with a maximum duration of 36 months, if 12 months shall have elapsed, they may request funding with a maximum duration of 24 months, if 15 months shall have elapsed, they may request funding with a maximum duration of 21 months, and so on (the maximum possible time, **on the one hand** of the time elapsed between the PhDC registration approval date and the date of 15/6/2018 and **on the other** of the maximum funding duration, may not exceed 36 months). Considered as funding start-date is the date when the scholarship has been included in the Special Account for Research Grants (SARG) budget or the Special Account, as the case may be.

Q. 2. How is the duration of funding affected by the time between application submission and the time results have been issued?

A. 2. Funding start-date is set as the date when the scholarship is included in the SARG budget or the Special Account, respectively. Therefore, the time of application evaluation is not included in the duration of funding and does not alter scholarship award duration.

Q. 3. Does the scholarship include insurance contributions?

A. 3. The amount awarded is purely a scholarship and does not cover any obligation of insurance contribution reimbursement, of any kind. Otherwise, relevant provisions of current legislation shall apply.

III. APPLICATION SUBMISSION

Q.1. Is it permissible to include three-member committee member(s) details in the application, in order to seek references?

A.1. The Call dictates that the details of two scientists should be provided, from whom letters of reference can be sought, without ruling out the possibility that they are a member(s) of the three-member committee.

Q. 2. In case where the graduate or post-graduate diploma has been obtained in a foreign educational institution, is it necessary to submit an equivalence/correspondence certificate?

A. 2. According to the Call, in case where the graduate or post-graduate diploma has been obtained in a foreign higher educational institution, the degree equivalence/correspondence certificate(s) by the Hellenic National Academic Recognition Information Centre (Hellenic NARIC) is required, upon proposal submission (par. 5, p. 7 of the Call).

Q. 3. What applies in regard to the Unified and Indivisible Postgraduate Degree/ Integrated Master (EATSME)?

A. 3. According to article 46(2) under Law 4485/2017 on the characterization of a degree title as a Unified and Indivisible Postgraduate Degree/ Integrated Master (EATSME), the pertinent affirmative decision by the Minister of Education, Research and Religious Affairs is required, following the related request by the Higher Educational Institution Senate; upon the issue of which the unified and indivisible postgraduate degree (integrated master) is considered to have been obtained from the date that the degree or diploma was awarded, also encompassing all those having graduated before Law 4485/2017 was entered into force. In case where the PhDC is an EATSME holder, they may submit a scholarship application, provided that their registration as a PhDC has been approved by the General Assembly or the competent Department body, and that during their scientific profile being evaluated, said title will be graded (depending on the mark/score) both as a degree and as a postgraduate degree (par. 7.1, p. 10 of the Call). During scientific profile evaluation for candidates, who are holding a basic degree with a duration of ten (10) academic semesters by minimum, but it has not been recognized in the above by an ascertaining decision issued by the competent Minister as an EATSME, and whose application for carrying-out a PhD has been approved without them being holders of another postgraduate degree, the postgraduate degree criterion will not receive grading.

Q. 4. In case where the PhDC's application for carrying-out a PhD has been approved ("registration approval") simultaneously with the three-member committee appointment, will two different certifications have to be submitted to the platform?

A. 4. In this case, the same certification may be attached to the platform corresponding fields, on condition that of its content it can clearly be reasoned that the application to carry-out a PhD/ the doctoral thesis subject approval, and the appointment of the three-member advisory committee, occurred in tandem. Considered as "registration approval" according to the Call, is the corresponding approval decision issued by the Department Assembly.

Q. 5. In case where the language of writing for the doctoral thesis is not greek, it is possible to write the doctoral thesis subject summary in this language?

A. 5. According to the Call, the language the application is written in is greek, in exclusive. By exception, PhDCs writing their thesis in another language may fill out the application part pertaining to the doctoral thesis topic (title, abstract, extended summary) in the thesis writing language. Writing the thesis in another language (other than greek) is substantiated by submitting the relevant approval decision by the General Assembly of Special Composition (GASS) of the Department to the platform, or the Solemn Declaration of the PhDC in regard to the thesis language of writing.

IV. EVALUATION

Q.1. How will a postgraduate degree not listing a grade or classification be evaluated?

A. 1. When the post-graduate degree title or (when regarding a post-graduate degree title obtained from a foreign institution) the NARIC certification does not list a grade or performance classification, this criterion is not taken into consideration during scientific profile evaluation for the PhDC, and the grading range for candidate scientific profile is finalized to 15-45 units, with the maximum grading score for the sum of all criteria being 85 units. The final score will be obtained by reduction to the rating scale with a maximum score of 100 units.