



HELLENIC REPUBLIC
MINISTRY OF DEVELOPMENT AND INVESTMENTS GENERAL
SECRETARIAT FOR RESEARCH AND TECHNOLOGY
HELLENIC FOUNDATION FOR RESEARCH AND INNOVATION

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Ref. No. 17499

2nd Call
for H.F.R.I. Scholarships to PhD Candidates
(4th amendment)

CONTENTS

DOCUMENT BACKGROUND	3
1 AIM & GENERAL INFORMATION OF CALL	5
2 SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH AREAS	5
3 ELIGIBILITY CONDITIONS	6
4 BUDGET & DURATION OF SCHOLARSHIP	7
5 SUBMISSION OF APPLICATIONS	7
6 EVALUATION PROCESS	10
7 EVALUATION CRITERIA	11
7.1 Scientific profile of the PC (15-60 units)	11
7.2 Doctoral dissertation topic (1-30 units)	11
7.3 The motivation statement (1-10 units)	11
8 EVALUATION RESULTS	12
9 POSTING	12
10 COMMUNICATION & INFORMATION	13

DOCUMENT BACKGROUND

Ref. No.	Issue Date		Page
1559	27/04/2018	Initial version	
1902	29/05/2018	1st Amendment to the Call	
9242	07/02/2019	Section 6 Participation of independent experts in the evaluation process.	10
15660	09/08/2019	Preamble	4
		Section 9 Posting	13
17499	11/10/2019	Preamble	4, 5
		Section 4 Budget and Duration of Scholarship	7

The Director of the Hellenic Foundation for Research and Innovation, having regard to:

1. Law 4429/2016 on “Hellenic Foundation for Research and Innovation and other provisions” (199/A) as in force, and especially Articles 2(1), 5(2-9), 8(2-9) and 9(7);
2. Law 4485/2017 on “Organisation and operation of higher education, regulations on research and other provisions” (114/A), as in force;
3. Law 4310/2014 on “Research, technological development and innovation and other provisions” (258/A), as in force;
4. Law 3187/2003 on “Higher Education Military Institutes (ASEI)” (233/A), as in force;
5. Decision no. 195245 issued by the Ministers of Education, Research and Religious Affairs, Economy and Administrative Reform on “Internal Regulation of the Hellenic Foundation for Research and Innovation (H.F.R.I.)” (B/5252), as in force;
6. Decision no. 245/23.03.2017 issued by the Alternate Minister of Education, Research and Religious Affairs on “Annual planning of actions and resource allocation of the Hellenic Foundation for Research and Innovation (H.F.R.I.) for 2017” (1066/B), as in force after its amendment by Decision no. 223400/19.12.2017 issued by the Alternate Minister of Education, Research and Religious Affairs on “Amendment of Decision no. 245/2017 on Annual planning of actions and resource allocation of the Hellenic Foundation for Research and Innovation (H.F.R.I.) for 2017” (4726/B);
7. Decision with Ref. No. 301/04.08.2017 issued by the 6th Meeting of the H.F.R.I. Scientific Council, appointing Dr Nektarios Nasikas as H.F.R.I. Director (YODD/436);
8. Decision with Ref. No. 565/16.01.2018 issued by the 14th Meeting of the H.F.R.I. Scientific Council, assigning duties to the H.F.R.I. Director (Online Posting No.: ΨΠΙΛ46M77Γ-86E);
9. Decision with Ref. No. 12105/23.04.2019 issued by the 52nd Meeting of the H.F.R.I. Scientific Council, assigning duties to the H.F.R.I. Director;
10. Decision with Ref. No. 1559/27.04.2018 issued by the H.F.R.I. Director on “2nd Call for H.F.R.I. Scholarships to PhD Candidates” (Online Posting No.: 6K4N46M77Γ-Θ1Γ), as amended and in force after its 3rd amendment following Decision with Ref. No. 15660/09.08.2019 issued by the H.F.R.I. Director (Online Posting No.: ΨΒΑΗ46M77Γ-Π38);
11. Decision with Ref. No. 7923/21.12.2018 issued by the 39th Meeting of the H.F.R.I. Scientific Council on the “2nd Call for H.F.R.I. Scholarships to PhD Candidates” and the funding of doctoral dissertation by the State Scholarships Foundation (IKY) (Online Posting No.: Ω7ΞΑ46M77Γ-Φ08);
12. Decision with Ref. No. 1886/25.05.2018 issued by the 19th Meeting of the H.F.R.I. Scientific Council approving the 1st amendment to the “2nd Call for H.F.R.I. Scholarships to PhD Candidates” (Online Posting No.: ΩΦΥΦ46M77Γ-Ξ54);
13. Decision with Ref. No. 9232/07.02.2019 issued by the 43rd Meeting of the H.F.R.I. Scientific Council approving the 2nd amendment to the “2nd Call for H.F.R.I. Scholarships to PhD Candidates” and the amendment to the Thematic Evaluation Committees’ Rules of Operation (Online Posting No.: 6ΟΧΠ46M77Γ-ΠΙ1);
14. Decision with Ref. No. 15227/24.07.2019 issued by the 59th Meeting of the H.F.R.I. Scientific Council, amending Calls for Action issued by the Foundation;

15. Decision with Ref. No. 17373/08.10.2019 issued by the 65th Meeting of the H.F.R.I. Scientific Council on the 4th amendment to the “2nd Call for H.F.R.I. Scholarships to PhD Candidates” (Online Posting No.: ΩΠΒΚ46Μ77Γ-ΒΕΞ);
16. the fact that the budget of the Action is funded by the H.F.R.I. budget, and is specifically covered by funds from the Public Investment Programme on the one hand and the Agreement dated 15.07.2016 between the Hellenic Republic and the European Investment Bank on the other;
17. Decision with Ref. No. 7886/21.12.2018 issued by the 39th Meeting of the H.F.R.I. Scientific Council on “Approval for undertaking long-term commitment”, as amended by Decision with Ref. No. 15224/24.07.2019 issued by the 59th Meeting of the H.F.R.I. Scientific Council;
18. Decision with Ref. No. 15598/06.08.2019 on decision to undertake commitment for 2019.

CALLS

Interested PhD candidates to submit applications in the context of the **2nd Call for H.F.R.I. Scholarships to PhD Candidates**, in line with the terms and conditions listed below:

1 AIM & GENERAL INFORMATION OF CALL

The Call aims to support PhD Candidates (PC) so that they may conduct high-level research in Greece. This Hellenic Foundation for Research and Innovation (H.F.R.I.) action, provides funding to PCs so that they may author their doctoral dissertations in Greek Higher Education Institutes (AEI) and Higher Education Military Institutes (ASEI). The duration of the funding (in the form of a scholarship) is from 12 to 36 months.

2 SCIENTIFIC AREAS

By applicant choice, applications will fall under one of the following broad scientific areas:

- A. Natural Sciences
- B. Engineering & Technology Sciences
- C. Life Sciences (Medicine & Health Sciences)
- D. Agricultural Sciences / Food
- E. Mathematics & IT
- F. Social Sciences
- G. Humanities & Arts
- H. Environment & Energy
- I. Management & Economics of Innovations

3 ELIGIBILITY CONDITIONS

The application shall be submitted by the PC, subject to the following conditions:

- Their enrolment as a PC must have been approved by the General Meeting or the competent body of the Department **(a certificate to that effect shall be submitted along with the application)**.
- The Three-Member Advisory Committee of the PC must have been appointed from 01/12/2016 onwards.
- No more than 3 years should have elapsed from the year (31/12) the MA was obtained. For male candidates who have served their mandatory military service after obtaining their MA, the maximum limit from obtaining the MA is increased accordingly. Similarly, for female candidates who became pregnant after obtaining their MA, the maximum limit from obtaining the MA is increased by 9 months per child, for a maximum of 2 children. In the event that the candidate holds more than one MA, the year of obtaining the MA most relevant to the subject of the doctoral dissertation is taken into account.
- They should not already hold a PhD in any other scientific field.
- They should not receive funding for the proposed doctoral research from any other source during the time of the scholarship.
- They should not receive unemployment benefits in Greece or abroad.
- Male candidates must have completed their mandatory military service or must have been legally exempt of serving or must have secured military service deferment. The conditions of this section must be met at the time of final result publication.
- The PC must have a Greek tax number (AFM).

It is noted that during scholarship payment, the PC must not hold an employment relationship: i) in the public sector as a permanent employee or with a private law open-ended employment agreement, or ii) in the private sector with an open-ended full-time employment agreement.

In addition, the solidarity contribution imposition income of the PC for each tax year when the scholarship is paid out, along with the scholarship amount for that year, should not exceed €15,000.00. In the event that the PC has a disability percentage over 67%, this income along with the scholarship amount should not exceed €19,000.00 for each tax year.

4 BUDGET & DURATION OF SCHOLARSHIP

The public expenditure for this Call amounts to ten million euros (€10,000,000.00) in total. **The monthly scholarship amount for the PhD Candidate comes to nine hundred euros (€900.00).**

It is noted that aforementioned scholarship amount is not taxable. It is subject to a 3.6% withholding fee (stamp duty and OGA stamp duty) in favour of the Greek State.

The duration of funding is **12 to 36 months and is set from the approval date of PC enrolment by the General Meeting or the competent body of the Department, as outlined in Table 1.**

Table 1. Maximum scholarship duration based on the date the PC's enrolment is approved

	Time from the date the PC's enrolment is approved (months)	Maximum scholarship duration (months)
Category I	0-12	24-36
Category II	13-24	12-24

Funding is available through the Special Account for Research Funds (ELKE) of the AEI or the Special Account of the ASEI, where the PC shall draft or is drafting their doctoral dissertation. The date of scholarship initiation is set as the date when the scholarship agreement is signed; in any event the agreement cannot be signed later than ten (10) working days from the date that the scholarship is incorporated in the budget of the ELKE or the Special Account.

In the event of force majeure or pregnancy, it is possible to suspend awarding the scholarship for a period of 1-12 months. In this case, scholarship duration is extended by the same period of time. The documented application shall be submitted to the H.F.R.I. Scientific Council for the pertinent decision to be made.

5 SUBMISSION OF APPLICATIONS

Each PC may submit only one application as part of this Call. PC applications are submitted exclusively **online** through the online platform dedicated for this action. **All fields and uploaded documents must be filled out as well as written exclusively in Greek.** Documents are uploaded in pdf form. Text specifications for all submitted documents are listed in Table 2.

Table 2. Text specifications

Page size	Font Size		Line spacing	Page margins
A4	Times New Roman	11 pt	Single	Top: 1.5 cm, Bottom: 1.5 cm Left: 2cm, Right: 2cm

The application form consists of 3 distinct parts:

1) Part A: Scientific profile of PhD Candidate

- **General information about the candidate** (platform fields are filled out).
- **CV** based on the proposed template (pdf file, uploaded to platform).
- **Main degree** (title, grade and year obtained; platform fields are filled out). *In the event of more than one main degree, the degree most relevant to the subject of the doctoral dissertation must be entered. In addition, if the main degree was obtained from a higher education institute abroad, the degree equivalence/correspondence certificate by the Hellenic National Academic Recognition Information Centre (Hellenic NARIC) is required.*
- **Postgraduate Master's degree, Graduate Master's degree or Integrated Master's degree** (title, grade and year obtained, platform fields are filled out). *In the event that there is no grade on the MA, a certificate (or the academic transcript) from the School's secretariat must be submitted, bearing the grade. Note that if the MA was obtained from a higher education institute abroad, the degree equivalence/correspondence certificate by the Hellenic National Academic Recognition Information Centre (Hellenic NARIC) is required.*
- **Articles** in scientific journals and/or presentations in conferences (added in the CV).
- **Awards / Distinctions / Previous Scholarships** (added in the CV).
- **Reference letters:** Contact details (name, capacity, email and phone number) of at least **two (2)** scientists from whom reference letters may be obtained confidentially, are entered in the platform.

In addition, for candidates already drafting their doctoral dissertation:

- **Date of appointment of Three-Member Advisory Committee.**
- **Annual progress report from Three-Member Advisory Committee** (if available).
- **Contact details** (name, capacity, email, phone number) of the supervising academic staff member.

2) Part B: Doctoral dissertation topic

- **Summary of topic: 50 to 300** words (filled out in platform field).
- **Keywords** (filled out in platform field).
- **Extended summary** of the proposed doctoral dissertation topic (pdf file, uploaded to platform). **The extended summary should include the title/topic and the Scientific Area of the proposed project. Furthermore, the extended summary should be based on the following structure:** i) subject and objectives of proposed project, ii) introduction to the scientific area of the proposed topic and a 'state of the art' description in the relevant scientific area, iii) description of research questions the proposed topic is addressing, as well as long-term prospects, iv) methodology / implementation plan, v) impact the topic may have on Science, Technology, Society and Arts (depending on the scientific area of the topic, vi) implementation timetable. The extended summary of the doctoral dissertation topic must not exceed 5 pages and must be submitted in Greek. The bibliography index is included in the 5-page limit. To confirm that restrictions regarding text length are being met, specifications noted in Table 2 must be followed.
- **PC enrolment approval certificate** from the General Meeting or the competent body of the Department (pdf file, uploaded to platform).

3) Part C: Motivation statement for drafting the dissertation

- **Expression of interest cover letter**, outlining PC research interest and willingness to draft the doctoral dissertation on the specific topic (pdf file, uploaded to platform). Letter length should not exceed 3 pages and text formatting is subject to specifications of Table 2.

Submitted applications receive a unique submission number, which will later be used by the H.F.R.I. to announce the results.

Candidates are held solely responsible for filling out all application fields correctly and in thorough by the online submission deadline. Applications submitted past the deadline shall not be evaluated.

It is noted that entering false information upon submission, shall result in the submitted application being rejected at any stage. Even if this ascertainment comes after the application has been evaluated and approved, H.F.R.I. is entitled to cut funding and ask that any received part of it be reimbursed.

A candidate online application constitutes a solemn declaration under Law 1599/86, meaning that all information on the application is true. In the event where false declarations have been submitted, provisions of Law 1599/1986 apply.

Applications may be submitted from June 15th 2018 at 3pm to July 20th 2018 at 3 pm.

The dates linked to all Call procedure stages are listed in Table 3.

Table 3. Dates for Call procedure stages

Call issue date	27 April 2018
Proposal submission start date	15 June 2018
Proposal submission deadline	20 July 2018

6 EVALUATION PROCESS

Applications shall be evaluated per **Category (Category I, II)**, as outlined in **Table1**, by Thematic Committees (TC) which shall be appointed for the Scientific Areas under Section 2 of this Call, in accordance with Article 5(6) of Law 4429/2016. Provided it is deemed necessary due to the specialised object of the applications, a non-binding evaluation of one or more applications may be requested from one or more independent experts. The evaluation decision for applications is made by the Thematic Committees. Thematic Committee members and independent experts are appointed by the H.F.R.I. Scientific Council.

The evaluation process is governed by the rules of confidentiality. TC members and independent experts shall sign a confidentiality and non-conflict of interest declaration. Thematic Committee members and independent experts are bound by a strict rule of confidentiality, before, during and after the evaluation, as to the entire evaluation process.

The initial allocation of applications to TCs shall be based on pertinent PC statements, regarding the scientific area of their doctoral dissertation upon application submission. However, this initial allocation may be revised if, during the evaluation process, it is established that the subject of the dissertation falls within a different scientific area to the one originally declared.

The evaluation process for the proposals consists of the following two stages:

- i) **Proposal completeness and eligibility review stage:** The proposals are reviewed by the competent H.F.R.I. department as to whether all required information and documents have been submitted, as to whether conditions and admissibility restrictions and all other provisions in this Call, have been fulfilled. Part of the review is performed automatically by the submission platform. As follows, proposals that fulfil the above criteria shall be evaluated during the second stage.
- ii) **Evaluation and selection stage:** *Parts A, B and C* under Section 5 are evaluated by the TC of the Scientific Area where the proposal has been incorporated, based on the declaration of the applicant PC.

The evaluation is based on the criteria described in Section 7 below. Evaluators submit the evaluation and score of each proposal in the online platform.

Each application is scored by units on a scale to 100. The minimum score required in total is 70 (70% of the maximum attainable score). Applications graded lower than 70 in total are excluded from funding.

Once proposals have been evaluated and scored by TCs, the Application Ranking Table per Scientific Area is compiled from highest to lowest score. When compiling the ranking tables, in the event where two proposals have received the same score, the one scoring highest in the *scientific profile of the candidate* is ranked ahead.

7 EVALUATION CRITERIA

7.1 Scientific profile of the PC (15-60)

The following academic performance is evaluated for the scientific profile of each PC:

- **Grade on degree of PhD candidate (15-25).**

Grade on degree	Criterion score
5.00-6.49 / Good	15
6.50-8.49 / Very Good	20
8.50-10.00 / Excellent	25

In the event that there is no grade on the degree, the verbal grading of the performance is taken into account.

- **Postgraduate Master's degree / Graduate Master's degree / Integrated Master's degree (5-15)**

MA grade	Criterion score
5.00-6.49 / Good	5
6.50-8.49 / Very Good	10
8.50-10.00 / Excellent	15

In the event that there are more than one MA degrees, the one most relevant to the subject of the dissertation is scored.

- **Distinctions, publications, reference letters, previous scholarships and progress report (0-20).**

Publications, possible presentations and distinctions at conferences, one-day events, summer schools that the PC may hold are scored. Other awards and/or previous scholarships, recommendation letters and progress reports are also evaluated, with a maximum score of 20 for this criterion.

7.2 Doctoral dissertation topic (1-30)

In specific, the following are evaluated in terms of the doctoral dissertation topic:

- **The scientific quality and originality of the doctoral dissertation topic (10).**
- **The extent to which research methodology is based on innovative approaches (10).**
- **The international impact of the doctoral dissertation topic (10)**

7.3 The motivation statement (1-10)

- **The motivation and research interest of the PC for drafting the doctoral thesis is evaluated.**

The scores of this criterion are summarised in the following table:

Criterion:	Criterion score
PC scientific profile	15-60
Doctoral dissertation topic	1-30
Motivation statement	1-10
TOTAL	100

8 EVALUATION RESULTS

Results are forwarded to the PC with a personalised report and substantiation of the evaluation decision. The PC is entitled to submit a decision objection on grounds of legality, within 10 days of being notified of the evaluation decision for each phase. Objections are assessed by an objections committee, which shall issue a decision within a strict deadline of 10 days from objection submission. The decision of the committee is forwarded to the Director of the Foundation and communicated to the interested party.

Upon conclusion of proposal evaluation, final ranking tables are approved and the funding decision (list of proposals to be funded) is issued by the Director of the Foundation, in line with the available budget. This decision is an enforceable administrative act and is subject to petitions for annulment filed with the Administrative Court of Appeals.

Once the proposals to be funded have been posted, potential beneficiary PCs receive an approval letter via email, whereby they are invited to submit necessary supporting documents to the H.F.R.I., which are listed in the Management Guide.

Candidates accept that messages sent via email to the email address declared upon submitting the proposal online, are considered notifications and signal the commencement of all legal processes and deadlines.

9 POSTING

The Call and the Management Guide for this Call shall be posted on the H.F.R.I. website: www.elidek.gr

The Call shall also be posted on the following website: www.gsrt.gr

10 COMMUNICATION & INFORMATION

Detailed information and updates for this Call are available through the H.F.R.I.

at askelidekphd@elidek.gr

and by phone on **+30 210 6412410, +30 210 6412420.**

Technical support for online submission of applications shall be exclusively available via email:

helpelidekphd@elidek.gr

The H.F.R.I. Director

Dr Nektarios Nasikas