



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



Address: 185 Syggrou Ave. & 2 Sardeon St., 171 21 N. Smyrni  
Website: [www.elidek.gr](http://www.elidek.gr)  
Department of Research Projects  
Information: [researchdepartment@elidek.gr](mailto:researchdepartment@elidek.gr)  
Phone: +30 210 6412410-420

Athens, 22.03.2021

Ref. No. 34808

## **FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS-ANSWERS**

about the

**3rd Call for H.F.R.I. Scholarships to PhD Candidates**

Version 2.0

(Decision under Ref. No. 34807/22.03.2021 by the H.F.R.I. Director, IUN: 9IEN46M77Γ-3E4)

## DOCUMENT HISTORY

Version	Issue date	
1.0	27.10.2020	Initial version
2.0	22.03.2021	<a href="#">Question 5</a> ..... ...(clarification)..... <a href="#">Page 6</a>

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS-ANSWERS

### A. Terms and Conditions of Participation

#### **Question 1: Who is eligible to submit an application under the “3rd Call for H.F.R.I. Scholarships to PhD Candidates”?**

Those PhD Candidates who are writing their thesis in the Higher Educational Institutions (AEI) and Higher Military Educational Institutions (ASEI) in the country, as specified in article 1 of Law 4485/2017 (GG 114/A'/2017) and Law 3187/2003 (GG 233/A'/2003), respectively, are eligible to submit an application.

#### **Question 2: What are the conditions for the Application to be eligible?**

The conditions that must be met for the Application for the award of a scholarship to be eligible are the following:

- A time period of more than **18 months** should not have elapsed from the appointment date of the Three-member Advisory Committee during the submission start date
- A time period of more than three (3) years should not have elapsed from the year of obtaining the postgraduate diploma or more than seven (7) years from the year of obtaining the degree.
- The Candidates must not hold already a PhD in any scientific area.
- Male candidates shall have fulfilled their military obligations or have been legally exempt of them or have had their rank postponed.
- They should have a Greek VAT No.

The above conditions must be met cumulatively.

#### **Question 3: What about the prevention of double funding?**

According to the 1st Amendment of the Call, PhD Candidates shall not be funded for the proposed research (for all or part of it) by any other source (public, private, European, international) during the scholarship payment. The case of the PhD Candidate’s funding from mobility programs in order to conduct research abroad lasting up to six (6) months is excluded.

#### **Question 4: What is the maximum period that may have elapsed from the date of appointment of the Three-Member Advisory Committee of the PhD Candidate during the application submission start date (20.10.2020) so that the Application can be eligible?**

The time period between the appointment of the Three-Member Advisory Committee and the submission start date may not be longer than 18 months. In particular, those PhD Candidates whose Three-Member Advisory Committee has been appointed from 20.04.2019 onwards shall be eligible.

**Question 5: Can a PhD Candidate who has been accepted to write a thesis by the relevant Department, but the appointment of their Three-Member Advisory Committee is pending, submit an Application?**

No. A necessary condition for submitting an Application under this Call is the appointment of the Three-Member Advisory Committee of the PhD Candidate.

**Question 6: How do we calculate the maximum permitted time after obtaining the degree so that the Application can be eligible?**

According to the Call, in order for the Application to be eligible, three (3) years should not have elapsed from 31.12 of the year of obtaining the postgraduate diploma and more than seven (7) years from 31.12 of the year of obtaining the degree. Therefore, those PhD Candidates who have obtained a degree from 01.01.2013 onwards and a postgraduate diploma from 01.01.2017 onwards shall be eligible, subject to any extension of the above time periods due to military service or pregnancy, as provided in detail in the Call.

**Question 7: How do we calculate the extension of the maximum permitted time after obtaining the diplomas due to military service or pregnancy?**

The maximum permitted time after obtaining the diplomas is extended due to military service or pregnancy as follows:

If the PhD Candidate has fulfilled his military obligations after obtaining the degree but before obtaining the postgraduate diploma, then the time elapsed from obtaining the degree (7 years) is extended accordingly. If the PhD Candidate has fulfilled his military obligations after obtaining the postgraduate diploma, then both time periods from obtaining the degree (7 and 3 years, respectively) are extended accordingly. The same also applies to female candidates who have become pregnant after obtaining the degree or the postgraduate diploma. Therefore, for the calculation of the maximum permitted time after obtaining the diplomas, the corresponding time period (pregnancy or military service) should be added to 31.12 of the year of obtaining the diploma(s).

**Question 8: What applies in case of suspension of writing the thesis?**

If, according to the Regulation of Doctoral Studies of the relevant Department/Faculty where the thesis is written, the time period of suspension is not included in the total time of writing of the thesis, then the time period of suspension will not be taken into account during the calculation of the maximum time from the date of appointment of the Three-Member Advisory Committee (18 months). In any case, PhD Candidates who are subject to this regime must submit a relevant certificate from the Faculty's Secretariat, which explicitly states whether according to the relevant Regulation of Doctoral Studies the time period of suspension is included or not in the time of writing the thesis. In addition, upon the issuance of the Scholarship Award Decision, such suspension must either have expired or been terminated.

**Question 9: What about the fulfillment of military obligations of male candidates?**

A necessary condition to award a scholarship to male candidates is that they shall have fulfilled their military obligations or have been legally exempt of them or have had their rank postponed.

It is pointed out that this condition must be met at the time of issuance of the Scholarship Award Decision and must be valid for the entire duration of the scholarship payment.

**Question 10: If a PhD Candidate has been accepted by exemption as a PhD Candidate, without having obtained a postgraduate diploma, can they submit an Application?**

Yes, those who have been accepted by exemption as a PhD Candidate, without holding a postgraduate diploma, can apply for a scholarship.

**Question 11: What about the Integrated Master (EATSME)?**

If a person holds an EATSME, a necessary condition is that no more than seven (7) years have elapsed from 31.12 of the year of obtaining the master.

**Question 12: Can a PhD Candidate who is a public sector employee submit an application, when they have received or are to receive unpaid leave for writing their thesis?**

No, according to the Call, it is the non-existence of an employment relationship with the Greek State or a public sector institution that is of critical importance and not the actual employment or non-employment, or the receiving of a fee or salary from these institutions or the Greek State.

**Question 13: Can a PhD Candidate who is employed as a freelancer submit an Application?**

The Call does not set any relevant restriction. In any case, according to the Call again, the total taxable income of the PhD Candidate from any kind of employment (paid work or business activity) together with the amount of the scholarship should not exceed cumulatively the amount of €15,000.00.

**Question 14: Can a PhD Candidate participating in a research project as a remunerated member submit an Application?**

The Call does not set any restrictions on the participation of PhD Candidates in research projects, provided that the avoidance of double funding in order to write the thesis is strictly observed. In any case, according to the Call again, the total taxable income of the PhD Candidate from any kind of employment (paid work or business activity) together with the amount of the scholarship should not exceed cumulatively the amount of €15,000.00.

**Question 15: Can a PhD Candidate who is receiving an unemployment benefit submit an Application?**

Yes, a PhD Candidate who is receiving an unemployment benefit can submit an Application. However, in case of approval of their application and in order for the PhD Candidate to receive the scholarship, the receiving of the benefit should be discontinued.

**Question 16: Are any insurance contributions included in the scholarship?**

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

## **B. Scholarship Duration**

**Question 1: How is the maximum duration of funding/award of scholarship calculated?**

According to the Call, the duration of the scholarship may be from 12 to 36 months and is determined by the date of appointment of the Three-Member Advisory Committee of the PhD Candidate. More specifically, the total duration of the scholarship may not exceed 36 months from the date of appointment of the Three-Member Advisory Committee.

**Question 2: What about the evaluation time of Applications? How does it affect the total duration of the scholarship?**

The evaluation time is included in the total duration of the scholarship. If for example the PhD Candidate applies for 36 months of scholarship and the evaluation lasts 6 months, then the total duration of the scholarship will be 30 months. In any case, the PhD Candidate will be able to request an extension of the

duration of the scholarship award equal to and no more than the duration of the evaluation.

### **C. Application Submission**

#### **Question 1: Who is responsible for the submission of the Application on H.F.R.I. web portal?**

According to the provisions of this Call, the PhD Candidate himself/herself shall be responsible in exclusive for the submission of the Application on H.F.R.I. web portal (<https://hfri.grnet.gr/>). The Application shall be equivalent to a solemn declaration of Law 1599/1986 for the accuracy of information declared and the content of the documents submitted with it.

#### **Question 2: What about the selection of a Scientific Area?**

The selection of a Scientific Area is based on the scientific field within which the subject of the thesis falls. The PhD Candidates are solely responsible for the selection of the Scientific Area to which they will submit their Application, whereas any change of the Scientific Area after the submission end date and/or the transfer of an Application from one Scientific Area to another during the evaluation is not possible.

#### **Question 3: What applies in the event that at the time of submission of the Applications the temporary title of the PhD Candidate's thesis has not been finalized yet?**

In this case, the PhD Candidate will state in the Application the temporary title and will submit the final title of the thesis to H.F.R.I. as soon as it is defined.

#### **Question 4: How is the degree graded?**

The award of a degree's mark determines the degree's grade with an accuracy of two decimal places. The PhD Candidate must fill in the corresponding grade on the platform and submit a copy of the degree in which the final grade must be written with an accuracy of two (2) decimal places. In case the grade is expressed with a rating or a round number, a certificate from the relevant faculty must be also submitted for the exact numerical grade (with two decimal places), otherwise the degree will be considered to have the lowest grade corresponding to each rating (Excellent 8.5 - Very good 6.5 - Good 5). In case the degree's grade does not result from a rating, it will be considered to have the minimum of the higher education grade rating (5.00).

#### **Question 5: What about foreign diplomas?**

In case of foreign diplomas, it is not necessary to present a certificate of equivalence from N.A.R.I.C., as according to the provisions of article 38 of Law 4485/2017 this is checked during the selection process of the PhD Candidate by the relevant Department/Faculty of a Higher Educational Institution. It is noted that, in order to rate criterion 1A (Degree's grade), the grading equivalence of the above diplomas must be filled in the relevant field on the platform and a certificate of equivalence from N.A.R.I.C. must be submitted and/or the equivalence of their grade rating with the grade rating of Greek diplomas. In case no equivalence of grade or grade rating is submitted, the relevant field on the platform is not filled in and a mark will be awarded to the relevant diplomas by the Evaluation Committee after matching the grade of the foreign diploma with the Greek 10-point rating by N.A.R.I.C., otherwise this criterion will not be taken into account when evaluating the PhD Candidate's scientific profile, whereas the range of grading of their scientific profile will be in the form of 0-50 points, with 90 being the maximum grading of all

criteria. The final grading will be formed after rating. The grading equivalence of foreign degrees from N.A.R.I.C. may be submitted and taken into account also after the submission end date, but no later than the deadline for the submission of objections against the decisions of the Evaluation Committees. After the announcement of the temporary evaluation results, the certificate of equivalence is presented only by submitting a relevant objection.

**Question 6: Will any standard documents be available for the submission?**

Standard documents for the submission have been posted on H.F.R.I. website and will be available on the submission platform.

**Question 7: In case where the language of writing the thesis is not Greek, is it possible to fill in the Application in another language?**

According to the Call, the language the Application is written in is Greek, in exclusive. By exception, PhD Candidates writing their thesis in another language can fill in the Application's part pertaining to the subject of the thesis (title, abstract, extended summary) in the language the thesis is written in. The writing of the thesis in another language (other than Greek) is documented by submitting to the platform either the relevant approval decision by the General Assembly of Special Composition (GASS) of the Department or the solemn declaration of the PhD Candidate with regard to the language the thesis is written in.

**Question 8: What supporting documents (in .pdf format) must be submitted to the submission platform in order for the Application to be considered complete?**

In addition to the CV of the PhD Candidate, the motivation letter, the presentation of the thesis and other documents mentioned in Section B (Scientific Profile of the PhD Candidate and subject of the thesis [B1 and B2]) and described in detail in the text of the Call, in order for the Application to be considered complete, the following documents must be submitted electronically in .pdf format:

- A. Copies of diplomas (degree and postgraduate diploma) and/or grading equivalence from N.A.R.I.C. (if applicable).
- B. A certificate from the Secretariat of the relevant Department regarding the appointment of a Three-Member Advisory Committee.
- C. The approval of GASS for writing the thesis in another language (for PhD Candidates that have the approval of the Department's GASS for writing their thesis in another language).
- D. A certificate of military recruitment (for male candidates).
- E. A certificate of marital status (for female candidates who are entitled to extension of the maximum time due to pregnancy).

**Question 9: The copies of diplomas to be posted on the online submission platform have to be certified?**

H.F.R.I. accepts the submission of simple, legible copies of the original degrees delivered by Greek Educational Institutions. The same applies to foreign diplomas, provided that the copies have been previously certified by a lawyer.