We are inviting to submit applications for State Scholarship for short-term Master's or Doctoral degree studies at a university in a foreign state which has gained international recognition for academic year 2021–2022.

Education Exchanges Support Foundation (hereinafter referred to as the Foundation), is announcing a call for applications for the State Scholarships for Master's or Doctoral degree students of the Lithuanian higher education and research institutions regarding short-term studies at a university in a foreign state, which have gained international recognition, for **the academic year of 2021–2022**.

Duration of the short-term Master's or Doctoral degree studies – not shorter than 3 months and not longer than 10 months (2 semesters).

The state funding shall be allocated for no more than 10 selected candidates.

Requirements for the status of the candidate:

- To be a citizen of the Republic of Lithuania or to meet other requirements on the status of a person established under the Order of the Minister of Education and Science of the Republic of Lithuania of 22 May 2020 no. V-771 "On Allocating State Funding to Studies, Academic Mobility and Lithuanian Education both in Lithuania and Abroad"¹;
- To be an excellent student of the Master's or Doctoral degree studies of Lithuanian higher education and research institution:
- To possess an agreement on accepting for studies from a university in a foreign state, which has gained international recognition;
- Good command of the language, in which the studies shall be carried out not lower than advanced language user level B2 in accordance with the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages.

Selection criteria:

- Compliance of the submitted documents with the requirements established under the terms and conditions of the competition: the application is submitted on time; all the necessary documents are submitted;
- Compliance of the candidate with all the requirements on status established under the terms and conditions of the application (see **Requirements on the status of the candidate**);
- The relevance and significance of the achievements of the candidate's studies and scientific (artistic) work in the respectful field of studies: relevant results of the Master's or Doctoral degree studies are assessed, including previously executed/ currently carried out scientific (artistic) research, scientific publications (or publications in culture and art editions), participation at scientific (art) conferences or other science (art) events, the theme of the final work;
- The relevance and significance of the achievements of the accepting university in the selected study and (or) science (art) field, in the context of international recognition;
- Compliance of the significant achievements of the accepting university in a certain field of studies and (or) science (art) with the defined study goals and envisaged scientific (artistic) research work of the candidate;
- Reasoning of the motivation of the candidate;

¹ The state funding can also be allocated to citizens of the member state of the European Union, European Free Trade Association, working and (or) having a right to permanent residence in the Republic of Lithuania, and their family members, citizens of other foreign countries and persons without citizenship, who have the right to permanent residence in the Republic of Lithuania.

• Reasoning of the recommendation submitted by the academic supervisor of the final scientific (art) work.

The allocated state funding:

- 1. Scholarship:
 - For Master degree students 480 EUR per month.
 - For Doctoral students 600 Eur per month.

It should be noted that the state scholarship allocated for a student, who leaves for short-term studies abroad, is to be indexed taking into consideration the local subsistence coefficients ratified by the Minister of Education, Science and Sports (the Order of the Minister can be found here: https://www.e-tar.lt/portal/lt/legalAct/866ddac09c2911ea9515f752ff221ec9/asr);

- 2. The reimbursed share of the study price. It should be highlighted that reimbursement of a certain share of the price of the studies is linked with the prices of the national standard price of Master's and Doctoral degree studies in Lithuania, i.e. the allocated funding shall not be higher than the maximum price of one year of Masters or Doctoral degree studies in the respectful field ratified in the Order of the Minister of Education, Science and Sports (the Order of the Minister can be found here: https://www.e-tar.lt/portal/lt/legalAct/8b48d640623411eb9dc7b575f08e8bea). In case the candidate travels for incomplete academic semester, the price of the studies shall be calculated taking into consideration the factual travel period;
- 3. **Travel reimbursement**, taking into consideration the distance from the place of residence (the city) and the location of studies (the city), according to the European Commission distance calculator (more information on size of the travel reimbursement can be found here: https://stipendijos.lt/svarbu/#dalis-keliones-ismokos)

It should be noted that in case of a situation, when the applications of the candidates are of equal value, the priority shall be granted to the candidates, who have other sources for funding the scholarship, the price of the studies or travel disbursement. Double financing is not allowed, e. g. if a person receives other country's scholarship, the scholarship of the Foundation will not be allocated, however other types of support may be allocated.

Documents to be submitted for the competition (scanned documents must be submitted via application submission system. More information can be found by pressing the link for submission of the application):

- 1. <u>Application for Education Exchanges Support Foundation, completed via application submission system.</u>
- 2. A letter from higher education and research institution the candidate is studying at, validating the status of the Master's or Doctoral degree student, also indicating the envisaged duration of the studies at a foreign state university. The letter must be signed by an authorised person, following the internal procedure ratified at the science and study institution.
- 3. Copies of the awarded Bachelor's degree diploma (for Master's degree students) or Master's degree diploma (for Doctoral students), including the diploma supplement.
- 4. Certificate on the current results of the studies, including passed Doctoral degree examinations, in case any examinations have already been passed.
- 5. Document which would indicate the scientific (art) researches previously carried out by the candidate or currently implemented by the candidate, scientific publications (or publications in editions on culture and science), participation at scientific (art) conferences or other science (art) events, theme of the final work.

- 6. Study plan and description of the planned scientific (artistic) work, expressly linking it with the achievements of the foreign state university which has gained international recognition in a certain field of studies and (or) branch of science (art). The study plan must be agreed upon with the accepting university.
- 7. Motivational letter.
- 8. 1 recommendation, prepared in the course of the last 6 months by the academic supervisor of the final scientific (artistic) work of the candidate, including reasoning, why the candidate should travel for short-term studies at a certain university in a foreign state.
- 9. Agreement to accept the candidate for the studies from the foreign state university which has gained international recognition.
- 10. A document confirming good command of the language, in which the studies shall take place (not lower than advanced language used level B2 in accordance with the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages Europass language passport.
- 11. Curriculum Vitae (CV).

NOTE: It is not compulsory to receive credits for doctoral students in the course of their short-term studies, i.e. it is possible to engage in another type of activity simultaneously, provided that it is envisaged under the Doctoral degree study curriculum.

Submission of applications and course of the competition:

- Electronic application is submitted to the Foundation until May 15, 2021 inclusively (<u>it</u> is completed on the application submission system);
- Eligibility of the applications is assessed after their submission, later on the quality of the applications is evaluated. Non-eligible applications are rejected and their quality is not evaluated;
- The applications of the candidates are assessed taking into consideration the above indicated candidate selection criteria (see Selection Criteria). The evaluation of the quality of the applications is performed by external evaluators;
- The decision regarding recommendation of the candidates for allocation of state funding is made by International Studies Commission (hereinafter referred to as ISC);
- Taking into consideration the suggestions of ISC, the Foundation allocates state funding for the selected candidates;
- The candidates shall be notified about the application assessment results and allocation of the state funding individually via application submission system.

Contact information

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