



GOZO REGIONAL
DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

Gozo Scholarship Scheme



Introduction

As an entity aimed to strengthen Gozo's institutional framework, the Gozo Regional Development Authority (hereinafter the **GRDA** or the **Authority**) aims to support Gozo's regional economic and social development through various measures.

The GRDA is launching an initiative called the **Regional Scholarship Scheme (RSS)**, with the scope to provide financial support at postgraduate level in the field of regional development related to Gozo.

General Terms and Conditions

1. The GRDA hereby commits itself to fund a number of scholarships for studies at Master's and Ph.D. levels offered by an accredited educational institution.¹
2. The thematic areas of studies to be pursued shall be in the field of regional development or other related thematic areas concerning Gozo.
3. Aspiring candidates must submit the chosen theme to the GRDA by the 30th of September 2024.
4. Scholarship candidates will be interviewed by a Selection Board. Criteria for the award and selection of candidates will be drawn up prior to the holding of interviews and scores shall be allocated accordingly. The decision of the Selection Board will be final.
5. The number of scholarships to be funded is based on a two-tier level: I) it shall be on a first come first served basis in line with the allocated budget for this initiative, and II) whether the submitted theme is compatible with the thematic area as defined in point 2 above.
6. Submitted themes for funding shall be deemed as accepted ONLY once it has been approved by the Evaluation Board and a Letter of Acceptance has been issued and duly signed by CEO or any other GRDA official to whom such authority has been delegated
7. Eligible costs include enrolment and tuition fees and ancillary expenses incurred that are relevant to the study being conducted subject to the GRDA's approval.
8. Wherever the Awardee decides to physically reside to be able to follow the course of studies as

¹ MQRIC

approved by the GRDA Selection Board, will have to bear all applicable travel, living, accommodation, and other related costs.

9. The proposed funding allocation for every Scholarship shall cover up to ninety percent (90%) of all eligible costs but will not exceed a total comprehensive amount of five thousand euro (€5,000).
10. The applicant must disclose any scholarships or grants received from the GRDA or another source whether public or not for the same course of studies. Thus, the applicant shall be required to submit a declaration to such effect when submitting any application under this scholarship scheme;
11. Any scholarship awardee is expected to follow, independently, any course or courses as necessary, which are a requisite to commence the course of studies chosen by the Selection Board for funding by the GRDA.
12. For funding to be awarded, the Awardee must (save for instances of duly justified reasons such as unforeseen circumstances), successfully complete and pass the programme of studies for which the Awardee is enrolled. If the Awardee fails to do so, the Awardee shall not be eligible for funding under this Scholarship Scheme as applicable.
13. The GRDA has sole discretion in awarding these scholarships based on the application and selection criteria set for this scholarship scheme;
14. The Awardee will be required to publish a paper of around five thousand (5000) words on the research being carried out, in one of the GRDA publications such as in '*Perspettivi: A Gozo Review*'.
15. The GRDA reserves the right to review and revoke the scholarships, in whole or in part if;
 - i. It is discovered that the awardee was selected for the scholarship based on untrue or misleading information; or
 - ii. The applicant fails to comply with these terms and conditions as well as the eligibility criteria set out below; or
 - iii. Is found guilty of academic or disciplinary misconduct;
16. In such instances, the awardee shall reimburse the funds awarded under the scholarship scheme, the amount of which will depend on whether the scholarship was revoked in whole or in part;

17. Reimbursement as aforesaid shall be affected not later than three (3) months from the date on which the awardee is found to have breached these terms and conditions;
18. In the event that the Awardee requires a suspension of studies, assuming that such a request is validated and approved by the educational institution offering the course of studies, the utilisation of the Scholarship allocation will be extended by the suspended term, up to a maximum of two (2) years.
19. Application fees relating to any extensions granted beyond the normal term of such course of studies including any extensions as defined in point 18 above, shall be borne by the applicant. Thus any period during which the suspension or repetition subsists, will not be covered by the awarded funds.
20. The scholarship scheme as is being applied cannot be awarded to the same individual more than once;
21. The scholarship is not transferable to another person whether it be natural or having a distinct legal personality;
22. This scholarship scheme is not transferable to other educational institutions regardless if the course offered by other educational institutions is related or identical to the one approved by the Evaluation Board;
23. Had the applicant resigned from the approved course of studies and enrolled into another course or vice-versa which is also eligible under another scholarship scheme offered by the GRDA, the applicant may be allowed, at the discretion of the GRDA, to apply for the scholarship provided that, the applicant is required to submit a declaration to this effect, indicating the course that is now following or that was originally following, until when and from when the change took effect and subject to funding;
24. The GRDA reserves the right to make amendments to these terms and conditions provided that the applicants are informed accordingly;
25. Once prospective candidates apply with the educational institution and get confirmation of acceptance, it is their responsibility to apply for the scholarship scheme as defined in the *Application Process* set out below.
26. Once the application and selection processes have been completed, the GRDA is to inform the successful applicants regarding their eligibility for the take-up of the scholarship scheme;

27. When the results are published at the end of each academic year or as the case may be, it is the applicants' responsibility to inform the GRDA with their progression by providing an official transcript and thus, being eligible for reimbursement;
28. The GRDA reserves the right to close the scheme should funds be exhausted. This means that even though applicants are successful in their application, sponsorship depends on the scheme take-up.

Eligibility Criteria

In addition to the above general terms and conditions, the applicants must:

- i. Be Maltese nationals or nationals of another State who are entitled to equal access to education under the same conditions as Maltese nationals in accordance with EU law;
- ii. Have applied for the course of studies as described in point 2 and be in possession of an unconditional letter of acceptance for this course of studies issued by the educational institution offering it;
- iii. NOT be in receipt of any other scholarship from another sponsoring institution or organization whether public or otherwise for the same course of studies;
- iv. Applicants must successfully complete any necessary academic studies as outlined in the terms and conditions above and are to provide the necessary documentation as defined in the *Application Process* below;

Application Process

- i. Applications are to be received by not later than the 30th of September 2024 at 17.00 hrs (Central European Summer Time) and are to be sent by email to schemes@grda.mt;
- ii. The application needs to be accompanied by the following preliminary documents:
 - a. Copy of passport/ID card and CV;
 - b. The Research of Studies to be conducted is to be submitted for funding under this scheme;
 - c. A summary of between 300-500 words indicating how this Research of Studies will effect Gozo;

d. A certificate from MQRIC indicating that the educational institution offering the course of studies is accredited in Malta;

e. A covering letter from the educational institution indicating that the applicant has been accepted for the course of studies being submitted for funding by the GRDA under this scheme;

f. A declaration as stipulated in the *General Terms and Conditions*, indicating any other scholarships or grants received (if any) for this course of studies;

iii. Additional documentation may be requested along the evaluation process;

iv. Late applications without a valid reason or incomplete applications shall not be considered.



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