



MINISTRY FOR EDUCATION AND EMPLOYMENT



TESS - Tertiary Education Scholarship Scheme

17th July 2019 – 9th August 2019
Noon – Local time

**This scheme is administered by the
Students' Maintenance Grants' and Scholarships Unit
Ministry for Education and Employment**

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1. Introduction

- 1.1 The Tertiary Education Scholarships Scheme is intended to support good quality tertiary education at MQF Level 7 and MQF Level 8 and to seek to contribute towards the Maltese labour market with the right skilled individuals. The scheme is aimed to support those pursuing this path to succeed both at the level of education attainment as well as contributing effectively towards the economy.
- 1.2 Tertiary education forms an increasingly important part of any country's economic and social agenda. It also supplies a key element of many people's continuing professional development.
- 1.3 The Tertiary Education Scholarships Scheme which aims to address the above objectives is financed by the Ministry for Education and Employment in Malta.

2. Aims and Objectives

- 2.1 The key objectives of the Tertiary Education Scholarships Scheme are to:
 - Provide funding opportunities for people to pursue higher education study programmes;
 - Assist people to pursue further levels of academic research;
 - Improve the quality and relevance of the study programmes vis-a-vis industry requirements;
 - Reduce skills mismatches particularly within the priority economic sectors; and
 - Support further research in science and technology.

3. Explanatory Notes and Definitions

- 3.1 **Academic Record** shall mean an official document issued by a Recognised Institution. The document shall show the marks/grades obtained by the Applicant and, where it is the norm, the final grade/classification.
- 3.2 **Agreement** shall mean a legally binding document, signed by the Scholarship Awardee as beneficiary of the Scholarship, and the Scholarships Unit. These Regulations shall be construed as forming part of the Agreement. The Agreement has to be signed by not later than three (3) months after the commencement of studies or the publication of rankings, whichever comes last unless otherwise justified. The monetary amounts shown in the Agreement shall be disbursed only if the proper documentation (invoices, receipts and any other relevant documents) is submitted and verified for eligibility and correctness. In the event of any inconsistency or discrepancy between the Agreement and these Regulations, these Regulations shall prevail in all cases and the Agreement shall be amended to the extent of the discrepancy or inconsistency with these Regulations.
- 3.3 **Applicant** shall mean a person who submits a scholarship application.
- 3.4 **Awardee** shall mean a person who is awarded a scholarship.

- 3.5 **Awarding Body** refers to an organisation whose purpose is awarding accredited qualifications and is recognised by the relevant National Regulatory Authorities.
- 3.6 **Bench Fees** shall mean fees charged by Recognised Institutions reflecting educational costs related to the execution of studies or research activity, but which are not covered by the tuition fees. Such costs are not related (but not limited) to general maintenance, travel, conference attendance (including registration fees), buying of books, registration to access libraries, use/purchasing of computer/laptops, hard disks, energy charges, health insurance, sports' membership or living costs/personal salaries of the Awardee. In the case of bench fees above five hundred euro (€500), a breakdown of the costs need, to be provided by the Recognised Institution, before the signing of the Scholarship Agreement (as per clause 3.2). **ONLY technical expenses directly related with the programme/course from the Recognised Institution are eligible.** Failure by the Recognised Institution and/or the Awardee to provide such a breakdown, precludes the Board from the obligation to honour any claims for Bench Fees. All Bench Fees need to be declared in writing in the Unconditional Letter of Acceptance (ULA). Any increase in, or any additional Bench Fees cannot be claimed by the Awardee or the Recognised Institution if not included in the ULA submitted by the closing date.
- 3.7 **Commencement Date** of scholarship shall mean the date as specified in the ULA being the official start date of the study programme/course and is considered as the date on which payment to Awardee commences.
- 3.8 **Completion Date** shall mean the date when the study programme/course is completed and the final result is published.
- 3.9 **Course Duration** refers to the total length of the study programme/course as established by the Recognised Institution. When it does not cover whole months, the funds disbursed will be calculated pro rata to the nearest month.
- 3.10 **ECTS** shall mean European Credit Transfer System.
- 3.11 **End Date** shall mean the last day of the study programme/course as specified on the ULA or on the Transcript, as issued by the Recognised Institution, whichever date is the earliest. Payments are calculated to cover the period from the **Commencement Date** to the **End Date**.
- 3.12 **Full-time studies** shall mean studying physically full-time on-campus at a Recognised Institution. This excludes learning or studying from any other place that is not designated as being part of the campus of that Educational Institution. The Board may ask the Institution to confirm the physical presence and the duration on campus of the Awardee.
- 3.13 **Full-time-distance learning programmes.** The Recognised Institution is to notify the Tertiary Education Scholarships' Scheme Unit which part of the programme shall be held on campus and what part is carried out through distance learning. If the Recognised Institution does not provide such information within two weeks from being notified by the Tertiary Education Scholarships' Scheme Board, the course shall be considered as distance learning. For definition of full time studies, please refer to Clause 3.12 of these Regulations.

- 3.14 **ISCED** shall mean International Standard Classification of Education.
- 3.15 **Joint Degree** shall mean a single degree issued by at least two Educational Institutions offering an integrated programme and recognized officially in the countries where the degree-awarding institutions are located. For the purpose of these Regulations, when an Applicant applies for a Joint Degree, a leading Institution has to be identified. The Tertiary Education Scholarships' Scheme Board shall only acknowledge one Recognised Institution.
- 3.16 **Maintenance Grant** shall mean a grant which is awarded as part of the Scholarship in accordance with all conditions laid in these Regulations and in the Agreement to contribute towards the living expenses of the awardee.
- 3.17 **Malta Government Undergraduate Scheme (MGUS)** provides stipend for students following courses at MQF Level 5 leading to MQF Level 6 at recognised private local and foreign educational institutions.
- 3.18 **MQF - Malta Qualifications Framework** shall mean the translation device to make national qualifications more readable across Europe, promoting workers and learners' mobility between countries and facilitating their lifelong learning.
- 3.19 **MQF Level 7 Qualification** shall mean any qualification referenced at Level 7 of the Malta Qualifications Framework.
- 3.20 **MQF Level 8 Qualification** shall mean any qualification referenced at Level 8 of the Malta Qualifications Framework.
- 3.21 **MQRIC** shall mean Malta Qualifications Recognition Information Centre within the National Commission for Further and Higher Education.
- 3.22 **NCFHE** shall mean National Commission for Further and Higher Education.
- 3.23 **Per Annum** shall mean twelve (12) calendar months. When a course is of a duration of, for example nine (9) calendar months, the grant shall be awarded pro rata, over that number of months.
- 3.24 **Recognised Institution** shall mean a Higher Education Institution or an Awarding Body recognised by the competent authorities in the country where the institution is registered and mutually recognised by NCFHE (in the case of foreign institutions) or locally registered Educational Institution accredited by NCFHE.
- 3.25 **Scholarships Appeals Board** shall mean a Board appointed by the Minister for Education and Employment, entrusted with assessing and delivering final decisions in respect of petitions submitted by Applicants contesting decisions taken by the Tertiary Education Scholarships' Scheme Board and/or the Scholarships Unit as administrator of the Tertiary Education Scholarships Scheme on the interpretation of these Regulations. Any decision taken by the Appeals Board shall be regarded as final and irrevocable, for all intents and purposes of the Tertiary Education Scholarships Scheme.

- 3.26 **Study Abroad Allowance** shall mean an additional allowance amounting to two thousand and five hundred euro (€2500) awarded to full-time Awardees who would be abroad (that is outside the Maltese territory), studying on campus at a Recognised Institution throughout the course of their programme/course. A ‘Confirmation of Residence Form’ shall be completed by all Awardees to confirm the place where the studies and / or research are or will be taking place. When an Awardee studying abroad spends part of his/her studies in Malta, the Study Abroad Allowance is paid on a pro rata basis. In addition, Part-time / Distance Learning Awardees will be entitled to an allowance amounting to two hundred euro (€200) per visit abroad up to a maximum of two thousand and four hundred euro (€2,400) over a 12-month period. This allowance will only be paid on presentation of the related boarding passes and a letter of confirmation from their Institution.
- 3.27 **TESS** shall mean the Tertiary Education Scholarships Scheme for the purposes of these Regulations, and the Agreement, a Scholarship scheme administered by the Scholarships Unit - within the Ministry for Education and Employment.
- 3.28 **Tertiary Education Scholarships’ Scheme Board** shall mean a Board appointed by the Minister responsible for Education and Employment. This Board shall be entrusted with the evaluation and ranking of Applicants for the awarding of Scholarship and overseeing of the scheme
- 3.29 **Transcript** shall mean the same as **Academic Record**.
- 3.30 **Tuition Fees** shall mean enrolment, administration, registration and/or examination fees charged by a Recognised Institution so that the Applicant follows an MQF Level 7 or MQF Level 8 programme. Tuition Fees covered shall be those charged directly by a Recognised Institution as they appear on the ULA. Any subsequent increase in Tuition Fees cannot be claimed by the Awardee or the Recognised Institution if not included in the ULA submitted by the closing date
- 3.31 **Unconditional Letter of Acceptance (ULA)** shall mean a letter issued to the Applicant by the Registrar (or a delegated high authority) of the Recognised Institution which shall include the following details:
- A clear statement by the Recognised Institution that it is unconditionally accepting the Applicant to follow a programme of study.
 - The Commencement Date of studies. Where the exact date is not specified, this is taken as the last day of the month mentioned on the ULA.
 - The End Date of studies. Where the exact date is not specified, this is taken as the first day of the month mentioned in the ULA.
 - Modality of study (that is whether it is distance learning or part time or full time studies);
 - The Number of Credits / Number of ECTSs pertaining to the programme of study;
 - The Number of obligatory visits on University campus (This is required only in the case of applicants following Part-time or Distance Learning programmes with

Educational Institutions outside the Maltese territory. Visits should be indicated either per annum or for the whole duration of the programme).

- The Tuition Fee (if applicable) shall be indicated on the ULA and not provided through an electronic link. Applicant shall note that the Agreement to be signed at a later stage (should he/she be awarded a Scholarship) shall include only the information printed on the ULA provided. The Scholarships Unit shall not accept any revisions in Tuition Fees other than those that reflect the information and/or data provided by the ULA submitted by the deadline. The fees paid, as Tuition Fees, is the amount shown and specified as such on the ULA submitted;
- The Bench Fees (if applicable); and
- Any other information required by the Scholarships Unit.

It is the duty of the Applicant to ensure that:

- When he/she chooses a Recognised Institution, this institution is in a position to issue such a ULA with all the above details.
- The ULA is in the form of an original letter, signed by the Registrar of the University (or delegated high authority). Scanned, PDF copies or other electronically transmitted formats shall be accepted PROVISIONALLY in terms of Clause 6.2 unless the Tertiary Education Scholarships Scheme Office receives them directly from the Recognised Institution. If not, the original copy of the ULA must be produced before the signing of the Scholarship Agreement.
- In the event where the Recognised Institution issues solely electronic copies of the ULA, the ULA shall be emailed directly by the Institution to the Tertiary Education Scholarships Scheme Office on tess.mede@gov.mt. Scanned or emailed copies of the ULA forwarded to the Applicant shall not be accepted.
- No additional costs shall be entered in the Agreement other than those stated in the ULA.
- All applicants are obliged to submit the Unconditional Letter of Acceptance by, **Friday, 4th October 2019 by not later than 4.00 p.m. (Local time).**

4. Eligibility

4.1 In order to apply for the Tertiary Education Scholarships Scheme, an Applicant shall by the closing date of the TESS application:

- 4.1.1 (a) Be a Maltese citizen who has been residing in Malta for the past five (5) years. Provided that a Maltese citizen who has been residing outside Malta for study, health or work purposes or any other purpose which the Tertiary Education Scholarships Scheme Board may consider, will still be eligible to apply and this period of time during which the citizen was abroad will not be taken into consideration for the purpose of calculating the five (5) year requirement; or
- (b) Be a Maltese Citizen who is a worker or self-employed person in Malta; or
- (c) Be a national of an EU/EEA state or a family member of such EU/EEA national (as defined in SL460.17 and in SL217.04 respectively for EU and EEA nationals), provided that such person has obtained permanent residence in Malta in

accordance with SL460.17 and in SL217.04 respectively for EU and EEA nationals; or

(d) Be a national of an EU/EEA state who is in Malta exercising his/her Treaty rights as a worker, self-employed person or person retaining such status in accordance with SL460.17; or

(e) Be a third country national that has been granted long-term residence status under SL217.05. Tertiary Education Scholarships Scheme - 2018 8 / 27.

4.1.2 Be applying to follow programme of study at **MQF level 7 that is longer than 3 years / 36 months duration** or to follow a programme of study at MQF Level 8. (Please refer to Table 1 of these regulations)

4.1.3 Applicants can only apply for qualifications at a higher level than the qualification they already possess. Applicants must not be in possession of a degree at the same level of that they are applying for under this scheme. Thus, applicants must be applying for a higher level qualification than the one already attained. For avoidance of doubt, **ONLY** those conferred with the Degree of Doctor of Laws, Doctor of Medicine and Surgery (awarded by the University of Malta), and those conferred with a degree of Doctor in Veterinary Medicine, are eligible to apply under this scheme **ONLY** if they apply to follow a Master Degree at MQF Level 7 or a Doctorate Degree / Professional Doctorate at MQF Level 8. This applies also to all applicants who are already in possession of a qualification at MQF Level 7 (such as ACCA qualification).

4.1.4 Applicants who are already in possession of an MQF Level 8 Doctorate Degree / Professional Doctorate are not eligible to apply under this scheme.

4.1.5 Applicants shall start their course by 31st December 2019.

4.1.6 Applicants who have already started their programme of study before the **17th of July 2019** (that is, before the launching of the scheme) may also apply, subject that the end date of their programme must be in 2020 or after. In such cases, the Applicant is eligible for funding of expenditure incurred as from 1st July 2018 onwards. Such applicants are still obliged to submit a ULA / Registration Letter as per Clause 3.31 by **Friday, 4th October 2019 at 4.00 p.m.** (Local time), whereby the Recognised Institution must declare as well the number of academic years remaining to complete the programme of study / course applied for and a progress report of the Applicant carried so far.

4.1.7 Applicants who, by the closing date of application are still undergoing another programme of study may still apply, provided that such programme is to be concluded and results published by December 2019. Should the applicant be successful in securing a grant, results of the ongoing programme of study, are to be presented to the Scholarships Unit before entering into agreement, if awarded a TESS Scholarship.

- 4.1.8 The complete Application Form shall be submitted by **Friday, 9th August 2019 at noon (Local Time)**. Transcript, Unconditional Letter of Acceptance and MQRIC report (where applicable) shall be submitted by **Friday, 4th October 2019 at 4.00 p.m. (Local Time)**.
- 4.1.9 If applying for a scholarship in which the programme of study leads to MQF Level 7, the Applicant shall hold by **Friday, 4th October at 4.00 p.m. (Local time)** a ULA from at least one Recognised Institution for a programme / course at MQF Level 7 as indicated on the Application Form.
- 4.1.10 If applying for a Scholarship in which the programme/course leads to MQF Level 8, the Applicant shall hold by **Friday, 4th October 2019 at 4.00 p.m. (Local time)**, the following:
- a first cycle Degree (MQF Level 6); and / or
 - a second cycle Degree (MQF Level 7) at Masters level; and
 - a ULA from at least one Recognised Institution for a programme/course at MQF Level 8 as indicated on the Application Form.
- 4.1.11 An Applicant who is starting a programme of study leading to MQF Level 7, but part of the programme/course is referenced to MQF Level 6 shall NOT be eligible to apply under this scheme but shall be eligible to apply under the Malta Government Undergraduate Scheme (MGUS) / Student Maintenance Grant.
- 4.1.12 It is the responsibility of Applicants, in possession of qualifications at MQF Level 5 or higher awarded by a foreign or local Institutions (excluding University of Malta (UoM), Malta College of Arts Science and Technology (MCAST) and Institute for Tourism Studies (ITS)) to produce an evaluation report / receipt of an MQRIC application on the equivalence and comparability of qualifications issued by the Malta Qualifications Recognition Information Centre (MQRIC) within the National Commission for Further & Higher Education (NCFHE) (as per Education Act – Act XXIV of 1988 in accordance with the Mutual Recognition of Qualifications Act – Act XVIII of 2002). A copy of the said report / receipt of an MQRIC application issued by the MQRIC, or the designated authority in the case of warrants, shall be attached to the application, with the original presented at the interview.
- Applicants not in possession of this report may still apply, provided that they submit a copy of the report or receipt to the Tertiary Education Scholarships Scheme as soon as it becomes available and in any case by not later than **Friday, 4th October 2019 at 4.00 p.m. (Local time)**
- 4.1.13 Employees of the Public Service/Public Sector who submit an application for full-time studies are required to make a formal written request to the Permanent Secretary of their respective Ministry through the Head of the relative Department/Directorate, on pain of ineligibility, to confirm whether paid or unpaid leave of absence for the duration of the course has already been conceded under those terms and conditions as established by the Ministry concerned. Approval or rejection of such request has to be endorsed by the Permanent Secretary. Clause 13.7 of these regulations shall apply to those eligible Applicants with approved paid leave of absence for the duration of the course, who are subsequently awarded a Scholarship.

- 4.1.14 Applicants in possession of other national/EU (or a combination of both) public grants or national/EU/Commonwealth (or a combination) scholarships for the same course or programme shall be deemed ineligible under the Tertiary Education Scholarships Scheme if not notified and approved by the Board. Any scholarships or other supplementary grants awarded to the Scholarship Awardee shall be notified to and approved by the Tertiary Education Scholarships Scheme Board, whether such are awarded to the Applicant prior to the Tertiary Education Scholarships Scheme or throughout the duration of the Scholarship. In the event that an Applicant is granted a Tertiary Education Scholarship and MEDE discovers, after the grant of such Tertiary Education Scholarship, that the Scholarship Awardee had, at any point in time, whether prior to the award of the Tertiary Education Scholarship, or after such award, is in receipt of any national/EU public grant or national/EU scholarship, the Scholarship Awardee shall be liable to refund all the amount/s up to then paid to him/her or on his/her behalf in full, and this without prejudice to any other legal action which may be taken in his/her regard.
- 4.1.15 Applicants in possession of other national/EU (or a combination of both) public grants or national/EU/Commonwealth (or a combination) scholarships for a different course or programme, have to complete the first course and fulfil all the contractual obligations before the grant of a second scholarship (at a higher level) is awarded.
- 4.1.16 Applicants shall become ineligible for a Scholarship if s/he is in breach of any part of the Regulations.
- 4.1.17 Applicants may apply to follow programmes of studies in any Area of Study specified in Schedule I of these Regulations.

5. Tenure and Placement

- 5.1 Awards are tenable at any local or international Recognised Institution for a specific programme of study or research. Only those institutions recognised by the NCFHE shall be taken into consideration by the Tertiary Education Scholarships' Scheme Board.
- 5.2 It is the responsibility of Applicants, applying for qualifications awarded by foreign Recognised Institutions to produce an evaluation report on comparability of qualifications issued by the Malta Qualifications Recognition Information Centre (MQRIC) within the National Commission for Further & Higher Education (NCFHE). A copy of the said report or receipt issued by the MQRIC, shall be attached to the application, with the original presented at the interview. Applicants not in possession of this report or receipt may still apply, provided that they submit a copy of the receipt of an MQRIC application to the Tertiary Education Scholarship Scheme Board by not later than **Friday, 4th October 2019, 4.00 p.m. (Local time)**. The provisions contained in Clause 4.1.12 of these Regulations shall apply *mutatis mutandis*.

5.3 The MQRIC may be contacted as follows:

Malta Qualifications Recognition Information Centre (MQRIC) /
National Commission for Further and Higher Education (NCFHE)
J. Abela Scolaro Street,
Hamrun HMR1304
Tel. No. 153
E-mail: qric.malta@gov.mt
www.ncfhe.gov.mt

6. Choice of Institution

- 6.1 Applicants are expected to identify not more than five (5) Recognised Institutions and programmes/courses that they consider most appropriate on the Application Form. No changes to the list of institutions are accepted after the closing date.
- 6.2 Applicants shall submit at least one Unconditional Letter of Acceptance (ULA) from a Recognised Institution listed on their Application Form.
- 6.3 Many courses have strict admission deadlines and Applicants must take the necessary steps to secure admission to their preferred institutions in advance of the Scholarship application. Applicants should note that a number of institutions / university departments require an Applicant to demonstrate a valid Graduate Management Admission Test (GMAT) or Graduate Record Examination (GRE) score before an offer of admission can be made. The fees for these tests shall not be covered by Tertiary Education funds. Applicants should check admission requirements carefully at the time of application.

7. Administration of Tertiary Education Scholarships Scheme

- 7.1 The Tertiary Education Scholarships Scheme is administered by the Scholarships Unit within the Ministry for Education and Employment. The Tertiary Education Scholarships' Scheme Board is responsible for the selection and ranking process and for overseeing the scheme.

All correspondence is to be addressed to:

TESS - Tertiary Education Scholarships Scheme Office
Scholarships Unit
Ministry for Education and Employment
Room 112, Education Building
Great Siege Road,
Floriana VLT 2000,
Malta
Tel. No.: 153
E-mail: tess.mede@gov.mt
Website: www.myscholarship.gov.mt

8. Application Forms

- 8.1 In line with government policy and to enhance the Scholarships Unit environmental social responsibility **ONLY online applications are accepted**. Applicants are invited to apply using the appropriate online Electronic Application on: www.myscholarship.gov.mt **In order to apply applicants must be in possession of an e-I.D.** It is the responsibility of the Applicants to ensure that their Application is successfully submitted, to keep a printed copy of the Application Form and to print a copy of the electronically generated acknowledgement. This shall be the Applicants' proof that an Application is submitted successfully online, and on time.

The following scanned copy of supporting document are to be uploaded with the application:

- i. Curriculum Vitae with photo;
 - ii. Appendix I : The relevance of Study / Research to the identified Priority Area (selected from Schedule 1);
 - iii. Appendix II: The relevance of Study / Research to Malta's Strategic Priorities and the EU2020 Strategies;
 - iv. Appendix III: The Impact of Study /Research on the development of Malta.
 - v. Applicant's Higher Educational Institution / Awarding Bodies transcripts / academic records (if already available);
 - vi. Unconditional Letter of Acceptance for the Recognised Institution applied for (if already available);
 - vii. MQRIC evaluation reports or receipt (if already available);
 - viii. Applicant's Disability identity card issued by the Commission for the Rights of Persons with Disability (CRPD)
 - ix. Permanent Residence permit (where applicable).
- 8.2 The Tertiary Education Scholarships Scheme Board shall give considerable weight to the contents of these Sections in the application form: -
- Appendix I : The relevance of Study / Research to the identified Priority Area (selected from Schedule 1);
 - Appendix II: The relevance of Study / Research to Malta's Strategic Priorities and the EU2020 Strategies;
 - Appendix III: The Impact of Study /Research on the development of Malta.

The Tertiary Education Scholarships Scheme Board may penalise Applicants who fail to submit the required Appendices with the Application Form.

- Appendix I: Applicants applying for a scholarship to support studies leading to MQF Level 8 shall submit a Proposal (Appendix1) that is not less than five hundred (500) words and not more than one thousand (1000) words.
Applicants applying to read for an MQF Level 7 qualification shall submit a clear overview of the relevance of their Study / Research to the identified priority area (Appendix 1) of not more than three hundred (300) words.
- Appendix II: Applicants applying for a scholarship to support studies leading to either MQF Level 8 or MQF Level 7 have to state the relevance of their study / research to

Malta's Strategic Priorities and the EU2020 Strategy in approximate three hundred (300) words.

- Appendix III: Applicants applying for a scholarship to support studies leading to either MQF Level 8 or MQF Level 7 have to state: what is the likely impact of their study / research on the Development of Malta in approximately three hundred (300) words.

In all cases the word count does not include references, bibliographies or footnotes.

- 8.3 Applicants are expected to elaborate further during the interview.
- 8.4 The Tertiary Education Scholarships Scheme Board shall penalise Applicants who fail to provide the correct mandatory documents. In such cases the application will be considered as incomplete and hence ineligible.
- 8.5 The Applications' deadline is **Friday, 9th August 2019 at noon (Local Time) as shown on the Malta Information Technology Agency (MITA) system.**
- Only in the case of the MQRIC statement / receipt, Transcript/Academic Records, Unconditional Letter of Acceptance, the date of submission is extended to Friday, 4th October 2019 at 4.00p.m. (Local Time).**
- 8.6 Supporting documents not uploaded with the online application are to be forwarded to the Tertiary Education Scholarships Scheme Office via email on the email address: tess.mede@gov.mt
- 8.7 Late and incomplete applications shall not be considered by the Tertiary Education Scholarships' Scheme Board. Applicants are strongly advised not to wait until the last day to submit their application since heavy internet traffic or a fault with the internet connection could lead to difficulties in submission. MEDE cannot be held responsible for any delay due to such difficulties.
- 8.8 Applicants are to ensure that they apply online by the stipulated deadline. The Tertiary Education Scholarships Scheme Board and the Scholarships' Appeals Board shall not consider any petitions stating that the Application Form was submitted without tangible proof as evidence.

9. Eligibility, Selection Process and Procedure

- 9.1 The Ministry for Education and Employment has set up the Tertiary Education Scholarships' Scheme Board to operate the process of selection. This Board shall be responsible for all matters concerning selection according to pre-established criteria identified in Clause 10 and determination of appropriate awards according to the Regulations.
- 9.2 Eligible Applicants shall be called for an interview. It is the responsibility of the Applicant to make sure to be available on the date and time communicated to him/her for the interview. No alternative arrangements shall be made to change the date and time of the interview unless there are exceptional circumstances (supported by written proof) that warrant the change of such date and time. The aforementioned exceptional circumstances shall be examined and such alternative date and time may be agreed to by the Board, at the Board's discretion.

Interviews are expected to be scheduled between August and October during week days from Monday to Friday from 8.30a.m. to 6.30 p.m.

Applicants who do not turn up for their interview will be considered as no longer interested and thus they will be considered ineligible by the board, unless the applicant informs the Scholarships Unit/Board that, he/she cannot make it due to exceptional circumstances.

Eligible applicants applying at MQF Level 8 will be required to prepare a power point presentation for their interview.

- 9.3 In the case of applicants who are unable to attend on the given date and time for the interview due to being abroad, such interviews shall take place via **SKYPE only** at the given date and time. The Tertiary Education Scholarships' Scheme Board does not assume any responsibility if the interview fails to materialise properly due to any technical reason. In exceptional cases, an alternative date for interview may be given by the Tertiary Education Scholarships Scheme Board depending on the circumstances, which led to the failure of such an interview.
- 9.4 The Ministry for Education and Employment has also set up the Scholarships' Appeals Board to deal with objections raised by Applicants after they are informed in writing of the decisions of the Tertiary Education Scholarships' Scheme Board (Refer also to Clause 9.6).
- 9.5 If an Applicant disagrees with the TESS Board, **only** the Applicant may present a petition by registered mail addressed to the Scholarships' Appeals Board or by email on scholarshipsappeals.mede@gov.mt within six (6) working days from the date of the written communication sent by the TESS Board communicating its decision to the Applicant in writing through registered mail. In the petition, the Applicant has to state clearly the reasons why he / she is contesting the decision taken by the Tertiary Education Scholarships' Scheme Board.
- 9.6 The Scholarships' Appeals Board shall only address appeals from decisions of the Tertiary Education Scholarships' Scheme Board on matters related to procedure or interpretation of the Regulations in terms of eligibility, awards, and other decisions related to the granting of a Scholarship. Under no circumstance shall the Scholarships' Appeals Board alter the Regulations; the score of the Applicants derived from interviews by the Tertiary Education Scholarships' Scheme Board, or change the ranking of an Applicant as a result of such score.
- 9.7 The decision of the Scholarships' Appeals Board is final and conclusive.

10. Selection Criteria

10.1 Applications are considered on the basis of the following selection criteria:

- a) Academic merit of the Applicant (20%) – *Only qualifications from MQF Level 5 will be taken into consideration;*
- b) The relevance of study / research to the identified Priority Area (25%);
- c) The relevance of the course / research to the local economy (25%);
- d) The likely impact of the course / research on the development of Malta (25%);
- e) Previous work experience in the area of specialisation applied for and/or work with voluntary organisations (15%).

10.2 Only in the case of a tie, the modality of study of the programme (preference shall be given to programmes in the following order *ceteris paribus*):

- First preference – Full-time programmes;
- Second preference – Part-time programmes;
- Third Preference - Distance learning programmes.

10.3 Provided that, students with disabilities and who do not have any possibility of following a full or part-time programme unless through distance learning, shall be given first preference in the same way as those who apply to follow full-time programmes.

For those who are shortlisted, the Tertiary Education Scholarships' Scheme Board shall consult further with Commission for the Rights of Persons with Disability (CRPD) to evaluate the nature of disability with respect to undergoing further studies and whether this disability shall be considered for the purpose of this Article.

10.4 An Applicant is considered to have passed the interview if the Applicant obtains a pass mark (that is 50% of the total allotted marks) in the criteria (b), (c) and (d) above. ***Obtaining a pass mark does not automatically mean that a scholarship is being awarded.***

11. Types of Scholarships and Value of Award

11.1 Applicants must be applying to read for a programme of study leading to a qualification at MQF Level 7 or 8¹.

11.2 Applicants awarded a scholarship shall be available to commence their programme /course by **31st December 2019**.

11.3 Joint degrees or split-site programmes may be considered as long as documentation is provided indicating the one, leading degree awarding institution.

11.4 Levels and modality of programmes / courses eligible under this scheme and value of awards are included in the table below for ease of reference:

¹ For further information about the Malta Qualification Framework, contact the National Commission for Further and Higher Education or visit the website <http://www.ncfhe.org.mt/>. For comparative purposes, MQF level 8 is equivalent to ISCED Level 8. For more information on the International Standard Classification of Education (ISCED 2011), visit the link: <http://www.uis.unesco.org/Education/Documents/isced-2011-en.pdf>.

Table 1 – Scholarship Grant

Level of programme	Start Date	Modality	Max. Duration of programme	Value of the Scholarship Grant
MQF Level 7	Course / programmes started after 17 th July 2019 (the launching of the scheme) where the duration of the course / programme must be longer than 3 years.	Part-Time/ Distance Learning	Up to a maximum of 5 years in all cases.	Tuition Fees / Bench Fees (where applicable) up to €8,000 for the whole duration of programme.
MQF Level 7	Course / programmes already started throughout 2019 or prior 2019.	Part-Time/ Distance Learning	With end date of course / programme should be in 2020 or after but it cannot exceed the 5 years duration in all cases	Tuition Fees / Bench Fees (where applicable) up to not more than €8,000 for the whole duration of the course / programme. (See Clause 4.1.6) In this case, the grant will be worked pro rata over the whole duration of the course / programme.
MQF Level 7	Course / programmes started after 17 th July 2019 (the launching of the scheme) where the duration of the course / programme must be longer than 3 years.	Full-Time	Up to a maximum of 4 years in all cases.	Tuition Fees / Bench Fees (where applicable) up to €8,000 for the whole duration of programme. (See Clause 4.1.6).
MQF Level 7	Course / programmes already started throughout 2019 or prior 2019	Full-Time	With end date of course / programme should be in 2020 or after but it cannot exceed the 4 years duration in all cases.	Tuition Fees + Bench Fees (if any) + Maintenance Grant (MG shall not exceed €2,500) up to €8,000 per annum in total. (See Clause 4.1.6). In this case, the grant will be worked pro rata over the whole duration of the course/ programme.
MQF Level 8	Course / programmes started after 17 th July 2019 (the launching of the scheme)	Part-Time/ Distance Learning	Up to a maximum of 7 years in all cases.	Tuition Fees / Bench Fees up to €20,000 for the whole duration of programme.
MQF Level 8	Starting throughout 2019 or prior 2019	Part-Time/ Distance Learning	With end date of course / programme should be in 2020 or after but it cannot exceed the 7 years duration in all cases.	Tuition Fees + Bench Fees (if any) up to €20,000 for the whole duration of programme. (See Clause 4.1.6). In this case, the grant will be worked pro rata over the whole duration of the course/ programme.
MQF Level 8	Course / programmes started after 17 th July 2019 (the launching of the scheme).	Full-Time	Up to a maximum duration of 5 years in all cases.	Tuition Fees + Bench Fees (if any) + Maintenance Grant (MG shall not exceed €2,500) up to €10,500 per annum in total.
MQF Level 8	Starting throughout 2019 or prior 2019 with end date of programme in 2020 or after.	Full-Time	With end date of course / programme should be in 2020 or after but it cannot exceed the 5 years duration in all cases.	Tuition Fees + Bench Fees (if any) + Maintenance Grant (MG shall not exceed €2,500) up to €10,500 per annum in total. (See Clause 4.1.6). In this case, the grant will be worked pro rata over the whole duration of the course/ programme.

11.5 Full-time Programmes / Courses:

Where tuition fees and bench fees amount to the total ceiling indicated or more, no maintenance grants will be paid since the whole grant will be absorbed to the maximum in tuition fees and bench fees. Only a maximum of €2,500 can be paid as maintenance grant per annum.

11.6 The whole grant shall be calculated on a pro-rata basis for the whole duration of the course based on the number of months. Maintenance grant, if applicable, shall be paid in two instalments during each academic year.

11.7 Tuition fees and/or bench fees are to be paid by the Scholarships' Awardees directly to the Recognised Institution. The fees paid by the student shall be reimbursed on receipt of both the Recognised Institution invoice and the original official receipt of payment or equivalent (i.e. receipted invoice where applicable) issued by the receiving Recognised Institution. ***Awardees are bound to provide a Bank statement as proof of payments.*** However, should the need arise, payments may be made directly to the Recognised Institution by the Scholarships Scheme Office subject to the approval by the Scholarships Unit MEDE and on receipt of invoice.

11.8 The Tertiary Education Scholarships Scheme Board may consider extension for completion of studies. **ONLY one Extension** beyond the completion date indicated on the scholarship agreement may be considered by Tertiary Education Scholarships' Scheme Board. Any request for extensions are to be addressed to the Tertiary Education Scholarships' Scheme Board supported by the approval of the Recognised Institution. Any request for extension is at the discretion of the Tertiary Education Scholarships' Scheme Board to approve or otherwise. During the extension period, no funds will be allocated or paid.

11.9 Payments of Scholarships grant are effected as follows:

- For full-time studies, the payment for tuition fees and/or bench fees is effected to the Awardee's Bank Account (or to the Recognised Institution) upon presentation of invoice/s, receipts and bank statement (as applicable). The payment of maintenance grant (if applicable) is split in two instalments: 50% at the beginning of an academic year and the remaining 50% after a satisfactory mid-academic year report is presented by the supervisor.
- For part-time and distance learning programmes, payments are effected upon presentation of invoice/s, receipts and/or bank statement (as applicable).
- During the final year of studies, the 50% of the scholarship grant will only be affected upon presentation / provision of the final official results to the TESS Office.

12. Additional allowances

12.1 Scholarship Awardees studying abroad:

For an Awardee selected by the Tertiary Education Scholarships' Scheme Board and who is following full-time studies in a foreign Recognised Institution outside Malta, a **Study Abroad Allowance** of two thousand and five hundred euro (€2,500) per annum is awarded. This amount shall be in addition to the amounts mentioned above and shall be given to cover additional costs related to studying abroad - provided that studying abroad shall mean, resident abroad (that is outside Malta) throughout the programme of studies. Proof of residence abroad must be provided from time to time. The Board reserves the right to ask the applicant for any further evidence of his/her residence abroad and if such further evidence is not forthcoming, the Board may decide to demand a refund of this allowance if already paid. The Awardee is entitled to such an allowance if he / she presents Boarding Pass showing details of flight and destination as well as completing the declaration on the form entitled "Confirmation of Residence Form" which is to be filled on signing of the Agreement. For further definition of Study Abroad Allowance, please consult Clauses 3.23 and 3.26 of these Regulations.

Awardees following Part time or Distance Learning programmes courses who during the course of their studies are required to attend sessions physically on campus at the foreign Institution as indicated on their ULA or on their programme of study will be entitled to two hundred euro (€200) per visit abroad subject to the provision of boarding passes and a letter of confirmation from their respective Institution confirming the purpose of their visit, up to a maximum of two thousand and four hundred euro (€2,400) over a 12 month period.

12.2 Scholarship Awardees with Children

For an Awardee with children or otherwise has legal custody of children and who is following a full-time course, a child allowance is payable at the rate of one thousand and one hundred seventy euro (€1,170) per annum for the first child, and seven hundred euro (€700) per annum for any other additional child under the age of sixteen (16), provided they are residing with their parent/s. This grant is payable in addition to the amounts above specified. This allowance is paid to one of the awardees when both parents / legal guardians are in receipt of an award from this or any other scholarship scheme by the Malta Government, or partly-financed by the Malta Government. Proof of where is the residence of the child/children has to be presented in order for this allowance to be paid. Other documents may be requested by the TESS Office as may be deemed necessary.

12.3 Scholarship Awardees who are married / in Legal Civil Union:

An Awardee who is married / in Legal Civil Union, and awarded a Scholarship in a foreign Recognised Institution whose campus is outside Malta and the studies are performed outside Malta on full time basis, an Additional Allowance of two thousand and three hundred thirty euro (€2,330) per annum is payable provided that both members of this legally recognised union are residing together at the same address in Malta on the closing date of Applications, and continue to reside together abroad during the programme of studies. Proof that Awardee and the other spouse / legal civil union member is living abroad has to be provided from time to time throughout the whole scholarship. The additional allowance shall be paid prorata when spouse / the member of the legally recognised union is not abroad throughout the whole programme of studies. Please consult Clause 3.26 on

how this Allowance is calculated. Other documents may be requested by the Scholarships Office as may be deemed necessary.

12.4 **Gozo residents studying in Malta**

Awardees who **reside** in Gozo, following a full-time programme/course in Malta, shall be entitled to additional maintenance supplement of one thousand and fifty euro (€1,050) per annum for the duration of the course. In order to benefit from this additional allowance, applicant shall present a School Leaving Certificate and/or Secondary School Certificate and Profile from any Gozo Secondary School and/or Gozo Sixth Form which certificate/s shows that the applicant attended at least three (3) years in a school in Gozo.

12.5 **Awardees with Disability**

Scholarship Awardees with a disability taking up full-time on-campus studies abroad may also request in advance an additional subsidy to contribute towards the added expenses incurred in relation to their impairment. Every such request shall be evaluated by the Scholarships Scheme Board on a case by case basis. The maximum amount that the Scholarships Scheme Board can refund is up to two thousand euro (€2,000) per annum, against original receipts to support the reimbursement.

Awardees with a disability that may hinder their free movement, who take up studies on part-time / distance learning, at a foreign HEI (including a University / Awarding Body) and may be required to attend visits abroad as an integrated part of their studies, may be eligible for a maximum refund of two thousand euro (€2,000) for their entire studies against original receipts to support the claims. Such cases will be examined by the Scholarships Scheme Board and the eligibility for such funding will be determined on a case by case basis.

Table 2 – Additional Allowances

MQF Level	Modality	Maintenance Grant	Study Abroad	Visits Abroad	Awardees with Children (under the age of 16)	Spouse (married/in legal civil union studying full time on campus)	Gozo Residents' (studying full time in Malta)	Persons with Disability (that need assistance to follow FT studies or PT/DL to visit campus)
7	FT	Refer to Table 1	€2,500	n/a	€1,170 p.a. for 1st Child €700p.a for 2nd Child.	€2.330 p.a	€1,050 p.a.	€2,000 p.a.
7	PT / DL	n/a	n/a	€200 per visit but up to €2,400 per annum	n/a	n/a	n/a	€2,000 for the entire duration
8	FT	Refer to Table 1	€2,500	n/a	€1,170 p.a. (1st Child) €700 p.a for any other Child	€2.330 p.a	€1,050 p.a.	€2,000 p.a.
8	PT / DL	n/a	n/a	€200 per visit but up to €2,400 per annum	n/a	n/a	n/a	€2,000 for the entire duration

13. General Conditions of Award

13.1 The general conditions in this section apply to all Applicants under the scheme and to all TESS awardees.

Application stage

13.2 Applicants shall be expected to seek prior visa approval (where applicable) for any proposed studies abroad.

13.3 Full-time Awardees shall need to seek approval beforehand from the Scholarships Scheme Board of **any** commitment of employment during the duration of their studies. Unapproved employment shall be deemed to be a breach of these Regulations and the Agreement signed between the Scholarship Awardee and the MEDE and shall lead *ipso facto* to the termination

of the Scholarship and the obligation on part of the Awardee to reimburse all the Amounts awarded until such time.

- 13.4 Without prejudice to Clause 13.3 above, Scholarship Awardees retaining more than twenty (20) hours per week of employment contemporarily to their studies/research shall be deemed to be in breach of their obligation towards full-time studies resulting in a cancellation of the Scholarship award and refund of any Amounts paid by then. For the purpose of these Regulations, a Scholarship Awardee who is on approved paid or unpaid leave shall not be deemed to have retained the said hours per week of employment contemporarily to the studies/research. For the avoidance of doubt, any Scholarship Awardee who notwithstanding the fact that he / she was granted paid or unpaid leave, engages himself/herself in employment or any other work including voluntary work, exceeding twenty (20) hours per week, shall be in breach of this Clause and the provisions of Clause 13.3 shall *mutatis mutandis* apply. Applicants and Scholarship Awardees are to inform and seek approval of the Scholarships Scheme Board in advance. Provided that, this Clause does not apply for those students awarded a Scholarship for a programme on a part time basis or distance learning.
- 13.5 Full time Awardees who are intending to work part-time or already engaged in part time employment including voluntary work not exceeding twenty (20) hours per week, are required to inform and to seek the approval of the Scholarships Scheme Board in writing . This Clause applies also to self-employed persons. An affidavit needs to be presented by the Awardee in case of the latter.
- 13.6 Awardees who, by virtue of their Unconditional Letter of Acceptance, are reading for a full-time programme of study outside the Maltese territory, but may be required to take placements, internship or any form of employment in Malta, will automatically be considered as Part-Time / Distance Learning students, and their grant will be calculated and considered on the same lines as specified for Part-Time / Distance Learning programmes.
- 13.7 In the case of Awardees who are employed on full-time employment contracts and receiving paid leave of absence or full pay with a reduced load, the grant shall be restricted to cover only tuition fees and bench fees. In such cases, no maintenance grants and no additional allowances shall be allocated.
- 13.8 Supplementary Scholarship awards or supplementary grants for the same course of programme of studies must be declared at the point of interview or before formally accepting the other awards. All declarations require approval from the Scholarships Scheme Board. Any unapproved supplementary Scholarship awards or supplementary grants additional to Scholarships Scheme for the same course or programme shall be deemed to be in breach of the agreement. As a result, cancellation of award and refund of all funds granted by then shall be required by the Scholarships Scheme Board. The Board considers this as fraud and may proceed with a criminal liability suit against such Awardees.
- 13.8.1 When a Supplementary Scholarship award or Supplementary Grant covers in full Tuition Fee and/or Bench Fee, the Scholarship Scheme shall not cover for the Tuition Fee and/or Bench Fee.
- 13.8.2 When a Supplementary Scholarship award or Supplementary Grant covers part of the Tuition Fee and/or Bench Fee, the Scholarships Scheme shall cover the

remaining part of the Tuition Fee and/or Bench Fee not covered, provided that the thresholds in Clause 11 are not exceeded.

13.8.3 When a Supplementary Scholarship award or Scholarship Grant is not intended to cover Tuition Fee and/or Bench Fee, then the Scholarships Scheme Board shall reserve the right to revise the amount of the Scholarships Scheme grant.

13.8.4 When a programme of study / course at the University of Malta or the Malta College for Science and Technology (MCAST) is eligible for any Grant (including Maintenance Grant and/or Stipend) from local funds, the amount of the grant is deducted from the eligible Maintenance Grant under this scheme.

Provisional Award stage

13.9 Applicants will be notified of their ranking by the Scholarships' Scheme Board.

13.10 The Awardee shall be given a draft Agreement that stipulates the terms and conditions of such Award. The Scholarships' Scheme Board reserves the right to review and cancel the provisional award if new information reveals any change in information or conditions which renders the provisional Awardee ineligible for the Scholarship Award.

13.11 The Awardee shall conclude and sign the Agreement by not later than three (3) months after the commencement of studies or the publication of rankings, whichever comes last unless otherwise justified. Failure to present signed Agreement by the prescribed date shall lead to the award being awarded to others according to their respective ranking. As part of the signing of Agreement, the Awardee shall be required to fill in a number of forms, including, TR/S-9, the Confirmation of Residence Form and other forms that may be communicated by MEDE. Awardees following full-time studies are also required to provide the Employment History Form issued by Jobsplus.

13.12 Shall any conflict arise between the interpretation of clauses in the Regulations and the Agreement, the Regulations shall prevail.

13.13 The Awardee shall be expected to take up the Scholarship award from the date stated by the Scholarships Scheme Board in the Agreement. If for any reason, the Applicant cannot commence his/her studies on the date stated in the Agreement, or requires a different start date s/he is duty bound to inform the Scholarships Scheme Board as soon as possible. The Scholarships Scheme Board reserves the right, on notification of such intention, to review the start date or else to cancel the Scholarship should the changes imply postponing the start date in breach of Clause 11.2.

13.14 The Tertiary Education Scholarships' Scheme Board reserves the right to publish the names of Applicants provisionally selected for Scholarships on the website of the Ministry for Education and Employment and on the main notice board of the MEDE Customer Care Office, Education Building, Floriana. In applying for an award, the Applicant gives consent for such publication in the event that his/her application is successful.

Contracted award stage

- 13.15 The Scholarships' Scheme Board reserves the right to publish the names of Scholarship Awardees on the website www.myscholarship.gov.mt.
- 13.16 Scholarships cannot be extended to enable the Awardee to complete an additional or higher qualification other than that for which the selection was made.
- 13.17 Awardees cannot engage themselves in other programmes of studies than the one being sponsored for under this scheme during the time of the scholarship.
- 13.18 Any intellectual property including patents directly arising from or derived from the research work funded by the Scholarship and carried out by the Awardee shall be covered by an Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) agreement that acknowledges that the research work carried out, is partially funded by the Tertiary Education Scholarships Scheme.
- 13.19 The Tertiary Education Scholarships Scheme shall not seek to obtain any rights in intellectual property owned by the Recognised Institution and/or the Awardee.
- 13.20 On award of a Scholarship, MEDE shall make information obtained available to public authorities for accountability purposes.
- 13.21 Awardees who are found to have given false information or who have in any manner withheld information that would have influenced the awarding of the Scholarship and/or any grants in accordance with these Regulations, shall be immediately disqualified and shall be asked to reimburse any expenses and money granted to them or on their behalf . The Board may proceed with a criminal liability suit, without prejudice to any civil action for damages, against such Awardees.

Progress and completion

- 13.22 Every six (6) months, Scholarship Awardees shall ask their faculty supervisor to submit to MEDE a short statement confirming progress and attendance of the Awardee. Failure to receive this information could lead to a halt in payments of further instalments of the Scholarship.
- 13.23 Should an Awardee finish his/her programme of study/course prior to the completion date indicated in his/her Scholarship Agreement, he/she will be required to refund the Maintenance Grant and other allowances paid in excess following the new completion date communicated by the HEI to the Scholarships Office.
- 13.24 On completion of the studies, the below documentation shall be submitted to the Tertiary Education Scholarships Scheme Office within two (2) months from the award of the qualification. :
 - 1. Final Report (directly from the institution via email) confirming that the student has obtained the award;
 - 2. Soft copy of title and contents of pages of thesis/dissertation/research work/project and abstract which shall include the TESS publicity, that is, the

degree was carried out following the award of a Tertiary Education Scholarships Scheme Scholarship.

3. Transcript and the Official Certificate awarding the Degree

Soft Copy documentation shall be forwarded to the TESS Office in PDF format by email on email address tess.mede@gov.mt.

- 13.25 By accepting a Scholarship, the Awardees shall be accepting that MEDE shall have the right to publish all publications by Scholarship Awardees, including any publication arising from the thesis shall be sent in electronic format to the Scholarships Office, within thirty (30) days of being made public.
- 13.26 Awardees shall be expected to write a minimum of one article on their work/studies/research in the Maltese public media within sixty (60) days of their graduation, during which they publicly acknowledge that the degree was carried out following the award of a Tertiary Education Scholarship. Such articles may be published on the website of the Scholarships Unit - MEDE. Awardees shall present a soft copy of the article.
- 13.27 All publications arising from the programme being sponsored by Tertiary Education Scholarships Scheme shall reflect the following acknowledgement on the first pages of the thesis/project work: "The research work disclosed in this publication is funded by the Tertiary Education Scholarships Scheme".

14. Termination prior to completion of programme

- 14.1 Scholarship Awardees who for any reason discontinue their studies shall inform the Scholarships' Scheme Board in writing immediately.
- 14.2 The Tertiary Education Scholarships' Scheme Board shall on thirty (30) days written notice terminate the award if -
- the Applicant's progress is deemed unsatisfactory by the Recognised Institution;
 - the Applicant discontinues the studies; and/or
 - an Applicant is in breach of any provision of these regulations, and does not remedy the breach within thirty (30) days of receipt of written notice requiring him/her to do so.
- 14.3 When an Awardee has the Scholarship award terminated under conditions stipulated in Clause 14.2, the Scholarships' Scheme Board shall determine the amount to be reimbursed. The refund has to be made within three (3) months of failing the course or failing to complete the course of studies as the case may be.
- 14.4 Awardees shall not be deemed to be in breach of these regulations **ONLY in case of serious illness** and demise of the awardee. In case of serious illness, the awardee needs to provide medical certificates and testimonials to the Scholarship Scheme Board. Thus, awardees who cannot pursue further studies due to serious illness might be required to refund grants on a pro-rata basis as approved by and at the discretion of the Scholarships' Scheme Board.
- In such situations, the Scholarship Awardee shall provide justifiable explanation as to why the course was not completed or why the Scholarship Awardee failed to obtain the qualification. Documented evidence, medical certificates and testimonials must accompany each claim. The Tertiary Education Scholarships' Scheme Board shall in no way be bound

to waiver all claims put forward. The Scholarships' Scheme Board reserves the right to appoint its own expert, be it medical or otherwise, to advise and assess the case of the claimant.

15. Information

For further queries and information, please contact:

Tertiary Education Scholarships Scheme Office
Scholarships Unit
Room 112 ,
Education Building
Ministry for Education & Employment
Great Siege Road,
Floriana, VLT 2000
Telephone: 153
Email: tess.mede@gov.mt Website: www.myscholarship.gov.mt

Please note that the official website of Tertiary Education Scholarships' Scheme is found on www.myscholarship.gov.mt. Neither the Tertiary Education Scholarships' Scheme Board, nor the Scholarships Unit - MEDE, shall assume any responsibility for any incorrect information found on other websites as regards the Tertiary Education Scholarships Scheme.

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16. Schedule I

Priority Areas of Study In Terms of Clause 4.1.17

Creative Industries, including *but not limited to*:

- Design
- Films
- Graphic and multimedia designers

Education, International Education Services, including *but not limited to*:

- Andragogy
- Career guidance
- University and higher education teachers/lecturers
- Vocational/Professional education and training

Environmental Studies *including but not limited to*:

- Ecology
- Green economy and sustainability
- Resource efficiency building
- Sustainable product design and innovation ecosystem
- Sustainable manufacturing

Finance *including but not limited to*:

- Accountancy
- Auditing
- Banking
- Business administration (MBA)
- Compliance and regulatory requirements
- Fund administration
- Logistics and supply chain management
- Tax specialisations

Health *including but not limited to*:

- Medicine (General Practice, Specialised Medical)
- Nursing
- Personal Care (home based for aged or disabled persons)
- Pharmacy

Humanities and Arts *including but not limited to:*

- Anthropology
- Archaeology
- Cultural Heritage and Restoration
- History
- Geography
- Languages (Maltese/Italian /French/German/Latin/Spanish...)
- Philosophy
- Sociology
- Translation, Terminology and Interpreting Studies

Information and Communication Technology, including *but not limited to:*

- Artificial Intelligence
- Block chain
- Cloud Computing
- Computer Engineering (Hardware & Software)
- Computer networking
- Computer Programming
- E-Business/Digital Marketing
- Gaming Developing
- Games Presenting
- Search Marketing
- Security
- Site Developing
- Systems analytics
- Tech Developing

International Affairs *including but not limited to:*

- Conflict Resolution
- Diplomatic Studies
- European Studies
- Governance in Small States
- Humanitarian Action
- International Relations
- Mediterranean Studies
- Migration

Maritime related studies, including *but not limited to:*

- Added Value to Artisanal Fishing
- Maritime Law
- Shipping, Ship Handling, out-of-dock servicing and logistics

Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM), including *but not limited to*:

- Advanced manufacturing
- Architecture and Civil Engineering
- Aviation Maintenance Engineering
- Bioinformatics
- Chemistry
- Electronics Engineering
- Genomics
- Geology Geophysics/space
- Life Sciences
- Molecular Biology
- Oceanography

Service and Retail *including but not limited to*:

- Entrepreneurship
- Equipping retail
- Retail Management

Tourism and Hospitality Studies *including but not limited to*:

- Business Tourism
- Cruise Liners Services
- Cultural Tourism
- Eco-Tourism
- Educational Tourism
- English Language Teaching to Speakers of other Languages (such as DELTA & TESOL)

Transport and Logistics *including but not limited to*:

- Aircraft Maintenance and Registration
- Merchant Shipping
- Ship Modification and Registration
- Ship Management and Ship Repair
- Super Yachting Services
- Yachting Crew Training

Veterinary related studies *including but not limited to*:

- Veterinary Care
- Veterinary Sciences
- Veterinary Services

Other programme titles may be considered

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