



**VETERINARY SCHOLARSHIPS SCHEME
GRANT AGREEMENT 2020**

1. Parties to the Agreement

This Agreement is entered into on the _____

Between: Ms Sue Falzon
In her capacity as Chief Officer Scholarships Unit
I.D. Card Number : 73878 (M)

And _____

ID Card Number: _____

Hereinafter referred to as "Scholarship Awardee".

Reference: _____

Each a 'Party' and collectively referred to as 'Parties'

Whereby the Parties agree to the following:

2. Purpose of the Agreement

2.1 The Scholarships Unit within the Ministry for Education and Employment (MEDE) has awarded the Scholarship Awardee a scholarship as defined in Clause 4 of this Agreement and as stipulated in Schedule B hereto attached (hereinafter referred to as the 'Scholarship') for the purposes of carrying out studies in

(Write the full title of your course / programme as shown on the Unconditional Letter of Acceptance)

leading to a _____

awarded by _____

(hereinafter referred to as 'the Institution').

on Full-Time basis as indicated in the Unconditional Letter of Acceptance

2.2 The value of the award is subject to the Veterinary Studies Scholarship Scheme Regulations (2020) governing the Scholarship Scheme hereto attached as Schedule E (hereinafter referred to as the 'Regulations'), and the additional provisions of this Agreement. For the avoidance of doubt, in the eventuality that the amount of funds specified in this Agreement is not in accordance with the Regulations and/or exceeds the threshold stipulated in the Regulations, the amount indicated in the Regulations shall prevail and the amount in the Agreement shall be amended and / or shall be deemed to be the maximum stipulated in the threshold in accordance with the regulations respectively.

2.3 The Scholarship Awardee agrees to accept the funding for the intended purpose as stipulated in Clause 2.1 above, and agrees to undertake the course as indicated in Schedule A in accordance with the conditions stipulated in the Regulations (2020) and in this Agreement.

3. Explanatory Notes

3.1 Definitions

- 3.1.1 All definitions listed in Clause 3 of the Regulations governing the 2020 Call for Applications shall apply to this Agreement.
- 3.1.2 The following definitions shall also apply:
- 3.2.1 **Commencement Date** of the Scholarship shall mean the date on which payments to the Scholarship Awardee commence as specified in Clause 5 and Schedule A.
- 3.2.2 **Completion Date** shall mean the date when the Course (as specified in the definition in this clause) are completed and the result/s is/are published.
- 3.2.3 **Department** shall mean the department, school, centre or faculty as specified in Schedule A;
- 3.2.4 **Duration of this Agreement** shall mean the period between the Commencement Date and the End Date (see definition below) of the Scholarship if not earlier terminated or extended in accordance with Clauses 5 and 8;
- 3.2.5 **End Date** shall mean the date on which the payments to the Scholarship Awardee conclude as specified in Schedule A if not earlier terminated or extended in accordance with Section 5 and 8 of this agreement.
- 3.2.6 The **Institution** shall refer to the education institution identified in Clause 2.1 of this Agreement and is awarding the qualification as specified in Schedule A.
- 3.2.7 **VSSS** shall mean the Veterinary Studies Scholarships Scheme.
- 3.2.8 **MEDE** shall mean Ministry for Education and Employment
- 3.2.9 **Publication** shall mean, (where applicable) any conference paper, article for journal, portion of a book, broadcast, or other means of public disclosure which may emerge from the research project.
- 3.2.10 **Scholarship Awardee** shall mean the beneficiary of this Scholarship, who is signing this Agreement and is committed to undertake the Studies through the Institution referred to in Schedule A leading to a qualification as specified in Clause 2.1 of this Agreement.
- 3.2.11 **Studies** shall mean all work required to be undertaken and to be completed by the Scholarship Awardee to the satisfaction of the supervisor including performance, research, training and thesis to qualify for the qualification as specified in the original Application Form submitted by the Scholarship Awardee.
- 3.2.12 **Supervisor** shall mean the member of the Institution's academic staff appointed to supervise the Scholarship Awardee in accordance with the provisions of the relevant regulations of the Institute.
- 3.2.13 **VAT** means a Value Added Tax imposed on the supply of goods and services (including intellectual property) under the Value Added Tax Act (Law of Malta, Chap. 406).

4. Details of the Amount of the Scholarship Grant

4.1 It is hereby agreed that the Scholarship Awardee will be granted the sum of
EURO (€) _____

Over _____

(hereinafter referred to as the 'Amount') for the purpose of studying as stipulated in Clause 2 of this Agreement. The Scholarship funding shall be payable in accordance with Schedule B.

Provided that the sum indicated exclusively includes Tuition Fees, as officially communicated by the Institution at the time of signing this Agreement. Funding is subject to continuous verification of eligibility and may be revoked if the Scholarship Awardee is deemed by the Scholarships Unit to have submitted false information when submitting the application for the Scholarship, at the point of signing this Agreement or after the signing of this Agreement.

(Additional explanation as regards the breakdown of sum or the different currencies involved may be entered here.)

In cases of failure to complete course successfully in line with agreement and regulations stipulated, awardees will be requested to return scholarship funds paid out as per terms stipulated by the Scholarships Unit, Ministry for Education and Employment.

5. Implementation

5.1 The implementation period for this Scholarship commences on _____
until _____.

5.2 The completion date of the studies shall be _____.

5.3 The Amount in relation to the Scholarship will be subject to the Scholarship Awardee's entitlement according to the information in Schedule A.

5.4 Where applicable, the Scholarship Awardee shall have the right to choose, with the approval of the Institution, a specific research Topic or project within the broad field of research originally proposed by the Scholarships Awardee at application or interview stage.

5.5 Any changes to dates set in Clauses 5.1 and 5.2 and any changes to information included in

Schedule A, B and D of this Agreement must be notified and approved by the VSSS Board. Should the VSSS Board agree to the proposed changes, the Scholarships Unit shall draw up an addendum to the Agreement in order to reflect such changes to the Agreement which shall be signed by both Parties. Failure by the Scholarship Awardee to comply with this procedure shall constitute a breach to the provisions of the Agreement and may result in the termination of the Scholarship and the reimbursement by the Scholarship Awardee of all the Amounts already disbursed out by the Scholarships Unit - MEDE

5.6 Any amendment or alteration to this Agreement shall have effect only upon being made in writing and executed by all Parties.

6. Supervision of the Scholarship Awardee

- 6.1 The Parties acknowledge that the Institution is responsible for the Scholarship Awardee's supervision.
- 6.2 The Scholarship Awardee shall see that the Institution appoints a Supervisor for the Scholarship Awardee who shall supervise the Scholarship Awardee in accordance with the statutes, regulations, codes and policies of the Institution.
- 6.3 The Scholarships Unit - MEDE may correspond with the Institute Supervisor to obtain confirmation relevant under article 7.1

7. Reporting

- 7.1 The Scholarships Unit – MEDE requires that the Scholarship Awardee submits:
 - 7.1.1 A short statement every six (6) months in writing from his/her Institution supervisor confirming progress and attendance of the Scholarship Awardee. Failure on the part of the Scholarship Awardee to submit such statement/s may lead to suspension of payments of further installments of the Amount awarded without prejudice to the proviso stipulated below;
 - 7.1.2 A final report in writing written and signed by his/her Institute supervisor following the completion of the course and the award of the qualification within one (1) month from the date of conferment;
 - 7.1.3 A copy of the final course transcript on Completion Date; and
 - 7.1.4 A soft copy of the final thesis (on CD or on USB) on completion (where applicable).

Provided that failure to meet any of the above requirements may lead to the VSSS Board requesting the reimbursement in full of all the Amounts already awarded to the Scholarship Awardee.

8. Payment Process

- 8.1 The Scholarships Unit – MEDE shall pay into a nominated:
 - Personal account (in Schedule C) any Tuitions Fees paid in advance by the Scholarship Awardee as specified in Schedule B on evidence of official original invoice issued by the Institution and original receipt or equivalent (i.e. receipted invoices where applicable from the Institution).

Personal account (in Schedule C) the Grants as specified in Schedule B.

- 8.2 VSSS Board acknowledges that the Institution has procedures whereby progress by a Scholarship Awardee can be reviewed. If the Institution at any time under those procedures determines that the Scholarship Awardee is not making satisfactory progress in relation to the qualification, payments of the Amount to the Scholarship Awardee will be suspended. Moreover, payments may also be suspended if Section 7 of this Agreement is not honoured. In all such instances, the Scholarship Awardee may be required to reimburse any Amounts already awarded by the VSSS Board to date.
- 8.3 This Scholarship may not be extended by the VSSS Board beyond the completion date as stated in Clause 5.2
- 8.4 If a Scholarship Awardee for whatever reason foresees the probability that he/she will not conclude the studies by the completion date stipulated in clause 5.2, the Awardee is obliged to inform the VSSS Board in writing as soon as possible.

9. Project Intellectual Property

- 9.1 Any third party intellectual property including but not limited to patents which shall be utilised by the Scholarship Awardee in order to carry out the research work funded by the Scholarship shall be covered by an Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) agreement signed by the Scholarship Awardee and the owner of the said intellectual property whereby it shall be stated that no royalties or other claims may be claimed from The Veterinary Studies Scholarships Scheme. For avoidance of doubt, the Scholarship Awardee acknowledges and accepts that all liability in relation to claims arising out of the use of third party intellectual party rights shall rest on the Scholarship Awardee and both the Scholarships Unit – MEDE, and the VSSS scheme shall be excluded from such liability.
- 9.2 The Veterinary Studies Scholarships Scheme shall not seek to obtain any intellectual property rights owned by the Institution and/or Scholarship Awardee.
- 9.3 Nothing in this Agreement shall give the VSSS Board any rights in intellectual property owned by the Institution and/or the Scholarship Awardee.

10. Publicity

- 10.1 All publications and/or academic writing arising from the qualification being sponsored by VSSS should reflect the following acknowledgement: *“This work is funded by the Veterinary Studies Scholarships Scheme – Ministry for Education and Employment.”*
- 10.2 The VSSS Board reserves the right to publish the names and Identity Card numbers of Scholarship Awardees on any official publications and/or electronic media which has the official consent of the Scholarships Unit - Ministry for Education and Employment.
- 10.3 All Awardees are required to write a minimum of one (1) article on their work/studies 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 Veterinary Studies Scholarships Scheme financed by the Government of Malta.

11. Termination prior to completion of programme

- 11.1 A Scholarship Awardee who, for any reason whatsoever, discontinues/fails his/her studies, should **immediately** inform the VSSS Board in writing.

- 11.2 The VSSS Board may on thirty (30) days written notice terminate the Scholarship if -
- o the Scholarship Awardee's progress is deemed unsatisfactory by the Institution; and/or
 - o the Scholarship Awardee discontinues the Studies; and/or
 - o the Scholarship Awardee is in breach of any provision of this Agreement and the VSSS Regulations (2020) and such breach is not remedied within thirty (30) days of receipt of written notice requiring him/her to do so.
- 11.3 The VSSS Board may terminate with immediate effect the Scholarship if, the Scholarship Awardee is found guilty of inappropriate or serious misconduct; provided that the VSSS Board shall be entitled at its own discretion, to suspend the funds and the Scholarship if the Scholarship Awardee is accused and/or charged of such criminal or serious misconduct.
- 11.4 The Scholarship Awardee who has his/her Scholarship terminated under the above mentioned conditions in Clauses 11.1, 11.2 and 11.3, shall be required to refund the entire Amount including tuition fees forwarded to both the Scholarship Awardee and the Institute within three (3) months of failing the course or failing to complete the course of studies.
- 11.5 The Scholarship Awardee who cannot pursue further studies due to unforeseen health situations or exceptional circumstances (approved by the VSSS Board) shall not be deemed to be in breach of this Agreement and shall be required to refund the Amount on a pro-rata basis as approved by the VSSS Board.

In such situations, the Scholarship Awardee must 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 VSSS Board is in no way bound to waive all claims put forward.

The VSSS Board reserves the right to appoint its own expert/s, be it medical or otherwise, to advise and assess the case of the Scholarship Awardee claiming such exemption as specified in this Clause 11.4.

12. Communication with the VSSS Board / Scholarship Administrator

12.1 Any notice or communication made pursuant to this Agreement

12.1.1 Must be in writing addressed as shown below:

Veterinary Studies Scholarships Scheme
Scholarships Unit, Room 131
Ministry for Education and Employment
Great Siege Road,
Floriana. VLT 2000
Tel.: +356 2598 2676/77

e-mail: vsss.mede@gov.mt

If addressed to the Scholarship Awardee:

Tel.: _____

Mob: _____

e-mail: _____

Or to any other address specified by any Party to the sender by prior and adequate notice.

- 12.1.2 Any correspondence sent pursuant to this Agreement shall be deemed only to be received by the receiving Party if signed by the sending Party or any other person duly authorised to sign documents and letters on behalf of the sending Party.

13 Governing Law and Jurisdiction

13. This Agreement shall in all respects be construed as an agreement made in accordance with and subject to the Laws of Malta and EU Laws.

14 Severability

- 14.1 The invalidity or unenforceability of any one or more of the provisions hereof shall not invalidate or render unenforceable the remaining provisions of this Agreement. Any illegal or invalid provision of this Agreement shall be severable and all the other provisions shall remain in full force and effect.

15 Other Agreements

- 15.1 In the eventuality that the Scholarship Awardee has applied for and/or been granted any similar awards for the same course of programme of studies, the Scholarship Awardee must make a declaration before formally accepting the other awards. All declarations require approval from the VSSS Board.

Any unapproved awards additional to VSSS for the same course or programme shall be deemed to be in breach of the Agreement and will lead to the cancellation of the Scholarship and the Scholarship Awardee shall be bound to refund all the Amount granted by then by the VSSS Board.

16 Interpretation

- 16.1 This Agreement together with all attached Schedules and the Regulations (2020) shall be the entire Agreement between the two Parties and any amendments to the Agreement shall not be valid unless consented to in writing by both Parties.
- 16.2 This Agreement is construed under and governed by the Laws of Malta and any disputes arising as a direct result of this Agreement shall be submitted to the Courts of Malta.



IN WITNESS WHERE OF this Agreement has been executed by each party on the day and year here before written.

SIGNED in his/her capacity by _____

Signature¹ _____

Identity Card Number _____

SIGNED
Chief Officer Scholarships Unit _____ Sue Falzon

Signature _____

Identity Card Number _____ 73878 (M)

SIGNED as Witness by
Scholarship Administrator _____ Sylvana Caruana

Signature _____

Identity Card Number _____ 246875(M)

SCHEDULE A: Summary of the Agreement

INFORMATION ABOUT SCHOLARSHIP AWARDEE

NAME: _____

ADDRESS IN MALTA: _____

ADDRESS ABROAD: _____

(To be provided) _____

STATUS:

INFORMATION ON INSTITUTION

NAME OF INSTITUTION: _____

FACULTY/DEPARTMENT: _____

NAME OF SUPERVISOR: _____

OFFICIAL ADDRESS OF SUPERVISOR: _____

TUITION FEES

FEES PER ANNUM _____

HAVE FEES BEEN PAID ALREADY BY
SCHOLARSHIP AWARDEE _____



DOCUMENTS ATTACHED

- ___ Official unconditional letter of acceptance from the Institution

- ___ Official original invoice/s from the Institution

- ___ Official original receipt/s of equivalent i.e. receipted invoices where applicable from the Institute (if fees already paid by Awardee)

- ___ Certified copy of Awardee's identity card

- ___ Data Protection Authorization Form

- ___ _____

- ___ _____

SCHEDULE B: Payments

Name of Awardee _____

PAYMENTS

The Scholarships Unit – MEDE shall through the Treasury Division:

- a) pay the tuition fees

to the Scholarship Awardee € _____ on receipt of original invoice for Tuition fees and official original receipt or equivalent (i.e. receipted invoices where applicable) from the Institution (if fees already paid by Scholarship Awardee) following final signing of this Agreement.

AND

The Amount stipulated in this Schedule B shall be the total Amount granted to the Scholarship Awardee. In the eventuality that the completion of the qualification requires further expenditure and/or Tuition Fees exceed that Amount granted by VSSS, the Scholarship Awardee shall bind himself to pay the remaining amounts, in the eventuality that non-payment of any remaining amounts by the Scholarship Awardee is the reason for the non-completion of the Scholarship, the Scholarship Awardee shall refund the entire Amount granted by the VSSS in relation to the Scholarship.

SCHEDULE C: Banking Details

BANKING DETAILS

It is required that a Financial Identification Form, commonly referred to as TR (S-9) Form, is filled in by the Institute and Scholar.

In this form the Treasury will have the necessary information on the Institute and/or Scholarship Awardee for the proper execution of bank credit transfer. This applies to both local and cross-border payments. The Treasury will issue payment against the details of the latest TRS9 form, therefore payments into other accounts will not be effected unless the Institute and Scholar submit a new TRS9.

Payments are made via a bank credit transfer only.

Please **mark the currency (Euro/GBP/USD/Others)** denominated near the account number quoted on the TR/S-9 form provided.

SCHEDULE D: The Research Project (*Where applicable*)

The Research Project

Title

Short Title Introduction Aim

Objectives

Methodology

For students pursuing a course in Veterinary Studies leading to (MQF Level 7) abroad leading to registration of a Veterinary Surgeon as determined by the board of Veterinary Surgeons. this section can be submitted separately when the title of thesis is accepted by the Supervisor as long as it remains related to the original proposal submitted in the Scholarship application form.



SCHEDULE E: Veterinary Studies SCHOLARSHIPS SCHEME Regulations

2020