



**Veterinary
Studies
Scholarships
Scheme**

Regulations 2023

This Scheme is administered by the Scholarships' Unit
Ministry for Education, Sport, Youth, Research and Innovation



7th July 2023 – 4th August 2023
Noon – Local time

Freephone 153

Website <https://education.gov.mt/myscholarships/>

Email vsss.meyr@gov.mt



GOVERNMENT OF MALTA
MINISTRY FOR EDUCATION,
SPORT, YOUTH, RESEARCH
AND INNOVATION

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1. Introduction

- 1.1 Veterinary Studies Scholarships Scheme is intended to support 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.

2. General Regulations

AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

- 2.1 The Ministry for Education, Sport, Youth, Research and Innovation is committed to enhance and widen the existing system of scholarships to assist more students and ease the financial burden incurred especially in cases when they are compelled to follow their studies abroad.

The need has long been felt to aid and assist students following courses in Veterinary Medicine. Courses leading to Veterinary Studies leading to (MQF Level 7) are to date not available locally.

Since in some countries, you can study veterinary medicine at undergraduate level, an anomaly was created in our system of present scholarship schemes which rendered undergraduate Applicants ineligible for funding covering tuition/bench fees.

The launch of this new scholarship scheme will enable students following the Course in Veterinary studies leading to (MQF Level 7) to apply and be awarded a more rewarding financial package covering the duration of 5yrs until completion and ultimately graduating in Veterinary Medicine at a Recognised Institution and with level 7 certification of the Malta Qualification Framework.

3. Definitions

- 3.1 Academic Record shall mean an official document issue 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, including a breakdown of credits.
- 3.2 Agreement shall mean legally binding document to be signed by the Scholarship Awardee as the beneficiary of the Scholarship and the MEYR (as defined in 3.19). These Regulations shall be construed as forming part of the Agreement.
- 3.3 Appeals Board shall mean the Scholarship Appeals Board appointed by the Minister for Education, Sport, Youth, Research and Innovation entrusted with assessing and delivering final decisions in respect of petitions submitted by Applicants contesting decisions taken by the VSS Board and/or the MEYR administrator of the Scheme on the interpretation of these Regulations. Any decision taken by the Appeals Board shall be regarded as final and irrevocable for all and purposes of the Veterinary Studies Scholarships Scheme.
- 3.4 Applicant shall mean a person who submits a scholarship application.
- 3.5 Award shall refer to the title of certification of learning achieved through courses which do not have the required number of credits at the specific MQF (as defined in 3.20) Level to be considered as a Qualification.
- 3.6 Awardee shall mean a person who is awarded a scholarship.
- 3.7 Awarding Body refers to an Educational Institution Recognised by the NCFHE (as defined in 3.22) whose purpose is to award accredited qualifications.
- 3.8 Certificate of Award or Qualification shall mean the official Result Transcript/Certificate indicating the successful completion of the Programme of Study issued by the Recognised Institution.
- 3.9 Closing of the Scheme shall mean the deadline for the submission of applications.
- 3.10 Commencement Date of Scholarship shall mean the date as specified on the ULA(as defined in 3.29) being the start date of the programme/course on which payment to Awardee commences.
- 3.11 Completion Date shall mean the date when the programme/course is successfully completed and the final result is published.

- 3.12 Course Duration is to be established by the Recognised Training Institution. When it does not cover whole months, the funds disbursed will be calculated pro rata to the nearest month. For further definition of how month is calculated, please consult Clause 3.23 of these Regulations.
- 3.13 ECTS shall mean European Credit Transfer System.
- 3.14 ECVET shall mean European Credits in Vocational Education and Training.
- 3.15 End Date shall mean the date as specified on the ULA or the date specified on the Transcript as issued by the Recognised Training Institution whichever date is the earliest. Payments are calculated to cover the period from the Commencement Date to the End Date.
- 3.16 Veterinary Studies Scholarships' Scheme (VSSS) shall mean, for the purposes of these Regulations and the Agreement, a Scholarship scheme administered by the Students' Maintenance Grants' & Scholarships Unit – within the MEYR. The scheme is locally financed.
- 3.17 Veterinary Scholarships' Scheme Board shall mean a Board appointed by the Minister responsible for Education, Sport, Youth, Research and Innovation. This Board shall be entrusted with the evaluation and ranking of Applicants for the awarding of Scholarships and overseeing of the scheme.
- 3.18 ISCED shall mean International Standard Classification of Education.
- 3.19 MEYR shall mean the Ministry for Education, Sport, Youth, Research and Innovation.
- 3.20 MFHEA shall mean Malta Further and Higher Education Authority.
- 3.21 MGUS: The Malta Government Undergraduate Scheme (MGUS) aims at providing more opportunities to further the choice of undergraduate degrees/ qualifications up to MQF Level 6 and including Bachelor Degrees and vocational qualifications, classified at Level 6 or equivalent under the Malta Qualification Framework (MQF).
- 3.22 MQF- Malta Qualifications Framework shall act as a translation device to make national qualifications more readable across Europe, promoting workers' and learners' mobility between countries and facilitating lifelong learning.
- 3.23 MQRIC shall mean Malta Qualifications Regulation Recognition Information Centre within the National Commission for Further and Higher Education.
- 3.24 Per Annum shall mean twelve(12) calendar months. This means that 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. For avoidance of doubt in calculating, the meaning of a month the Awardee must spend more than fifteen (15) consecutive days in the study programme in order to be eligible for funds covering a month.
- 3.25 Qualification shall mean a certificate issued by a Recognised Institution, which confirms the acquisition of the required number of credits making up the Programme of Study at the respective MQF Level as specified by the Referencing Report 2016.
- 3.26 Recognised Institution shall mean an awarding body Recognised by the competent authorities in the country where the institution is registered and Recognised by MFHEA (in the case of foreign institutions) or locally accredited by MFHEA. Transcript shall have the same meaning as Academic Record.
- 3.27 Training Institution shall mean the organization offering the study programme identified by the Applicant.
- 3.28 Tuition Fees shall mean enrollment, administration, registration and/or examination fees charged by a Recognised Institution. Ancillary fees, Dormitory fees, including fees for the use of services provided by the recognised institution are not covered by the scheme. Tuition Fees covered shall be those charged directly by a Recognised or Training Institution as approved by the Veterinary Studies Scholarships Scheme Board. Any subsequent increase in Tuition Fees cannot be claimed by the Awardee or the Recognised or Training Institution if not included in the ULA/official document from the relative Institution.
- 3.29 Unconditional Letter of Acceptance (ULA) shall mean an official letter issued to the Applicant by the Registrar or a delegated high authority of the Recognised Institution or Training Institution. This shall have the details listed in clause 4.7 of these regulations.

4. Eligibility

4.1 In order to apply for the Veterinary Studies Scholarships Scheme, by the closing date of the Scheme, the Applicant shall:

- 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 Veterinary Studies 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 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 and has been residing in Malta for the past five years; or
 - c. 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 and has been residing in Malta for the past five years or
 - d. Be a third country national who has been living in Malta for the past five years that has been granted long-term residence status under SL217.05.
 - e. Be in possession of a residence document issued in terms of the Residence Status of United Kingdom Nationals and their Family Members in Malta in accordance with the Agreement on the Withdrawal of the United Kingdom and Northern Ireland from the European Union and the European Atomic Energy Community Regulations

AND

- f. Be already in a programme of Veterinary Studies leading to MQF Level 7 as long as the end date of studies is in 2023 or after. The Applicant is still obliged to provide a ULA

OR

4.1.2 Be applying to follow a Course in Veterinary Medicine (MQF level 7).

AND

4.1.3 Applicants shall start their studies by 31st December 2023

4.1.4 or are already enrolled in the course and currently undergoing their studies;

AND

4.1.5 Applicants must have completed their term of compulsory education.

AND

4.1.6 Applicants must have resided in Malta for a period of not less than five (5) consecutive years immediately prior to the commencement of this course of studies.

4.2 The closing date of application including the ULA for those who already started their course and the required attachments as listed in clause 7.1 shall be submitted by 4th August 2023 at noon (Local Time).

Students who have already attained another qualification including but not only at MQF Level 6, may still apply under the scheme. Students who have graduated with an MQF Level 7 qualification or higher may still apply under this scheme provided that they have not benefited from another scholarship offered for post graduate studies by the Ministry for Education, Sport, Youth, Research and Innovation within the last 10 years from the date of launch of this scheme.

4.3 Applicants awarded under the Veterinary Studies Scholarship Scheme cannot benefit in full or in part from any other scholarship administered by the Scholarships Unit within MEYR, including but not limited to the Tertiary Education Scholarship Scheme (TESS), Malta Arts Scholarships Scheme, the Endeavour Scholarship Scheme and Malta Sport Scholarships Scheme, for the same course/Programme.

4.4 Any scholarships or other supplementary grants awarded to the Scholarship Awardee shall be notified to and approved by the Veterinary Studies Scholarships Scheme Board, whether such are awarded to the Applicant prior to the Veterinary Studies Scholarships Scheme or throughout the duration of the Scholarship Awardee had, at any point in time whether prior to the award of the Veterinary Studies Scholarships Scheme grant, 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.

- 4.5 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 is awarded.
- 4.6 Applicants shall become ineligible for a Scholarship if s/he is in breach of any part of the Regulations.
- 4.7 The Unconditional Letter of Acceptance as defined in Clause 3.29 must have the below details:
- A clear statement by the Training Institution that 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 ECTS pertaining to the programme of study.
 - ▶ The Tuition Fee shall be indicated on the ULA and not through an electronic link issued by the relative university. The recognised institution shall provide a clear breakdown of tuition fees per annum. The Applicant shall note (should be awarded the scholarship) that the Agreement to be signed shall include only the information on the ULA. MEYR shall not accept any revisions in Tuition Fees other than those, which reflect the information and/or data provided by the ULA submitted by Friday, 6th October 2023, noon, local time.
- 4.8 ▶ It is the duty of the Applicant to ensure that when he/she chooses a Recognised or Training Institution, this institution is in a position to issue such a ULA and/or other official document with all the above details. The original ULA must be produced before the signing of the Scholarship Agreement. Scanned, PDF copy or other electronically transmitted formats shall be accepted PROVISIONALLY provided that the original copy of the ULA shall be produced before the signing of the Agreement, and as stipulated in Section 12. In the event that the Institution issues solely electronic copies of the ULA, the ULA shall be emailed directly by the recognised institution to Veterinary Studies Scholarships Scheme on email vsss.meyr@gov.mt.
- 4.9 ▶ No additional costs other than those stated in the ULA/other official documents presented by date of signing of Agreement, shall be considered for the purpose of Agreement.

5. Choice Of Study Programme

- 5.1 Awards are tenable at any Recognised or Training institution for the Course in Veterinary Medicine leading to MQF Level 7 only.
- 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 Malta Further and Higher Education Authority (MFHEA). A copy of the said report issued by the MQRIC, shall be attached to the application. Where required, the original document must be presented at the interview. Applicants who are required to obtain MFHEA evaluation but who are still not in possession of this report may still apply, if they submit a copy of the report of the report to the Veterinary Studies Scholarships Scheme Board by Friday, 6th October 2023, noon, local time.
- 5.3 MQRIC may be contacted as follows:

**Malta Qualifications Recognition Information Centre (MQRIC) /
Malta Further and Higher Education Authority (MFHEA)
Triq J Abela Scolaro, Hamrun, HMR 1304
Email – info.mfhea@mfhea.mt
Telephone – 25981450
www.ncfhe.gov.mt**

- 5.4 It is the responsibility of the applicant to submit an Unconditional Letter of Acceptance as specified in clause 4.7 and the evaluation statement for their prospective qualification as defined in clause 5.2 by 6th October 2023. Failing to submit all the necessary information, the application will be annulled. This ULA shall originate from one of the Recognised Institutions listed on the Application Form.
- 5.5 The Applicant shall accept to undergo the studies at the Institution for which a ULA is submitted by the deadline of 6th October 2023. If the Applicant presents more than one ULA by the deadline, the Applicant shall choose the Institution where to undergo his/her studies. This decision shall be communicated in writing by the Applicant to the VSSS within two working days to communicate the chosen Institution, the VSSS reserves the right to choose the Institution. In this case, the 's decision is irrevocable. The chosen Institution has to offer the Programme of Study on which the interview was conducted.
- 5.6 Applicants in possession of other EU (or a combination of both) public grants or national/EU/ Commonwealth (or a combination) scholarship for the same course or programme shall be deemed ineligible under the Veterinary Studies Scholarships Scheme if not notified and approved by the Board.

6. Administration Of The Veterinary Studies Scholarships Scheme

- 6.1 The Veterinary Studies Scholarships Scheme is administered by the Scholarships Unit within the Ministry for Education, Sport, Youth, Research and Innovation. The Veterinary Studies Scholarships Scheme Board is responsible for overseeing the scheme.

7. Application Forms

- 7.1 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 – 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 acknowledgment. This shall be the Applicants' proof that an Application is submitted successfully online, and on time.
- 7.2 It is Imperative to note that the final verification of submission of Application will be based on the official systems logs.

The below supporting documents must be uploaded with the application: -

- ▶ A copy of Curriculum Vitae clearly stating all qualifications attained by the Applicant (mandatory)
 - ▶ A copy of the ULA (if applicable)
 - ▶ A copy of the residence permit (where applicable)
 - ▶ A copy of the MQRIC evaluation report/receipt
 - ▶ A motivational statement (mandatory)
 - ▶ An approximately 500 word abstract focusing on the impact your studies will have on the Veterinary field in Malta. (mandatory)
 - ▶ Progress report and academic transcript (if any)
 - ▶ Reference letter (See Appendix mandatory)
- 7.3 The online application may also include:
- ▶ one [1] copy of the letter of Unconditional Letter of Acceptance from the recognised institution applied for (if available at the time of application);
 - ▶ any other documentation which may assist the VSSS Board to assess better the Applicant's merit (if requested by the Administrator).
- 7.4 The Veterinary Studies Scholarships Scheme Board shall penalize Applicants and deem ineligible who fail to submit the required documents with the application form.

- 7.5 The applications deadline is 4th August 2023 at noon.
- 7.6 Late applications shall not be considered by the Veterinary Studies Scholarships Scheme Board .
- 7.7 Applicants are to ensure that they apply online by the stipulated deadline. The Veterinary Studies 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.

8. Eligibility, Selection Process and Process and Procedure

- 8.1 The Ministry for Education, Sport Youth, Research and Innovation has appointed the Veterinary Studies Scholarships Scheme Board(VSSSB)to conduct the process of selection. This Board shall be responsible for all matters concerning selection according to pre-established criteria identified in Clause 9 and determination of appropriate awards according to the Regulations.
- 8.2 Eligible Applicants may 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 the date and time of the interview unless there are exceptional circumstances (supported by written proof) that merits the change of such date and time. The exceptional circumstances shall be examined, and such alternative date and time may be agreed to by the Board's discretion.
- 8.3 The mode and medium by which the interviews will be conducted are decided by the Board. The VSSSB 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 VSSSB depending on the circumstances, which led to the failure of such an interview.
- 8.4 The Selection process is expected to take not more than 12 weeks from the closing date of the call for applications.

9. Selection Criteria

Applications are considered based on the following selection criteria:

- ▶ The personal goals in the local context.
- ▶ The impact the studies will have on the Veterinary field in Malta.
- ▶ Academic record and review of submitted documentation.
- ▶ Previous work experience in the area of specialisation applying for and/ or work with voluntary organisations.

10. Appeals

- 10.1 The Ministry for Education, Sport, Youth, Research and Innovation has also appointed an Appeals Board to deal with objections raised by Applicants after they are informed in writing of the decisions of the Veterinary Studies Scholarships Scheme Board.
- 10.2 If an Applicant disagrees with the Veterinary Scholarship Selection Board (VSSB) or any other procedure under these Regulations, the Applicant may present a petition on email: scholarshipsappeals.meyr@gov.mt to the Appeals Board within six (6) working days from the date of the letter sent by the VSSB or the Administrator's communication the decision/s to the Applicant in writing through registered mail.
- 10.3 The Appeals Board shall only address appeals from decisions of the Veterinary Studies 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 circumstances shall the Appeals Board alter the Regulations, the score of the Applicants derived from interviews by the Veterinary Studies Scholarships Scheme Board or change the ranking of an Applicant as a result of such score.
- 10.4 The decision of the Appeals Board is final and conclusive.

11. Value Of Awards And Payments

- 11.1 For programmes provided by the Recognised or Training Institution/Awarding Body the Scholarship grant shall ONLY cover tuition fees according to the funding provided for the entire duration of the study programme up to a maximum value indicated in the ULA.

VETERINARY STUDIES SCHOLARSHIPS SCHEME:

UP TO THE MAXIMUM CAPPING OF €14,000pa ON TUITION FEES ONLY.

FOR A PERIOD OF 5 ACADEMIC YEARS.

Doctor of Veterinary Medicine (MQF Level 7)	Tuition fees up to the maximum of €14,000 p.a. per student on condition of completing successfully the full Doctor of Veterinary Medicine from MQF level 6 leading to MQF Level 7.	
Start Date	Modality	End date
Throughout 2023	Fulltime Part time/Distance Learning	Throughout 2028
Throughout 2022	Fulltime Part time/Distance Learning	Through out 2027
Through out 2021	Fulltime Part time/Distance Learning	Throughout 2026
Through out 2010	Fulltime/Part time/ Distance Learning	Through out 2025
Through out 2019	Fulltime/Part time/ Distance Learning	Through out 2024

For the purpose of this scheme no other commencement date prior to 2019 will be accepted.

- 11.2 Any additional fees incurred by the Awardee are not considered to be part of this scholarship. Moreover, payment schedules will be defined in the Agreement.
- 11.3 Tuition Fees shall be paid upon presentation of an original invoice and original receipt, bank statement. Please refer also to the Unconditional Letter of Acceptance definition below. In the case of Applicants who pay for the Tuition Fee by cash, such reimbursement shall only take place upon approval by the VSSSB after the presentation of the original official receipt or equivalent from the Recognised Institution.
- 11.4 Payment for tuition fees must be paid by the Awardee. Awardee must present the invoice/s, receipts and bank statement (as applicable) and as stipulated in the Agreement signed with the Scholarships Unit. Payment under this Scheme for a tuition fees does not necessarily cover all fees and depends on the capping indicated in the Agreement signed with this office.
- 11.5 The Veterinary Studies Scholarships Scheme Board has to be informed immediately if a student has requested an extension for completion of studies and/doing an additional year or shall be repeating a year of studies. This information must be addressed to the Veterinary Studies Scholarships Scheme Board supported by documentation from the relative Institution. During the extension period, no funds will be further allocated. During an additional/repeating year, no additional fees will be covered from the scholarships scheme.

12. General Conditions Of Award

- 12.1 The general conditions in this section apply to all Applicants under the scheme and to all Scholarship Awardees.

ADDITIONAL SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS/GRANTS

- 12.2 Additional Scholarship awards or additional grants for the same course of programme of studies must be declared before signing the Agreement with this office. All declarations require approval from the Veterinary Studies Scholarships Scheme Board. Any unapproved additional Scholarship awards or additional grants of over and above granted by the Veterinary Studies Scholarships Scheme for the same course or programme shall be deemed to be in the breach of the agreement. As a result, cancellation of award and refund of all funds through the Veterinary Studies Scholarships Scheme granted by then, shall be requested by the Veterinary Studies Scholarships Scheme Board. The Board considers this as a fraud and may proceed with a criminal liability suit against such Awardees.

When a Supplementary Scholarship award or Supplementary Grant covers part of the Tuition Fee, then Veterinary Studies Scholarships Scheme shall cover the remaining part of the Tuition Fee to the capping declared.

- 12.2.1 Stipend is being granted from MGUS.

PROVISIONAL AWARD STAGE

- 12.3 Applicants will be notified of their award by the Veterinary Studies Scholarships Scheme Board.
- 12.4 The Awardees shall be given a draft Agreement that stipulates the terms and conditions of such Award. The Veterinary Studies Scholarships Scheme Board reserves the right to review and cancel the provisional award if new information reveals any change in information or conditions or conditions, which renders the provisional Awardees ineligible for the Scholarship Award.
- 12.5 The Awardees shall conclude and sign the Agreement by not later than three [3] months after the commencement of studies or the publication of awards, whichever comes last unless otherwise justified. As part of the signing of Agreement, the Awardees shall be required to fill in several forms, including, TR/S-9, the declaration of Confidentiality, and other forms that may be communicated by the MEYR.
- 12.6 Should any conflict arise between the interpretation of clauses in the Regulations and the Agreement the Regulations shall prevail.
- 12.7 The Awardees shall be expected to start their study programme by 31st December 2023
- 12.8 The Veterinary Studies Scholarships Scheme Board reserves the right to publish the names of Applicants selected for Scholarships. In applying for an award, the Applicants give consent for such publication in the event that their application is successful.

CONTRACTED AWARD STAGE

- 12.9 The Veterinary Studies Scholarships Scheme Board reserves the right to publish the names of Scholarship Awardees on the website <https://education.gov.mt/myscholarships/>
- 12.10 The Scholarship Unit can only finance the qualification for which the Awardee initially applied for Scholarship cannot be used to finance any other qualification other than that which the scholarship was awarded for.
- 12.11 Awardees cannot engage themselves in other programmes of studies that the one being sponsored for under this scheme during the time of the scholarship.
- 12.12 The Veterinary Studies Scholarships Scheme shall not seek to obtain any rights in intellectual property owned by the Awarding Body and/or the Awardee.
- 12.13 On award of a scholarship, the MEYR shall make information obtained available to public authorities for accountability purposes.
- 12.14 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

- 12.15 Awardees shall ask their supervisor to submit directly to Scholarships Unit a short statement confirming progress and attendance of the Awardee, approximately every six (6) months. Failure to receive this information would lead to a halt in payments of further instalments for the Scholarship. All documents should be submitted via email to vsss.meyr@gov.mt
- 12.16 On completion of the studies, the final report as well as a copy of the Transcript and/or the Official Certificate indicating the successful completion of Programme of Study, shall be submitted to the Veterinary Studies Scholarships Scheme Board within two (2) months from the award of the qualifications.
- 12.17 Awardees shall 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 training programme / degree was carried out following the award of Veterinary Studies Scholarships Scheme financed by the Government of Malta. A link and/or hard copy of this article is to be sent to the relevant authority.
- 12.18 By accepting a Scholarship the Awardees shall be accepting that MEYR possess the right to make public all publications by Scholarships Awardees, if any. This includes any publication arising from the thesis sent in electronic format to the Veterinary Studies Scholarships Scheme Office. The Awardee is expected to submit such publications within (30) days of being made public to be uploaded on the Scholarship Unit Portal. Thesis on a pendrive or upload in onedrive/We transfer etc
- 12.19 During the last year of studies, 50% of the final payments of tuition fees will not be credited until the Awardee presents all documents mentioned in clauses 12.16 -12.18.
- 12.20 The Agreement has to be signed by not later than 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 bank statements) 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.

13. Termination Prior To Completion Of Programme

- 13.1 Scholarship Awardees who for any reason discontinue their studies shall inform the Veterinary Studies Scholarships Scheme Board in writing immediately.
- 13.2 The VSS Board shall upon thirty (30) days from written notice terminate the award if-
- ▶ The Applicant's progress is deemed unsatisfactory by the Recognised Institution;
 - ▶ The Applicant discontinues the studies; and /or
 - ▶ The 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.
- 13.3 When an Awardee has the Scholarship award terminated under conditions stipulated in Clause 13.2 the Veterinary Studies Scholarships Scheme Board shall determine the amount to be reimbursed. The refund, if any, 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. The Scholarships Unit reserves the right to take legal action to recoup the funds. Awardees may seek an agreement with this Unit regarding payment by installments.
- 13.4 Awardees shall not be deemed to be in breach of these regulations ONLY in case of serious illness and demise of the Awardee. No legal action shall be taken against the heirs of the Awardee in Case of demise. In case of serious illness, the Awardee needs to provide medical certificates and testimonials to the Veterinary Studies Scholarships Scheme Board. Thus, awardees who cannot pursue further studies due to serious illness might still be required to refund the funds received or part thereof, at the discretion of Veterinary Studies Scholarships Scheme Board.

In all cases of discontinuation of studies before completion, 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 Veterinary Studies Scholarships Scheme Board shall in no way be bound to waiver all claims put forward. The Veterinary Studies 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.

14. Publicity Obligations

- 14.1 14.1 All publications arising from the programme, if any being sponsored by this scheme, shall reflect the following acknowledgment on the first pages if the publication: "The research work disclosed in the publication is funded by the Veterinary Sciences Scholarship's Scheme – Ministry for Education, Sport Youth Research and Innovation".

15. Information

- 15.1 For further queries and information please contact:

Freephone: 153

Direct: [+356] 2598 2677

Website: <https://education.gov.mt/myscholarships/>

Email: vsss.meyr@gov.mt

LETTER OF REFERENCE

A. TO BE FILLED BY APPLICANT

1. Name of Applicant:

2. Address:

3. I.D. Card No.:

B. TO BE FILLED BY APPRAISER

4. In what capacity do you know the Applicant (e.g. teacher, supervisor, colleague, Voluntary organisation supervisor, etc.)

5. How long have you known the Applicant?

6. When you compare the candidates' capabilities with those of his/her peers, in which group would you rank the candidate? Top 5% // Top 15% // Top 25%

7. Evaluation of the candidate's performance. (Please put an X in the appropriate box.)

The referee might like to add other qualities, apart from (a) to (e) listed below, which might be relevant to the assessment of the particular candidate, such as ingenuity, leadership, accountability (for work and product), etc.

	Outstanding	Very Good	Good	Average	Average	Inadequate
a. Personal Goals						
b. Work experience in Veterinary Area						
c. Impact in the Veterinary field in Malta						
d. Diligence / Accountability						
e. Dependability/ level of Commitment and engagement						
f. Team work						
g. Practicality						
h. Ability to work independently						

Thank you for your help.

The information given in this form is confidential and should be directly sent on the following e-mail address by 4th August 2023:

vsss.MEYR@gov.mt