

REGULATIONS 2026



10th April 2026 – 13th May 2026
Noon – Local time

This Scheme is administered by the
SCHOLARSHIPS UNIT Ministry for Education, Sport,
Youth, Research and Innovation

Freephone 153

Website <https://myscholarship.gov.mt>

Email artsscholarships.meyr@gov.mt

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1. Aims and Objectives

- 1.1 Art is the pulse and soul of a vibrant and progressive nation. An energised, growing and sustainable arts community, which spans all art forms and delivers quality outcomes, will sustain an even more demanding leisure industry and is vital to ensure the future cultural, social, intellectual and economic wellbeing of Malta while in the same time preserving and promoting our immense artistic and cultural heritage which span millennia.
- 1.2 The Malta Arts Scholarships Scheme aims at providing more opportunities to support individuals who are exceptionally talented in the creation and/or promotion of the expressive arts. Theatre, music, dance, design, creative writing, film, the visual arts, digital media, or any combination thereof shall be given priority.

2. Explanatory Notes

Unless the context explicitly requires otherwise,

- 2.1 Administrator shall mean the person within the Scholarships Unit who carries the overall financial and legal responsibility for the implementation of the scholarship scheme, as delegated by the Scholarships Unit within the Ministry for Education, Sport, Youth, Research and Innovation.
- 2.2 Agreement shall mean a legally binding document to be signed by the Scholarship Awardee as beneficiary of the Scholarship and the Administrator. These regulations shall be construed as forming part of the Agreement.
- 2.3 Appeals Board shall mean a Board appointed by the Ministry for Education, Sport, Youth, Research and Innovation, entrusted with assessing and delivering final decisions in respect of petitions submitted by Applicants and Awardees contesting decisions taken by the Arts Scholarships Selection Board and/ or the Scholarships Unit as Administrator of this scholarship 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 Malta Arts Scholarship Scheme.
- 2.4 Applicant shall mean a person who submits a scholarship application.

2.5 ASSB (Arts Scholarships Selection Board) shall mean a board appointed by The Ministry for Education, Sport, Youth, Research and Innovation, entrusted with the selection and ranking of Applicants for the awarding of scholarships and overseeing of the scholarship scheme.

2.6 Awardee shall mean the Applicant who is granted the Scholarship upon the publication of rankings and after the signing of the official scholarship agreement or in case of minors, the legal custodian who paid for the course. All rights, responsibilities, and obligations associated with the Scholarship shall be exclusively vested in the Awardee, and no third-party entities, including but not limited to companies, corporate institutions, or any other legal entities, shall be involved in the execution or fulfilment of any financial or administrative obligations related to the Scholarship. Bank documents, financial transactions, and all related documentation shall pertain solely to the individual Awardee to ensure personal accountability and prevent the involvement of any non-individual entities.

2.7 Awarding Body refers to an organisation recognised by the National Regulatory Authorities whose purpose is awarding accredited qualifications.

2.8 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 computers/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) for the whole duration of the programme of studies, a breakdown of the costs needs to be provided by the Recognised Institution, before the signing of the Scholarship Agreement (as per clause 3.2). ONLY technical expenses directly related to 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.

2.9 Commencement Date of scholarship shall mean the date as specified in the Unconditional Letter of Acceptance (ULA) being the start date of the course on which payments to the Awardee commences. The Commencement Date may be amended at the Contract stage if the Scholarships Unit has proof that the start date of the course is different from that included in the ULA submitted by the closing date.

- 2.10 Completion Date shall mean the date when the Studies (see definition 2.38) are completed and the final result is published.
- 2.11 Compulsory Education shall mean the programme of studies normally followed by students between the ages of 5 to 16 and as directed by the Director General, Directorate for Educational Services in Malta.
- 2.12 Course Duration refers to the total length of study programme/course as established by the Recognised Institution. Payments shall be in accordance with section 13 and 14 of these regulations.
- 2.13 Disability allowance Only persons who hold an EU disability card issued by the Commission for the Rights for Persons with Disability (CRPD) will benefit from such allowance.
- 2.14 Distance Learning shall mean a method of studying in which lectures are broadcasted or lessons are carried out by correspondence without requiring the student to attend a school, college etc.
- 2.15 Doctoral Programme shall mean a research-related programme of higher education study that leads to a degree at MQF level 8.
- 2.16 ECTS shall mean European Credit Transfer System.
- 2.17 End Date shall mean the date as specified on the ULA or the date specified on the Transcript as issued by the HEI/University whichever date is the earliest. This date shall precede the completion date by which time the programme is completed. Payments are calculated to cover the period from the Commencement Date to the End Date.
- 2.18 Extension shall mean any other period beyond the end date indicated in the Agreement. Refer to clause 13.6.
- 2.19 First Degree (Undergraduate Course) shall mean a first cycle higher education programme that leads to a degree at MQF level 6.
- 2.20 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 the Educational Institution. The Board may ask the Institution to

confirm the physical presence and duration spent by the Awardee on campus. Awardees need to provide proof that they are studying fulltime on campus.

- 2.21 Full-time Abroad Allowance refers to the €3000 for each academic year that serves to cover living expenses while abroad. Only those studying full-time on campus mode will benefit from this grant.
- 2.22 Higher Education Institution (HEI)/University shall mean an entity providing higher education and recognized by the competent national authority of a participating country as belonging to its system of higher education and is a recognised body with degree-awarding powers.
- 2.23 Incomplete application refers to when an Applicant does not include the required documents and/or omits the required information such as the course name and the name of the institution, in which case the Malta Arts Scholarship Scheme Board considers the application incomplete.
- 2.24 ISCED shall mean International Standard Classification of Education.
- 2.25 Joint Degree shall mean a single degree issued by at least two Educational Institutions offering an integrated programme and officially recognized in the countries where the degree-awarding institutions are located. The Administrator will only recognise one of these Institutions, which will be called the Leading Institution. This Leading Institution will have to satisfy one of the conditions of a Recognised Institution as indicated below.
- 2.26 MFHEA shall mean Malta Further and Higher Education Authority.
- 2.27 MQF shall mean Malta qualifications Framework. It shall mean as a translation device to make national qualifications more readable across Europe, promoting workers' and learners' mobility between countries and facilitating their lifelong learning.
- 2.28 MQF Level 5 Qualification shall mean any qualification referenced at Level 5 of the Malta qualifications Framework by MQRIC – MFHEA.
- 2.29 MQF Level 6 Qualification shall mean any qualification referenced at Level 6 of the Malta qualifications Framework by MQRIC – MFHEA.
- 2.30 MQF Level 7 Qualification shall mean any qualification referenced at Level 7 of the Malta qualifications Framework by MQRIC – MFHEA.

- 2.31 MQF Level 8 Qualification shall mean any qualification referenced at Level 8 of the Malta qualifications Framework by MQRIC – MFHEA.
- 2.32 MQRIC shall mean Malta Qualifications Recognition Information Centre within the Malta Further and Higher Education Authority.
- 2.33 Master’s Programme shall mean a second cycle higher educational programme that;
- Leads to a Master’s level qualification offered by a HEI (including a University) with a minimum of 60 ECTSs (based on the Bologna Process) and leads to a full MQF Level 7 on an academic level.
- 2.34 Official system logs shall mean a record of operating system of events. The evidence generated by the application system will be a means to verify what is being attached and the time of submission of the application.
- 2.35 On-campus shall mean attending physically at the Recognised Institution or training camp excluding learning or studying from any other place that is not designated as being part of the campus of a Recognised Institution. The ASSB may ask the Recognised Institution to confirm the physical presence and the duration on-campus of the Awardee. In the fault of submission of such a declaration within two weeks’ notice, the course shall be taken as being a part-time / Distance Learning course and the pertaining conditions are applied.
- 2.36 Part-Time Studies where the student does not meet the criteria of a Full-time student.
- 2.37 Per Annum shall mean twelve (12) calendar months.
- 2.38 Postgraduate Qualification shall mean any course or programme leading MQF level 7 or above.
- 2.39 Recognised Institutions / Institution shall mean an establishment providing education in the fields of the arts and is mutually recognised by MQRIC.
- 2.40 Recognised Programme of Study / Programme of Studies shall mean any programme of studies provided by a Recognised Institution in the fields of the arts. The programme of study shall be recognised by MQRIC. When MQRIC issues an evaluation statement that indicates that the Programme of Study is not recognised, that report is to be considered as final and conclusive.

2.41 Scholarship shall mean an award of financial aid for a student to further education in a specialised field of the arts. At the end of the scholarship, the Awardee is to submit documentary proof that s/he has completed successfully the programme of studies for which the Awardee has been awarded the Scholarship. The proof is to be forwarded to the administrator of the scholarship scheme by not later than two (2) months from the conclusion of the course for which the scholarship has been granted and availed of.

2.42 Studies shall mean all work required to be undertaken and completed by the Awardee to the satisfaction of the Institution at which the Awardee is registered. The Studies shall be the same as that originally applied for in the Application Form, as awarded by the Arts Scholarships Selection Board, and as agreed in the Agreement.

2.43 Transcript shall mean the same as Academic Record/Professional Record.

2.44 Tuition Fee shall include enrolment, registration, examination and any other fee which the Administrator may consider as pertaining to the successful completion of the course and charged by the Recognised Institution. Ancillary fees/Dormitory fees, including fees for the use of services provided by the Recognised Institution and insurances shall not be covered. Tuition Fees covered shall be those charged directly by the Recognised Institution as approved by the ASSB.

2.45 Unconditional Letter of Acceptance (ULA) shall mean a letter issued to the Applicant by the Registrar (or a designated high authority) of the Recognised Institution. This ULA must have the details listed in clause 3.12 of these regulations.

3. Eligibility

3.1 In order to apply for an Arts Scholarship, an Applicant shall, by the closing date of Application, that is 13th May 2026:

- 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 ASSB 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;

- b. 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 5 years;
- 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 and has been residing in Malta for the past five years;
- 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;
- f. be applying for a new course/training programme starting throughout 2026 of not less than 9 months or for a programme of study leading to either MQF Level 5, MQF Level 6, MQF Level 7 or MQF Level 8; Provided that the level of the course shall be determined by MFHEA;
- g. be already in a programme of studies at MQF Level 5, or MQF Level 6 or MQF Level 7, or MQF Level 8 BUT the End date of studies is in 2027 or after. In such case, the Applicant is eligible for funding for the remaining years commencing from the start date of the current academic year (2026) as confirmed by the (HEI) institution. The Applicant is still obliged to submit a ULA as per Clause 3.12.
- h. be thirteen (13) years of age and over.

3.2 Applicants shall already have a proven track record in the discipline in which the Applicant is seeking more. Specialisation.

3.3 Applicants shall be applying for a programme of study leading to a specialised level in the expressive arts and/or the promotion of such arts.

- 3.4 Applicants shall be applying for a Recognised Programme of Study at a Recognised Institution. Applications for courses at a non-recognised, affiliated Institutions shall not be considered.
- 3.5 Applicants shall start their programme of study applied for between 1st January 2026 and 31st December 2026.
- 3.6 Those who have already benefitted from the Malta Arts Scholarship Scheme can apply as long as they are going to study at an MQF level higher than that already achieved by the scholarship grant. If the programme applied for results to be at the same level as that the scholarship was granted prior, such Applicant will be considered ineligible.
- 3.7 Applicants that by closing date of application are still undergoing a programme of study may still apply, provided that such programme needs to be concluded and results published by the beginning of December 2026, before entering into Agreement, if awarded an Arts Scholarship. If the said programme resulted to be at same level as that applied for, notwithstanding the ranking obtained, such Applicant / Awardee will be rendered ineligible based on Clause 3.6 above.
- 3.8 Applicants awarded under the Malta Arts Scholarships 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), ENDEAVOUR II Scholarships Scheme and the Malta Sport Scholarship Scheme, for the same course/Programme and/or same time of award.
- 3.9 Any scholarships or other supplementary grants awarded to the Scholarship Awardee shall be notified to and approved by the Malta Arts Scholarships Scheme Board, whether such are awarded to the Applicant prior to the Malta Arts Scholarships Scheme or throughout the duration of the Scholarship. If an Applicant is granted an Art Scholarship and the Scholarships Unit discovers, after the grant of such Arts Scholarship, that the Scholarship Awardee, at any point in time, whether prior to the award of the Art 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 them or on their behalf in full, and this without prejudice to any other legal action which may be taken in their regard.
- 3.10 Applicants in possession of other national/EU (or a combination of both) public Scholarships 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. It is the responsibility of the applicant to notify the Arts Board if they are in receipt of a sabbatical for the same course or programme, if this is in conflict with their collective agreement to receive such a scholarship. In such a case, if the Board finds them in breach of these Regulations it may impede them from benefiting from this scholarship (Arts) during the duration of the whole course.

3.11 An Applicant shall become ineligible for a scholarship if s/he is in breach of any part of these regulations.

3.12 The unconditional Letter of Acceptance (ULA) as defined in clause 2.45 must have the following details:

- A clear statement by the Recognised Institution signed by the Registrar (or a designated high authority) and that it is unconditionally accepting the Applicant to follow a specific Recognised 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 last day of the month mentioned on the ULA.
- The Tuition Fees shall be indicated on the ULA and not through an electronic link. Applicants shall note that the Agreement to be signed at a later stage shall include only the information on the ULA.
- The Scholarship Administrator shall not accept amendments to the Agreement other than those which reflect the information and/or data clearly stated on the original ULA. The fees paid as Tuition Fees are the amount shown on the ULA submitted by the deadline.
- Bench Fees (if applicable) shall be indicated in the ULA and not through an electronic link;
- Modality of study (that is whether it is Distance Learning or part-time or full-time studies); and

- The number of Credits / Number of ECTS's pertaining to the programme of study and/or the number of hours in the case of Training Programmes.

ALL APPLICANTS shall be obliged to submit the Unconditional Letter of Acceptance **by Friday, 25th September 2026** not later than **noon (CET)**. Applicants who commenced their studies before the date of applications are obliged to submit a letter which contains the same information as above as well as the stage at which the Applicant is at the date of application.

3.13 It is the duty of the Applicant to ensure that when s/he chooses a Recognised Institution, the Institution is in a position to issue such an Unconditional Letter of Acceptance with all the above details. This has to be in the form of a letter, signed by the Registrar (or delegated high authority). Scanned, PDF copy or other electronically transmitted formats shall be accepted PROVISIONALLY in terms of Clause 4.7 provided that the original ULA shall be produced before the signing of the Agreement and as stipulated in Section 4.

3.14 In the event where the Recognised Institution issues solely electronic copies of the ULA, the ULA shall be emailed directly by the Recognised Institution to the Malta Arts Scholarships Office. 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 submitted by 25th September, 2026 by 12.00 noon (CET) as per terms above.

4. Types of Scholarships

4.1 The Malta Arts Scholarship Scheme supports recognised programmes of studies as specified in clause 1.2. The programme of study shall lead to a qualification and may (but not necessarily) lead to an Undergraduate Diploma, First Degree, Joint Degree or a Postgraduate qualification. In such a case, the course will fall under the training programme category.

4.2 The Programme of Study applied for has to take place in a Recognised Institution and shall be a Recognised Programme of Study¹.

4.3 The Malta Arts Scholarships Scheme shall support the Programme of Studies being on a full-time basis taking place physically on a campus or Part-time or Distance Learning Programmes.

4.4 In the case of Applicants following programmes of studies at or through a locally Recognised Institution, the programme of study shall be from MQF Level 5 and beyond.

¹ Please consult Clauses 2.39 and 2.40 for a definition of a Recognised Institution and Recognised Programme of Studies respectively for the purpose of these regulations.

- 4.5 The Malta Arts Scholarships Scheme shall support full-time recognised Programmes of Studies of up to a maximum duration of forty-eight (48) calendar months but not less than one (1) academic year, the academic year consisting of not less than eight (8) calendar months.
- 4.6 The Malta Arts Scholarships Scheme shall support also part-time / Distance Learning programmes of studies of up to a maximum of duration of sixty calendar months (60) in the case MQF Levels 6, and 7 and up to a maximum of eighty-four (84) calendar months in the case of MQF 8. In the case of MQF level 5, the maximum duration of a full-time course should be 12 calendar months, whereas part-time, Distance Learning mode shall be conducted at a maximum duration of 24 calendar months.
- 4.7 It is the responsibility of the Applicant to submit an Unconditional Letter of Acceptance as per details in clause 3.12 by 25th September 2026. 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. The Applicant shall accept to undergo the studies at the Institution for which a ULA is submitted by the deadline of 25th September 2026.
- 4.8 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 ASSB within two working days after the deadline. If the Applicant fails to communicate the chosen Institution, the ASSB reserves the right to choose the Institution. In this case, the ASSB's decision is irrevocable. The chosen Institution has to offer the Programme of Study on which the interview was conducted.
- 4.9 If the Applicant is required to attend for an audition, interview or any other test before an Unconditional Letter of Acceptance is issued, it is the responsibility of the Applicant to fund his/her own audition or interview or test and such amounts shall not be reimbursable as part of the Scholarship if this is eventually awarded.
- 4.10 Being successfully accepted by a Recognised Institution to follow a Recognised Programme of Study or being successful in the interview cannot be interpreted as an automatic qualification for a Scholarship under this scholarship scheme.

5. Tenure and Placement

5.1 Awards are tenable at any local or internationally Recognised Institution for a specific programme of study or training. Only those institutions recognised by the Maltese authorities shall be taken into consideration by the Malta Arts Scholarships Selection Board.

5.2 It is the responsibility of Applicants to produce an evaluation statement on the recognition of the institution (both local and foreign excluding the University of Malta (UOM), Malta College of Arts Science and Technology (MCAST) and Institute of Tourism (ITS). The comparability of qualifications shall be obtained from the Malta qualification Recognition Information Centre (MQRIC) within the Malta Further and Higher Education Authority (MFHEA) for the prospective qualification applying to follow/read under this scholarship scheme awarded or being awarded by local or/and foreign institutions. A copy of the said statement issued by MQRIC, shall be uploaded with the application, with the original presented at the interview. In the case of Applicants not yet in possession of this statement may still apply, provided that they shall submit a copy of the report to the Malta Arts Scholarships Office by not later than 25th September 2026 at noon (CET).

5.3 When MQRIC issues an evaluation statement that indicates that the Institution is not recognised, that evaluation statement is to be considered as final and conclusive.

5.4 The MQRIC may be contacted as follows:

The Malta Further and Higher Education Authority

Triq J Abela Sclaro,

Hamrun, HMR 1304

Telephone – 2598 1489

Email: MQRIC@mfhea.mt

qric.malta@gov.mt

Website: www.mfhea.mt

6. Administration of the Arts Scholarships Scheme

6.1 The Malta Arts Scholarship Scheme is administered by the Scholarships Unit – Ministry for Education, Sport, Youth, Research and Innovation.

6.2 All correspondence is to be addressed to:

The Malta Arts Scholarships Scheme Scholarships Unit
Ministry for Education, Sport, Youth, Research and Innovation
Room 234, Education Building
Great Siege Road, Floriana VLT 2000, Malta

Tel. No.: (+356) 2598 2677/6

E-mail: artsscholarships.meyr@gov.mt

Website: <https://myscholarship.gov.mt/>

7. Application Forms

7.1 Applicants with exceptional talent in the field of the arts (as identified in Clause 1.2 and 3.3) are invited to apply using the appropriate online Electronic Application on: <https://myscholarship.gov.mt/> It is the responsibility of the Applicant to ensure that the 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 Applicant's proof that an application is submitted successfully online. It is the responsibility of the Applicant to read the regulations carefully before one applies.

7.2 Applicants may choose up to five (5) Recognised Institutions or Training programmes that they consider most appropriate on the Application Form. The correct name of the training programme as well as the Recognised Institution on the application form must be clearly indicated. No changes to the list of Institutions are accepted after the closing date of application.

7.3 The below–supporting documents must be uploaded in pdf format with the application:

		Mandatory
I	Curriculum Vitae (Mandatory)	√
Ii	Applicant's Copy of Transcripts or qualifications	
Iii	Copy of unconditional letter of Acceptance (if available at the time of application)	
Iv	Copy of MQRIC statement report of the prospective qualification see clause 5.2 (if not available at time of application MQRIC receipt is required) Mandatory	√
V	Portfolio (Mandatory)	√
Vi	One copy of Personal Profile Report as per sample provided in the Webpage of Malta Arts Scholarships (Mandatory)	√
Vii	Signed Declaration/ Consent note by legal custodian if the Applicant is under 16 is to pursue compulsory education (Mandatory if applicable)	
Viii	Applicants' EU disability card issued by the Commission for Rights of Persons with Disability (CRPD) where applicable	

The Malta Arts Scholarship Scheme Board shall penalise and deem ineligible Applicants who fail to submit the required documents with the Application Form.

7.4 The Malta Arts Scholarships Board shall penalize and deem ineligible Applicants who fail to submit the required documents with the Application. Any other supporting documents if requested by the administrator that are not uploaded with the online application are required to be forwarded on email: artsscholarships.meyr@gov.mt

It is imperative to note that the final verification of submission of Application will be based on the official system logs.

7.5 All Online Applications have to include a Portfolio which may be presented either as a weblink or an uploaded file. Those in the Performing Arts Industry must produce show reels not more than 3 minutes each and those in visual Arts must attach a file not larger than 3Mb. Files must be attached to the application form. The Portfolio should include at least three (3)

different representations showing the Applicant's artistic achievements. Weblinks should be readable not corrupted.

- 7.6 Consideration is given to the Portfolio for Eligibility hence the application is not considered complete if the Portfolios and the Personal Profile Reports are not included with the application as requested.
- 7.7 Only online applications submitted through the Official Portal will be accepted by the deadline. Only ONE (1) Application Form shall be considered by the ASSB.
- 7.8 The application deadline is 13th May, 2026, at noon (CET).
- 7.9 Late and incomplete applications shall not be considered by the ASSB. 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. MEYR cannot be held responsible for any delay due to such difficulties.

8. Selection Process

- 8.1 The Ministry for Education, Sport, Youth Research and Innovation shall appoint the Arts Scholarships Selection Board (ASSB) to operate the process of selection.
- 8.2 It shall be the duty of the ASSB to determine whether the proposed programme of study leads to a specialised level in any art.
- 8.3 The ASSB will be responsible for all matters concerning selection and determination of appropriate awarding of scholarships according to the regulations and the overseeing of this scholarship scheme.
- 8.4 The Ministry for Education, Sport, Youth Research and Innovation shall also appoint the Scholarships Appeals Board to deal with objections raised by Applicants after they are informed in writing of the decisions of the ASSB.
- 8.5 The role of the ASSB is to evaluate and select Applicants according to criteria in clause 10.1. The percentage ratio of funds allocated to undergraduate awards to postgraduate awards is at the discretion of the Selection Board.

- 8.6 Where necessary, the ASSB shall appoint an expert in the artistic area concerned to evaluate the application and, if considered necessary by the ASSB, this expert shall be present during the interview.
- 8.7 If on the Application Form an Applicant lists different Programmes of Studies, the Applicant must choose by interview date the Programme of Study on which the Applicant shall be interviewed on. After the Interviewing Date, the Applicant cannot change the Programme of Study interviewed on.
- 8.8 The Scholarships Appeals Board shall only address appeals from decisions taken by the ASSB 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 Appeals Board change the score of Applicants deriving from interviews by the ASSB, nor change the ranking of an Applicant as a result of such score.
- 8.8.1 If an Applicant disagrees with the ASSB on any procedure under these regulations, the Applicant may present a petition to the Appeals Board within six (6) working days from the date when the ASSB or the Administrator communicates the decision/s to the Applicant in writing, via email: scholarshipsappeals.meyr@gov.mt
- 8.9 The decision by the Scholarships Appeals Board is final.

9. Minors

- 9.1 Minors are eligible to apply for Arts Scholarships for courses in Expressive Arts taken in parallel with academic courses. The Arts Scholarship Scheme only covers the cost of Tuition Fees which is aimed solely at the teaching component of the expressive arts training programme/course only. Room, board and other school fees are not eligible for funding. Moreover, the ULA must indicate a breakdown of school fees clearly identifying the tuition fees for the Arts specialisation course separately from other school fees.
- 9.2 Applications from Minors will only be accepted if the application being submitted by their parents or legal guardians indicating their consent and authorisation for participating in the scholarship scheme.
- 9.3 For Minors under the age of 16, parents or legal guardians shall be bound to sign a separate declaration and include it with the application that the Minor will continue to pursue compulsory education during the Scholarship period.

9.4 In such cases, the Awardee shall present a certificate of attendance issued by the Education Institution where the compulsory education is provided. Failure to provide such certificate of attendance may result in the suspension of the scholarship.

9.5 In the event that the Applicant is a Minor and the parent/s and/or legal guardian, in possession of the minor's legal custody, is submitting the application on the Minor's behalf, such legal custodian shall sign a declaration stating that there are no impediments on the Minor's departure from Malta and residing in a foreign country (where applicable) for the duration of the programme.

10. Selection Criteria

10.1 Applications are considered based on the following selection criteria:

- Artistic merit of the Applicant (120 marks);
- The personal goals in the field of the arts (140 marks);
- The likely impact on the development of the Arts, and the Cultural and Creative Industries in Malta (125 marks);
- The reputation of the Institution selected by the Applicant (30 marks);
- Academic Merit (85 marks)

10.2 Eligible Applicants will be called for an interview and an audition as required. It is the responsibility of the Applicant to make sure to be available on the date and time communicated to them for the interview. No alternative arrangements shall be made to change the date and time of the interview unless there is an exceptional circumstance (supported by written proof) that warrants the change in such date and time. The aforementioned exceptional circumstances shall be examined and such alternative date and time may be agreed to by the ASSB, at its discretion.

10.3 In the case of Applicants not attending for the interview/audition without any previous written notice communicated to the Scholarship Administrator, the board shall consider their absence as if they are no longer interested in their application for an Art scholarship.

10.4 Due consideration is given to the Portfolio presented with the Application. Therefore, it is recommended that the portfolio is presented on the day of the interview/audition. (applicable for Visual Arts students only)

10.5 An audition is required for Applicants who are considered performing artists in areas such as Dance, Music, Acting, or Musical Theatre. The type of performance is at the discretion of the Applicant. However, it is recommended that it does not exceed 10 minutes. It is the responsibility of the Applicant to bring their own music, instrument/s and accompanist as required. A piano shall be made available when required. Applicants for Art & Design related can produce work from direct observation (hands-on) in the form of a Short pose in Life Drawing, as part of the interview. The venue where the audition will take place shall be at the sole discretion of the ASSB.

10.5.1 Auditions may not be taken online or remotely (The Applicant has to be physically present at the designated premises).

10.5.2 The ASSB and MEYR are not liable for any damages or injury that may occur during auditions.

10.6 In the case of Applicants who are unable to attend **at/on** the given date and time for the interview due to being abroad, **the audition is forfeited and** only the interview may take place remotely at the given date and time. **Hence, marks will be given on the interview only.** It is the Applicant who has to ensure that the video and audio link, on his/her end, is adequate to ensure a proper interview throughout. The Board cannot assume any responsibility if the connection fails to offer an adequate link for a proper uninterrupted interview.

10.7 It is the practice that when an Applicant fails to obtain a mark which is less than 50% of the global mark, only the ID Card number of the Applicant is published.

10.8 An Applicant who obtains a pass mark from the interview does not automatically mean that the Applicant is awarded a scholarship. Please be aware that attending the interview does not mean that the application will remain eligible. There is still the eligibility criteria pertaining to the second deadline in relation to the Unconditional letter of acceptance and MQRIC reports. Eligible applicants who have sat for the interview will be notified by the Scholarships Unit whether they have passed the interview. Only those applicants who successfully pass the interview may proceed to the next stage, which involves submitting the required documents by the second deadline, which is 25th September 2026. Applicants who move on to this stage will be placed on the ranking list based on the outcome of the interview.

10.9 The Arts Scholarship Fund shall be divided into two categories. One category shall be reserved for Applicants following Programmes of Studies leading to MQF Level 7 or above and the

other category shall be reserved for Applicants who propose to follow Programmes of Study which do not exceed MQF Level 6. During the selection process, the ASSB may shift any unutilised funds from one category to the other. See clause 8.5.

11. Value of Awards

11.1 Awards under the Malta Arts Scholarships Scheme are made in two components: Tuition Fees and a Fulltime Abroad Allowance amounting to €3000 for each academic year. Each of these awards is described in the following sections;

Level of programme	Start Date	Modality	Max. Duration	Grant per Scholarship
Training Programmes	During 2026	Full-time Training Camp only	24 Calendar Months	Tuition Fees up to €5,000 for the whole duration of the programme and Full-time Abroad Allowance amounting to €3000 pa.
MQF Level 5 / Programmes not leading to a first degree	During 2026	Full-time	24 Calendar Months	Tuition Fees up to €5,000 for the whole duration of the programme and Full-time Abroad Allowance amounting to €3000 pa.
		Part-Time Distance Learning	24 Calendar Months	Tuition Fees up to €5,000 for the whole duration of the programme.
MQF Level 6 (Bachelors)	During 2026	Full-time	48 Calendar Months	Tuition Fees up to €20,000 for the whole duration of the programme and Full-time Abroad Allowance amounting to €3000 pa.
		Part-Time Distance Learning	60 Calendar Months	Tuition Fees up to €20,000 for the whole duration of the programme.
MQF Level 7 (Masters)	During 2026	Full-time	24 Calendar Months	Tuition Fees up to €10,000 for the whole duration of programme and Full-time Abroad Allowance amounting to €3000 pa.
		Part-Time Distance Learning	48 Calendar Months	Tuition Fees up to €10,000 for the whole duration of programme.
MQF Level 8 (PhD)	During 2026	Full-time	48 Calendar Months	Tuition Fees up to €20,000 for the whole duration of the programme and Full-time Abroad Allowance amounting to €3000 pa
		Part-Time Distance Learning	84 Calendar Months	Tuition Fees up to €20,000 for the whole duration of programme.

11.2 Payment of Scholarship Grant shall be paid according to Table 11.1:

- a. For courses which are of a duration of one (1) academic year or less, 50% of the Fulltime Abroad Allowance accorded is paid at the beginning of the academic year or following the signing of Agreement, whichever comes last and the remaining 50% is paid after all the documents mentioned in Section 12 below are submitted;
- b. For courses which are of duration of more than one (1) academic year, the Fulltime Abroad Allowance accorded per annum is paid at the beginning of the academic year or following the signing of the Agreement, In the following years (except during the last year), the same procedure shall be repeated. During the last year, the last instalment of 50% is paid after all the documents mentioned in Section 12 are submitted.
- c. For those Awardees on Part-time mode: The amount of Scholarship granted for Tuition Fees shall be divided pro-rata between the number of years to complete the studies. 50% of the final payment should be granted upon successful completion.
- d. Applicants pursuing a Recognised Programme of studies on a Part-Time or Distance Learning Basis are not eligible for a Fulltime Abroad Allowance. Courses carried out locally though on fulltime basis will not benefit from the Allowance.
- e. The maximum amount for Tuition Fees paid shall be calculated according to the number of academic years stipulated by the Agreement as per maximum capping. When the scholarship is awarded based on clause 3.1.1g, the maximum amount of Tuition Fees shall be split in annual instalments covering only the remaining years of the Agreement. Therefore, the Awardee is eligible for funding only for the proportion of the grant multiplied by the remaining number of academic years as shown on the Agreement
- f. 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. Tuition Fees shall be paid upon presentation of an original invoice and original receipt, bank statement by the awardee. In the case of Applicants who pay for the Tuition Fees in cash are reimbursed only by presentation of the original official receipt or equivalent from the Recognised Institution.
- g. Scholarship Awardees with a disability will benefit from one thousand Euro (€1,000) per annum.

11.3 Scholarship Awardees pay their Tuition Fee to a Recognised Institution directly themselves. They shall be reimbursed on receipt of both the Recognised Institution's original invoice and the original official receipt of payment or equivalent (i.e. receipted invoice where applicable) issued by the receiving Recognised Institution. Any information and documentation requested by the Administrator shall be submitted by the Awardee within the time frames stipulated by the Administrator. Failure to provide such information and documentation may result in the suspension or termination of the Scholarship and the Awardee may be required to reimburse any amounts already paid by the Administrator.

12. The Awarding Stage

12.1 Applicants will be notified in writing of their selection for the Scholarship award by the ASSB.

12.2 Successful Applicants applied on the strength of Clause 3.1.1 (f) shall be required to submit the start date and completion date of their Programmes of Studies. The start date of the Training Programmes / Programmes of Studies shall be during 2026. Following receipt of this information, the successful Applicant shall be required to sign an Agreement. If the Applicant fails to sign the Agreement within 3 months from the publication of rankings, the Scholarship shall be forfeited and the Administrator reserves the right to award the Scholarship to another Applicant or Applicants, according to their respective ranking.

12.3 In the case of successful Applicants applied on the strength of Clause 3.1.1 (g) shall be eligible for funding for the remaining years of their programme of studies whereas the start date of the current academic year (2026) as confirmed by the (HEI) institution will be the start date of their scholarship Agreement. Refer to the method of payment as outlined in Clause 11.2e.

12.4 Applicants will be expected to take up the Scholarship from the date stated in the Agreement. If for any reason, the Applicant is not in a position to start on the date stated in the Agreement, or requires a different start date, the Administrator reserves the right, on notification of such intention, to review the start date on the Agreement or cancel the Scholarship if the changes imply postponing the start date beyond 31st December 2026.

12.5 Such notification to alter the start date has to be submitted by not later than 1st November 2026. For the avoidance of doubt, if the Applicant refrains from informing the Administrator about the required change in the start date and/or completion date, the

ASSB shall have the right to terminate the Scholarship and the Applicant shall be liable to reimburse all Tuition Fees, Fulltime Abroad Allowance and other fees which would have been disbursed by the ASSB to him by the award of the Scholarship

- 12.6 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, 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 is rectified.
- i. For Awardees under the age of 18 on the date of signing the Agreement, the said Agreement is to be signed by legal custodian/s.
- 12.7 The Administrator reserves the right to publish the names of the Applicants awarded the Scholarship, and to request and publish the status and progress of the Applicants and their work.
- 12.8 The Scholarship is intended to fund the Programmes of Studies declared in the Application Form and stipulated within the Agreement. Funding will not be extended to enable Awardee to complete an additional or higher qualification than that for which the selection was made.
- 12.9 Any intellectual property including patents directly arising, or derived, from the Programmes of Studies funded by the Scholarship and carried out by the Awardee during the Agreement period, shall be covered by an Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) agreement that acknowledges that the artistic work was carried out during a Scholarship funded by the Government of Malta.
- 12.10 The Administrator shall not seek to obtain any rights in intellectual property on behalf of the Awardee during the tenure of the Scholarship.
- 12.11 On award of a Scholarship, the Administrator shall make the information obtained available to public authorities for accountability purposes. MEYR will publish the results including the names and I.D numbers of the Arts Scholarship Scheme Applicants on the notice board of MEYR and will send the results to all eligible applicants via email. When applying for a scholarship, the Applicant agrees to such publication.

13. Progress and Completion

- 13.1 Every six (6) months, Scholarship Awardees shall ask their faculty/institution supervisor to submit to the Scholarship Unit a short statement confirming the progress and attendance of the Awardee. The six (6) month progress report has to be sent directly to the Scholarship Unit directly to this email address: artsscholarships.meyr@gov.mt. Failure to receive this information could lead to a halt in payment of further instalments of the Scholarship and to request a refund of any amounts already disbursed by ASSB under this scholarship scheme.
- 13.2 On completion of the studies, the thesis/research document, as well as a copy of the Transcript and the Official Certificate awarding the Degree shall be submitted to the Scholarship Administrator within two (2) months from the award of the qualification.
- 13.3 On completion of studies, where applicable, copies of all publications by Awardees during the Scholarship period, shall be sent in electronic format to the Administrator, within thirty (30) days of being made public. An electronic copy of the thesis/ Final projects (only where applicable) shall also be sent to the Administrator on publication. In the case that part or all of the thesis in digital form (audio or video) it shall be submitted to the administrator in an appropriate format.
- 13.4 All publications arising from the Programme of Studies being sponsored by this scholarship scheme shall include the following acknowledgment: “The author is a recipient of Arts Scholarship, financed by the Government of Malta”. The acknowledgment must be in conspicuous format and if part of the thesis is a performance, this statement must appear in a form clearly visible by the audience.
- 13.5 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 an Arts Scholarship financed by the Government of Malta. A copy of the published article is to be sent to Scholarships Unit via email.
- 13.6 The ASSB must 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 ASSB supported by documentation from the relative institution. During this extension period, no funds will be further allocated. During

an additional/ repeating year no additional fees will be covered by the scholarship scheme. Such a decision must be taken at the discretion of the board based on evidence provided.

14. Termination prior to completion of programme

- 14.1 Any breach of any of these clauses of these regulations, or of the Agreement, including but not limited to false declarations, incomplete information or omissions in declaring all material and relevant facts at any stage, could lead to the termination, or revision, of the Scholarship and the Awardee could be requested to refund any amounts already disbursed by ASSB under this scholarship scheme.
- 14.2 Awardees who for any reason terminate their Programme of Studies shall inform the ASSB in writing immediately.
- 14.3 The ASSB shall upon thirty (30) days from a written notice terminate the Scholarship award if –
- The Awardee’s progress is deemed unsatisfactory by the Recognised Institution.
 - The Awardee discontinues the Programme of Study.
 - The Awardee is in breach of any provision of these regulations or the Agreement and does not remedy the breach within thirty (30) days of receipt of written notice requiring them to do so, provided that it shall be at the discretion of the ASSB whether the said breach shall lead to the immediate termination of the Scholarship or whether time to remedy the breach shall be permitted.
 - The Awardee fails to complete the Programme of Study by the end date as stipulated in the Agreement.

Without prejudice to the generality of Clause 14.1 above, Awardees who have their award terminated under conditions stipulated in Clause 14.3 will be required to refund the entire award including Tuition Fees and Full time abroad Allowance forwarded to the Awardee within three (3) months of any of the reasons contemplated in Clause 14.3 above or for any other breach of these regulations and/or the Agreement.

- 14.4 Awardees who cannot pursue further studies due to unforeseen health situations or exceptional circumstances as approved by the ASSB shall not be deemed to be in breach

of these regulations but may be required to refund Tuition Fees and Full-time Abroad Allowance on a pro-rata basis as approved by the ASSB.

In such situations, the Awardee shall be obliged to provide justifiable explanation as to why the Programme of Study was not completed or why the Awardee failed to obtain the qualification. Documented evidence, medical certificates and testimonials must accompany each claim. The ASSB is in no way bound to waive all or part claims put forward.

The ASSB reserves the right to appoint its own experts, including but not limited to medical experts or otherwise to advise and assess the case of the claimant.

15. Other General Conditions of Award

- 15.1 Awardees will be expected to seek prior visa approval (where applicable) for proposed studies abroad.
- 15.2 The Scholarship Awardee shall sign the Agreement by the prescribed date. Failure to present the signed Agreement by the prescribed date may lead to the award being awarded to others according to their respective ranking.
- 15.3 Should any conflict arise between the interpretation of clauses in the regulations and the Agreement, it is what is contained within the regulations which shall prevail.
- 15.4 Supplementary grants for the same Training Programme/Programme of Study must be declared at the point of interview or before formally accepting any of the other grants. Such a declaration will require the approval from the ASSB. Any supplementary grants not thus approved as aforementioned in addition to the Scholarship shall be deemed to be in breach of these regulations and of the Agreement. For the avoidance of doubt, any Awardee who accepts other local or foreign grants without the prior authorisation of the ASSB will be deemed to be in breach of these regulations and the Agreement.
 - 15.4.1 It is to be emphasised that the seeking of the ASSB approval shall not be deemed by the Applicant and/or Awardee as a formality which shall lead to an automatic approval by the ASSB. Provided further that the ASSB may require the Applicant and/or Awardee to forfeit any one or more of the supplementary grants. In the eventuality that the Applicant and/or Awardee refuses to forfeit such supplementary grants, the ASSB shall have the right to award the Scholarship to other Applicant/s or require the Awardee to reimburse the Scholarship funds, as the case may be.

15.5 For further queries and information please contact:

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