

Call for Application for Stipendium Hungaricum Dissertation Scholarship for doctoral students graduating in the spring semester of academic year 2021/2022

1. The Stipendium Hungaricum Scholarship Programme

1.1. Mission statement

The Stipendium Hungaricum Scholarship Programme was launched in 2013 by the Hungarian Government. The main goal of the programme is to support the internationalisation of Hungarian higher education and its development, to strengthen the international relations of the Hungarian academic and research community, to enhance the cultural diversity of higher education institutions, and to promote the good reputation and competitiveness of Hungarian higher education throughout the world. The programme is based on bilateral educational cooperation agreements signed between the Ministries responsible for higher education in the sending countries/territories and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade of Hungary. Currently, more than 80 Sending Partners are engaged in the programme on 5 continents, and the geographical scope of the programme is spreading each year.

The core mission of the programme is to increase the number of foreign students in Hungary and to encourage Hungarian higher education institutions to attract foreign students.

Since 2013, the number of Stipendium Hungaricum scholarship holders has grown significantly, contributing, at the same time, to an increase in the ratio of self-paying international students at Hungarian universities. Between 2013 and 2020, the ratio of international students studying in Hungarian higher education doubled, and the ratio of Stipendium Hungaricum scholarship holders among them quadrupled.

The number of both Stipendium Hungaricum applicants and awardees, as well as the number of available scholarship places, is continuously increasing. In 2022, more than 50,000 applications were received and, in 2021, more than 5,000 scholarships were awarded – the ratio clearly showing that, since its launch, the Stipendium Hungaricum scholarship has become a programme of excellence.

The Stipendium Hungaricum Programme is supervised by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade and managed by Tempus Public Foundation (hereinafter referred to as TPF).

1.2. Background of the call for application

Stipendium Hungaricum scholarships are available for bachelor's, master's, one-tier master's, doctoral, and non-degree programmes (preparatory and specialisation courses).

In Hungary, the duration of doctoral programmes is 8 semesters. Doctoral programmes are divided into two different phases: the first phase (4 semesters) is for professional training and research, while the second phase (4 semesters) is for research and dissertation.

In compliance with the prevailing Hungarian legislation, Stipendium Hungaricum scholarship holders can request the extension of their scholarship at the end of their bachelor's, master's and one-tier master's programmes. Under the law, the doctoral programmes may not be extended, not even if the scholarship holder has successfully obtained their *absolutorium* and the only step left for them is to acquire their doctoral title by the defense of their thesis. The aim of this **separate call for application** is to grant an opportunity to scholarship holders completing their 4-year doctoral programmes within the framework of the Stipendium Hungaricum Scholarship Programme to finish their dissertation as scholarship holders.

It is important to emphasize that anybody who is applying for a Dissertation Scholarship is not eligible for the one-time HUF 400.000 graduation allowance upon completion of their defense.

The Dissertation Scholarship is not an extension of the already existing Stipendium Hungaricum scholarship status. The Dissertation Scholarship can be used for research and dissertation writing purposes only in cases when the scholarship holder's presence in Hungary is absolutely necessary to finalize their doctoral activities.

2. The Stipendium Hungaricum Dissertation Scholarship

2.1 Eligibility for the Dissertation Scholarship

Only those Stipendium Hungaricum scholarship holders are eligible to apply

- who obtain their *absolutorium* in the spring semester of the 2021/2022 academic year but shall finish their dissertation after the end of their student status and
- for whom it is an absolute necessity to stay in Hungary to finalize their doctoral activity

2.2. Non-Eligibility

Applications will not be considered if

- any of the non-eligibility criteria of the Stipendium Hungaricum scholarship programme applies to the applicant
- the applicant fails to obtain their *absolutorium* by the end of the spring semester of the 2021/2022 academic year
- the applicant was awarded previously the Dissertation Scholarship

2.3. Duration of the Scholarship

The Dissertation Scholarship starts in the month following the last month of the semester in which the doctoral student obtains their *absolutorium* (no later than September 2022 in this Call) and lasts for the number of awarded months, but no later than the calendar month of the public defense of the thesis.

The maximum duration of the Dissertation Scholarship is eight (8) months, but it may not be longer than requested in the application.

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The final duration of the awarded SH Dissertation Scholarship will be decided by the Board of Trustees of TPF upon the recommendation of the higher education institution. The duration of the awarded scholarship may be shorter than what the applicant applied for. The duration of the awarded scholarship may not be extended.

The Dissertation Scholarship will be available as follows for the 2021/2022 spring semester application round:

- a) the Stipendium Hungaricum Dissertation Scholarship will be available for all eligible applicants for one to eight months as the minimum and the maximum duration until 30 April 2023, provided that the higher education institution recommends this duration.

2.4 Provisions covered by the scholarship

The scholarship holder shall receive the following provisions over the duration of the Scholarship:

- **Monthly stipend**
 - HUF 180.000/ month for the 1st, 2nd, 3rd months of the scholarship period
 - HUF 140.000/ month for the 4th, 5th, 6th months of the scholarship period
 - HUF 43.700/ month for the 7th and 8th months of the scholarship period
- **Accommodation contribution**
 - there is no contribution to the accommodation within this scholarship
- **Medical insurance**
 - medical insurance for up to HUF 65,000 arranged by the host institution

The monthly stipend shall be paid by the host institution on a monthly basis. These provisions are **only a contribution** to the living expenses of the scholarship holder in Hungary, meaning that they may **not fully cover all the costs of living** during the scholarship period.

2.5. Application documents for the Dissertation Scholarship

The applicants are required to submit the following documents to their host institution:

- a **letter of justification** from their supervisor in the Hungarian language explaining why the applicant needs the scholarship and why it is necessary for them to stay in Hungary. The letter should contain the Supervisor's professional opinion on the dissertation and the applicant's work in general; in connection with that, the number of months suggested for funding should be indicated as well. The letter of justification must be signed by the supervisor and the Head of the Doctoral School (please note that those applicants who **submit this document in the English language will be automatically rejected**)
- **motivation letter (at least one page)**, containing the detailed explanation for their need of the scholarship and the necessity of the scholarship holder's presence in Hungary during the scholarship period
- **monthly workplan** for the proposed scholarship period
- **class-plan** for all the four classes to be taught by the scholarship holder during the scholarship period



Please find all templates in the annex. **The letter of justification must explain and justify why it is essential for the scholarship holder to stay in Hungary for the requested period, and which of the proposed activities cannot be done online.** The Tempus Public Foundation will not consider applications where the absolute necessity of the applicant's presence in Hungary during the scholarship period is not clearly justified. The scholarship will be awarded only to those applicants who have submitted complete and well-founded justification, workplan, motivation letter and class-plan.

Examples of activities that require personal attendance in Hungary: laboratory work, any research activities at a Hungarian institution (e.g., library, archives), fieldwork, experiment, any research activities that require meeting someone in Hungary in person (e.g., interview, activities at a Hungarian stakeholder that cannot be implemented online) etc. Please note that these are examples only, and the Call for Application does not cover all acceptable activities.

All scholarship holders are obligated to teach at least four (4) classes during the fall semester of academic year 2022/2023.

The class-plan must include all the four (4) classes which will be taught by the scholarship holder. Each class should be at least half page long (total two pages). The draft must include the title of the class, the main goals and outlines, teaching method, and a short bibliography.

We have provided templates for every documents, you can find them in the annex. Please make sure that answer is given for each of the criteria indicated. The exact scope of the documents to be submitted, as well as the mode and platform of submitting the application will be determined by the host institution. The applicant does not have to send any documents directly to TPF.

The appointed contact person regarding the application process of the Dissertation Scholarship between the host institution and TPF is the current Stipendium Hungaricum programme coordinator at the host institution. The application deadline is 16 May 2022 23:59 CET.

No applications or missing documents will be accepted after the deadline.

2.6 Termination of scholarship status

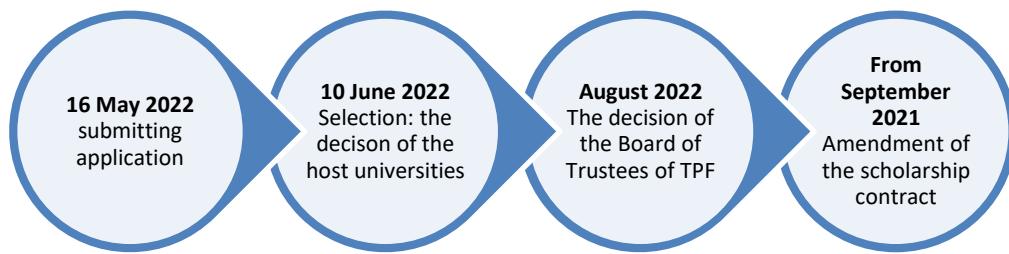
The Dissertation Scholarship holder status automatically expires:

- a) at the end of the awarded period
- b) at the end of the calendar month of the defense of the thesis.

Furthermore, the scholarship status is terminated in full accordance with the relevant provisions of the Operational Regulations of the programme.

3. The application process and selection procedure for Dissertation Scholarship

3.1. Preliminary application timeline



3.2. Selection Procedure

The host institution will have sent the list of applicants suggested for funding with the submitted documents of the Applicant to the Directorate for Study in Hungary of TPF by 10 June 2022. Submitted applications will be assessed by the Directorate for Study in Hungary of TPF on the basis of the documents received. **For the Dissertation Scholarship, the most important criterion of the decision is the necessity of the applicant's presence in Hungary. Those applications that do not justify clearly the absolute necessity of the applicant's presence in Hungary might be rejected.**

The list of scholarship awardees will be decided upon at the TPF Board of Trustees' meeting during the summer of 2022.

The host institutions, the awardees, and sending partners will be informed of the final results by the Directorate for Study in Hungary of TPF until the end of August 2022.

In case the applicant is due to obtain their absolutorium during the spring semester of academic year 2021/2022 (i.e., the absolutorium is expected after the decision of the TPF Board of Trustees), the dissertation scholarship will be awarded conditionally to the applicant. In this case, the Letter of Award granting the scholarship will be issued by TPF after the higher education institution confirms the successful obtainment of the absolutorium. The higher education institutions shall confirm the absolutorium until 25 August 2022 23:59 CET.

The Tempus Public Foundation's decision shall not be subject to appeal.

3.3. Amendment of the scholarship contract

Since the Dissertation Scholarship constitute a separate form of support, the original SH scholarship agreements of all awarded applicants will be amended. The original SH scholarship agreement may not be amended until the Scholarship Holder obtains their absolutorium.

The amended scholarship agreement – among all mandatory points set out in the Operational Regulations of the Stipendium Hungaricum Programme – will contain the following:

- the start, duration, and estimated end of the dissertation scholarship period
- the scope of provisions covered by the dissertation scholarship.

Annex:

1. Template for the Letter of Justification
2. Motivation Letter
3. Workplan
4. Class-plan
5. Operational Regulations of the Stipendium Hungaricum Scholarship Programme