

Rules for the Visegrad–Taiwan Scholarships

Based on Articles 2 and 20 of the Statute of the International Visegrad Fund (hereinafter the “Fund”) and in accordance with the “Memorandum of Understanding on Scientific Cooperation between the National Science Council, Taiwan and the International Visegrad Fund” (hereinafter “the Memorandum of Understanding”) signed in Warsaw on July 4, 2011, the following framework document describes the framework of operation within the Visegrad–Taiwan Scholarships (hereinafter the “Scholarship Program”).

This framework document outlines the procedures connected with the receipt, evaluation and selection of applications received by the Fund as well as the disbursement of scholarships to scholars from the Visegrad Group (V4) countries—Czechia, Hungary, Poland, and Slovakia—selected to travel to Taiwan to study and/or conduct research at selected Taiwanese higher-education institutions. Supporting Taiwanese scholars to conduct study/research in the V4 countries is covered through the Qianlima program operated by the Taiwanese Ministry of Science and Technology of Taiwan (<https://www.most.gov.tw/>), which is operating under separate rules and does not constitute a part of these Rules.

Chapter I—Aims of the Scholarship Program

Article 1

The Scholarship Program is created to facilitate academic mobility between the V4 region and Taiwan by providing financial support to PhD candidates (early-stage researchers), doctoral and postdoctoral scholars (experienced researchers), who are citizens of the V4 countries, to study/conduct research at selected higher-education institutions in Taiwan. The Scholarship Program is meant as a contribution to the scholarship holder’s living costs connected with their study/research in Taiwan.

Article 2

The Fund’s total budget allocation of the pilot edition is 10 research months per V4 country (i.e., 40 research months altogether). V4 countries jointly contribute by financially supporting selected scholar with €1,000 per each month and a one-time travel grant amounting to €1,000; the overall size of the contribution depends on the overall approved number of research months. Tuition fees connected with the studies/research of V4 scholars, on the other hand, shall be covered by the host university/institution (the Taiwanese side).

Chapter II—Eligibility and Preparation

Article 3

Requests for support within the Scholarship Program are provided for study/research projects specified in the application form submitted on-line at <http://my.visegradfund.org/> within a duly announced deadline published on the Fund’s website. An applicant for the Scholarship Program shall submit no more than one application within one deadline. The list of eligible host universities/institutions in Taiwan is published on the Fund’s website prior to each deadline.

Article 4

Minimum applicable length of the scholarship is 1 month; maximum length is 10 months. In general, longer scholarship periods are preferred. Successful applicants are eligible to apply for the Scholarship Program again; however, the maximum term of overall support to one scholar is 20 months.

Article 5

The level of supported studies/research shall be:

- PhD studies (the scholar must have finished master's studies and be enrolled in full-time PhD studies in a V4 country)
- Postdoctoral research (the scholar must be in possession of a doctoral degree and have full-time research experience and be engaged in research activity in V4 countries)

Article 6

The area of supported studies/research shall be:

- a) Nanotechnology,
- b) Electrotechnical industry,
- c) Biotechnology,
- d) Information technology,
- e) Public health,
- f) Social sciences and humanities
- g) Other

Chapter III—Application Form

Article 7

The call for proposals is released on the website of the Fund. V4 scholars apply for support by filling out the form available at the Fund's on-line application system at <http://my.visegradfund.org/> and by uploading compulsory annexes (see below). All forms as well as uploaded documents must be written in the English language and duly submitted before each deadline.

Article 8

Compulsory annexes (uploaded scans) to the application form are as follows:

1. A scan of the highest obtained university diploma with transcript (in English or translated into English);
2. Scanned verified confirmation of current enrollment/involvement in PhD study/research issued by the present university/institution. This document shall be issued on a letterhead paper and confirmed, i.e., stamped and signed by the present university/institution;
3. A scanned letter of acceptance or an equivalent document (e.g., invitation letter) from the host university/institution containing a detailed working plan of the study/research period (not older than 3 months when submitting the application);
4. Scans of two letters of recommendation, with one of them issued by the supervisor (leader of the research group in case of postdoctoral scholars) at the present university/institution, stating that the supervisor/leader agrees with the proposed stay abroad).

Chapter IV—Selection and Approval

Article 9

The Secretariat of the Fund shall register all applications in the order of receipt. The Secretariat of the Fund shall review the received applications to check their compliance with the formal requirements. The selection of applicants is the responsibility of the respective V4 National Authorities. The Executive

Director of the Fund shall present the final list of recommended applicants including a reserve list to the Council of Ambassadors for formal approval.

Chapter V—Scholarship Disbursement

Article 10

The scholar shall have the obligation to study/research in compliance with the time limit and financial conditions agreed upon in the contract. The payment from the Fund will be transferred at the start of the research upon the receipt of a scan of a written confirmation stating the date of the scholar's arrival and continuation.

Article 11

The scholar shall make use of the scholarship to cover all living costs in Taiwan, incl. health insurance that may be requested by the respective host university/institution.

Article 12

If the scholar fails to fulfill his/her duties toward the host university/institution through his/her own fault, or voluntarily terminates his/her studies or research, he/she shall be obliged to return to the Fund all the funding already paid within the scholarship in accordance with the relevant provisions of the contract concluded between the scholar and the Fund.

Article 13

The tuition fees connected with the studies/research of V4 scholars at selected Taiwanese higher-education institutions shall be covered by the respective host.

Article 14

These rules will come into effect on the day of their approval by the Conference of Ministers of Foreign Affairs.