

Call for Expression of Interest

Short-term scholarship programme

allowing Greek postgraduate and doctoral students enrolled in Greek Universities
to undertake a research placement in the United Kingdom.

The programme has been developed in the framework of the cooperation between
the Hellenic Republic and the United Kingdom.

The inward mobility scheme is funded by the British Embassy Athens
and delivered by the Greek State Scholarships Foundation and the British Council Greece.

Academic year 2021 – 2022

The Greek State Scholarships Foundation (hereafter “IKY”) and the British Council Greece (hereafter “British Council”), with the support of the British Embassy Athens (hereafter “British Embassy”), design and deliver, in the academic year 2021-2022, a short-term scholarship programme (hereafter “the Programme”) providing for structured learning and research placements of a four (4) - week duration each, in the UK. The beneficiaries of the Programme are Greek postgraduate and doctoral students enrolled in Greek Universities.

This academic year, the Programme is delivered pursuant to Regulatory Provisions as approved by Ministerial Decree (hereafter “MD”) **157852/Z1/03-12-2021** of the Greek Deputy Minister of Education and Religious Affairs (**Government Gazette 5824/v. B/14-12-2021**).

In the academic year 2021-2022, the Programme is exclusively funded by the United Kingdom through the British Embassy. It seeks to encourage higher education student mobility at the bilateral level, to enhance their academic competencies and expand their research activities. More widely, the Programme seeks to foster the bilateral academic cooperation in the period after the departure of the United Kingdom from the European Union, to the mutual benefit of both the grantees and the Higher Education Institutions (**hereafter “HEIs”**) involved.

The Call for Expression of Interest (hereafter the “Call”) for the academic year 2021-2022 opens **on Thursday 16/12/2021** and closes **on Friday 21/01/2021 at 23:00 EET**.

The academic placements can start no later than Thursday, 31 March 2022.

CHAPTER 1: SCOPE

1. IKY, the National Scholarships Agency, the British Embassy, which represents Her Majesty the Queen and the UK Government in Greece, and the British Council, the Greece branch of the United Kingdom's international organisation for cultural relations and educational opportunities, award **forty four (44) scholarships** to Greek postgraduate students and PhD candidates in the framework of the programme "**Greek-British Cooperation on Short-Term Scholarships**".
2. **In the academic year 2021-2022**, the Programme provides for forty-four (44) scholarships with a duration of four (4) weeks each. More specifically, **(a)** fourteen (14) scholarships will be awarded to postgraduate students at Master's level and **(b)** thirty (30) scholarships to doctoral students. In the event that the foreseen number of eligible applications in either category is not reached, IKY and the British Council, with the agreement of the British Embassy, may move the vacancies to the other category in order to ensure that the Programme's funds are fully absorbed.
3. In the academic year 2021-2022, the Programme is funded **exclusively by the United Kingdom** with the total amount of **114,108.28€** for both categories, and each grantee will receive a gross amount of **2,593.37€** to cover travel and accommodation expenses in the United Kingdom.

CHAPTER 2: CONDITIONS OF PARTICIPATION (COPs) - ELIGIBILITY AND EXCLUSION CRITERIA

Greek postgraduate students and PhD candidates enrolled in Greek HEIs must meet the below conditions cumulatively to participate in the Programme:

1. Be Greek citizens and reside permanently in Greece.
2. Possess a Greek Tax Identification Number (TIN).
3. Hold a University Degree from a Greek HEI with a minimum final score of six and five tenths (6.5/10).
- 4.a Postgraduate students at Master's level **(i)** are enrolled in a Programme of Postgraduate Studies (hereafter "PPS") of a Greek HEI, **(ii)** hold an attestation from the PPS academic coordinator that the short-term mobility does not negatively impact the regular attendance of the PPS, and **(iii)** have been accepted, by the deadline set in the Call, by a British HEI to undertake a placement of four (4) weeks in a postgraduate programme at Master's level in the field of their postgraduate specialisation.
- b PhD candidates **(i)** are enrolled in a Greek HEI and, at the same time, the title of their thesis has been approved and the Three-Member Advisory Committee has been appointed, **(ii)** hold an attestation

from the supervisor of their doctoral thesis that the short-term mobility does not negatively impact their doctoral research and (iii) have been accepted, by the deadline set in the Call, by a UK HEI for a short-term mobility of four (4) weeks directly relevant to the elaboration of the candidates' doctoral thesis.

5. Hold a recognised English language certificate at C1 level as a minimum (see Greek Supreme Council for Civil Personnel Selection guidance https://www.asep.gr/guide/4K_2020/englishproof.html).
6. Are not already enrolled in another study programme in the UK as an undergraduate, postgraduate or doctoral student or as a student on a short-term mobility programme, including distance learning.
7. Should they have received – at any time – another scholarship from IKY, the British Embassy or the British Council, they must have fulfilled all the obligations emanating from this commitment.
8. Male candidates must have completed their military obligations before the start of the scholarship or they must have been legally exempt from them or have been granted a military service deferment, the length of which covers the full duration of the scholarship and of the life cycle of said mobility.
9. IKY, the British Embassy and the British Council reserve the exclusive right to cancel the grant, should it come to their attention – even retrospectively – that the eligibility criteria have not been fully met. In this case, a refund of the amount already disbursed will be immediately due.

CHAPTER 3: APPLICATION PROCESS – SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS – ELIGIBILITY – SELECTION

1. The Call for the academic year 2021-2022 opens **on Thursday 16/12/2021** and closes **on Friday 21/01/2021 at 23:00 EET** and can be found on the websites of IKY (www.iky.gr) and the British Council (www.britishcouncil.gr).
2. Applications are completed and submitted electronically, in English, via the platform hosted on the website of the British Council at <https://bit.ly/3DJNGeh>, within the deadline provided in the Call.
3. Candidates must fill out the online application form, which also serves as a solemn declaration of Law 1599/1986, and attach the below supporting documents, as enumerated in the Call, in pdf format:
 - A copy of both sides of their ID card or of the appropriate pages (stating number, holder's ID) of a valid passport;
 - Any document proving that they hold a Greek TIN.

- A first Degree from a Greek HEI, which clearly indicates the final grade with the precision of two (2) decimal places; alternatively, a relevant certificate of completion of studies issued by the Registry of the Greek HEI, which indicates the final Degree grade with the precision of two (2) decimal places.
 - An attestation issued by a UK HEI formally accepting the short-term placement by the deadline set in this Call.
 - An attestation issued by the academic coordinator of the PPS or by the supervisor of the doctoral thesis that the short-term mobility does not impede the fulfilment of the students' obligations under the PPS or the elaboration of their doctoral thesis, respectively.
 - An English language certificate at C1 level as a minimum (see Greek Supreme Council for Civil Personnel Selection guidance https://www.asep.gr/guide/4K_2020/englishproof.html).
 - A Europass CV (see <https://europa.eu/europass/en>).
 - A certificate of military status for Greek male candidates.
- 4.a. Postgraduate students at Master's level are requested to submit **(i)** a certificate from a Greek HEI stating that they are enrolled in one of its PPS and **(ii)** a Letter of Motivation of up to 700 words in English, where they set out their plans upon completion of the short-term mobility and how the latter will add value to their postgraduate studies.
- b. Doctoral students must submit **(i)** a certificate from the Greek HEI they are enrolled in, which clearly states the subject of their thesis and the date of appointment of the Three-Member Advisory Committee, **(ii)** an attestation by the supervisor of their doctoral thesis, explaining how the short-term mobility will be beneficial to the PhD candidate and **(iii)** a Letter of Motivation of up to 700 words, in English, where the doctoral students set out their plans upon completion of the short-term mobility and how the latter will add value to the elaboration of their thesis.
5. The screening and classification of the applications will be carried out by a committee set up jointly by IKY, the British Embassy and the British Council. The founding act will regulate the composition and any other matter pertaining to the committee's operation.
6. The candidates are solely responsible for filling out completely and correctly all the fields of the online application by the deadline foreseen in the Call. No change to the application is possible past the deadline for the submission of applications. No application sent in any other way (per e-mail or post, etc.) before or after the deadline for the submission of applications will be considered.

7. Applications submitted by candidates who fail to meet the eligibility criteria will be rejected as ineligible. Additionally, applications, which are not submitted pursuant to the procedure set out in this chapter or have not been correctly or fully completed or are not accompanied by all supporting documentation or have not been submitted by the deadline foreseen in the Call, will be rejected as ineligible.
8. IKY, the British Embassy and the British Council reserve the right to request, within a set deadline, that the candidates submit any additional clarifying document deemed necessary.

CHAPTER 4: SELECTION CRITERIA AND GRADING SCALES

1. Degree grade: from 6.5 to 10 points, corresponding to their final Degree score with the precision of two (2) decimal places.
2. Letter of Motivation: from 0 up to 30 points.
3. Quality of the CV: from 0 up to 60 points. Evaluation will focus on scientific or professional competence in the relevant academic field (qualifications, professional/academic/research experience, publications, presentations in international and/or national conferences, awards, etc.).

CHAPTER 5: SELECTION PROCESS

1. The candidates are selected by the Evaluation and Selection Committee (thereafter “the Committee”), the set-up of which is foreseen in the trilateral cooperation agreement signed between the IKY Board of Directors, the British Embassy and the British Council. The parties to the aforementioned agreement appoint the Committee members. The Committee will comprise four (4) members in total: two (2) will represent the British Embassy and the British Council, and two (2) will represent IKY; all members shall hold a PhD.
2. The Committee will first conduct an eligibility check of the applications and draw up a Provisional List of Ineligible Applications stating the reason for their ineligibility. Said list will, upon approval by the IKY Board of Directors, the British Embassy and the British Council, be uploaded to the websites of IKY and the British Council.
3. Objections against the Provisional List of Ineligible Applications, well-argued and -documented, may be raised within five (5) working days from the list’s posting/publication and will be submitted electronically only to the dedicated email address of the British Council scholarships@britishcouncil.gr. The Committee will examine the objections raised and

subsequently draw up the Final List of Ineligible Applications. This list, upon approval by the IKY Board of Directors, the British Embassy and the British Council, will be posted on the websites of IKY and the British Council.

4. Objections raised against any other issue will not be accepted.
5. The Committee specified in paragraph 1 will evaluate the candidates' applications. The candidates' final score will be derived from the amount of points they received during the evaluation of the criteria described in Chapter 4.
6. After evaluating the applications, the Committee will draw up a Provisional List of Selected and Runner-up Candidates, in descending order. The Provisional List will be approved by the IKY Board of Directors, the British Embassy and the British Council and, thereupon, posted on the websites of IKY and the British Council.
7. Objections against the Provisional List of Selected and Runner-up Candidates, well-argued and – documented, may be raised within five (5) working days from the last posting date and will be submitted electronically only to the dedicated email address of the British Council scholarships@britishcouncil.gr. The objections will be examined by the Committee, which will subsequently draw up the Final List of Selected and Runner-up Candidates.
8. The Final List of Selected and Runner-up Candidates will be validated by the IKY Board of Directors, the British Embassy and the British Council and will be thereupon published on the websites of IKY and the British Council.
9. In case of removal from the list or withdrawal of a selected candidate before the start of the scholarship, the grant will be awarded to the first runner up candidate on the list.
10. Objections raised against the Call, the selection process set out in paragraph 5 of this Chapter, and the Committee's decisions, will not be accepted.

CHAPTER 6: CONDITIONS FOR THE AWARD OF A SCHOLARSHIP

In case of an inaccurate or incorrect entry of data or the non-disclosure thereof or in case the electronic application is not accompanied by the required supporting documents (as applicable) or it does not meet the terms and conditions of the Call or the supporting documents requested under the Call were not submitted electronically, the application is rejected as ineligible and is replaced with an equivalent one from the List of Runner-Up Candidates, respecting the ranking order.

ΚΕΦΑΛΑΙΟ 7: COMMENCEMENT AND DISBURSEMENT OF THE SCHOLARSHIP

1. The selected candidates will be called to conclude and sign a scholarship agreement with IKY and the British Council. Each agreement will specify the obligations of the grantee and the purpose, duration and terms of the scholarship as well as the modality of its disbursement.
2. IKY, the British Embassy and the British Council reserve the exclusive right, upon their agreement, to cancel the award of a scholarship to any candidate who does not submit a signed agreement within the set deadline.
3. The disbursement of the scholarship commences upon the conclusion of the scholarship agreement.

CHAPTER 8: FINANCIAL AND OTHER PROVISIONS – ADMINISTRATIVE AND FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT

Each grantee will receive a total gross amount of **two thousand five hundred and ninety-three euros and thirty-seven cents (€2,593.37)** from which legal deductions will be made in favour of the Greek State. The scholarship will be transferred in a lump sum to a bank account the scholar holds in a Greek bank, provided that the beneficiary complies with his/her obligations as set out in the signed agreement.

CHAPTER 9: TERMS OF THE SCHOLARSHIP

1. The candidates have the sole responsibility to secure their acceptance by the UK HEI of their choice by the deadline set in this Call and are obliged to fulfill the objectives of their study visit to the British University as described in the Letter of Motivation of Chapter 3, paragraph 4 (a) and (b).
2. IKY, the British Embassy and the British Council will set a deadline by which the selected candidates will sign their individual scholarship agreements. Each agreement will specify their obligations and the purpose, duration, terms of the scholarship, as well as the modality of its disbursement.
3. Candidates are requested to submit the signed scholarship agreement through the British Council's dedicated email address scholarships@britishcouncil.gr in pdf format and within the set deadline; otherwise they will be removed from the list and, if possible, replaced by the next candidate on said list.
4. Suspension of the commencement of the scholarship or suspension of the scholarship in between is not allowed.
5. Within one (1) month from the completion of the short-term mobility, the beneficiaries will submit electronically to IKY and the British Council a final report (postgraduate students) and a final activity report (PhD candidates).

6. The scholarship is governed by the terms and conditions of the agreement signed between the candidate (on the one hand), and IKY and the British Council (on the other hand), as well as by the T&Cs of the MD and of the Call.
7. IKY, the British Embassy and the British Council may, at any stage of the scholarship, request from the grantees additional supporting documents, should they deem them necessary for the delivery and management of the Programme and for the monitoring of the beneficiary's progress. Each beneficiary must submit the required supporting documents within the deadline set, in the form and in the manner indicated.
8. In his/her final report or activity report the beneficiary shall mention the following: ***The mobility was delivered in the framework of the programme "Greek-British Cooperation on Short-Term Scholarships", which is run by the State Scholarships Foundation (IKY) and the British Council Greece and is exclusively funded by the British Embassy Athens.***
9. IKY, the British Embassy and the British Council, further to reaching an agreement, reserve the exclusive right to cancel the grant, if it is found – even retrospectively – that the eligibility criteria or the terms of the call and the agreement were not fully met – except in cases of force majeure – and are entitled to ask, at their discretion, that all, or part, of the scholarship is returned.
10. The IKY Board of Directors, the British Embassy and the British Council can jointly decide to accept the invocation of reasons of force majeure, following a timely and well-argued application of the scholar, who bears the relevant burden of proof. Force majeure means any unforeseen, exceptional situation or event beyond the control of the scholar, which expressly and surely prevents him/her from fulfilling one or more of their obligations under the agreement and, which could not in this particular case be prevented even by acts of utmost diligence and prudence.

CHAPTER 10: OTHER PROVISIONS

1. The draw-up and validation of the final **List of Selected Candidates** does not imply any obligation on the part of IKY, the British Embassy and the British Council to award a grant to any candidate.
2. Any issues that arise during the delivery of the Programme, which are not expressly referred to in this call, are regulated by joint decisions of the IKY Board of Directors, the British Embassy and the British Council.

Further information and clarifications are provided on all working days and hours:

- by the British Council at scholarships@britishcouncil.gr and on 210-3692360, 210-3692302.
- by IKY at exoterikou@iky.gr and on 210-3726370, 210-3726330, 210-3726328 and 210-3726325.

For technical support regarding the online application please contact
Thanasis.Tsiroyiannis@britishcouncil.org.