

Master of Science Scholarship Program (M.Sc.) for IsDB Least Developed Member Countries

I. Background

IsDB launched the M.Sc. Scholarship Program in Science and Technology, or M.Sc. for short, for IsDB Least Developed Member Countries (LDMCs) in 1419H (1998).

II. Objective

The objective of the M.Sc. is to assist the LDMCs in the development of the human resources in science and technology that are both relevant and necessary for their socioeconomic development and specifically:

- To increase the number of intermediate-level technological manpower in the 20 LDMCs, which is necessary for effective technology development, transfer and maintenance.
- To increase access to the educational opportunities available under IsDB initiatives in human capital development for MCs by creating a special program suited to their circumstances and needs.
- To enhance the ability of LDMCs students to participate in the IsDB Merit Scholarship Program for High technology.

III. Field of Study

The scholarship is tenable for two years leading to an M.Sc. degree. The M.Sc. study may be through coursework, research, or a combination of both. Whichever the mode, it must be completed within the specified two-year time frame maximum. Under the M.Sc. program, eligible students may apply only for studies in science, engineering, technology, or medicine/medical sciences.

IV. Institutions of Study

The successful candidate for the program must secure admission at one of the IsDB member countries' universities listed in the top 1000 in the Times Higher Education Supplement (THES) ranking. Please visit the THES [website](#).

Priority shall be given to applicants with secured admission at universities in member countries that have concluded a cooperation agreement with IsDB, such as Malaysia, Morocco, and Turkey, as well the university of Makerere in Uganda.

V. Eligibility requirements

Interested applicants must meet the following eligibility criteria:

- Citizen of any of the 20 LDMCs.
 - Age not over 30 years e at the closing date of applications.
 - In possession of a B.Sc., or equivalent degree, in science and technology.
 - Above average in academic standing/grade.
 - Nominated by scientific/academic/research institutions of their countries.
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- Have good command of the language of the institution of study and the ability to conduct scientific work in it.
 - Provisional or full admission from universities or institutions listed under the M.Sc. is desirable and strongly encouraged.
 - Not an IsDB staff member or Executive Director, his/her alternate, and/or staff of any type of appointment (including temporary and consultant) of the IsDB Group nor a close relative of the aforementioned by blood or adoption, with the term “close relative” being defined as mother, father, sister, half-sister, brother, half-brother, son, daughter, aunt, uncle, niece or nephew.

Notes: The scholarship may only supplement, and shall not duplicate, any other source of financial support the applicant might have. If the applicant is awarded a scholarship, he/she must inform IsDB at that time if he/she has other sources of funding.

Sending the application or getting admission by the academic institution does not mean that the applicant has been accepted for a scholarship. Accordingly, the applicant should not take any action concerning his/he current employment or otherwise until notified by IsDB of having been awarded a scholarship.

VI. Benefits and Facilities

The program covers the following items:

- Tuition fees, payable to the universities directly.
- Monthly stipend commensurate with the cost of living in the country of study.
- Cost of medical treatment (either at the university or local state hospital);
- Thesis preparation allowance.

- Return air ticket (once at the beginning and at the end of study) and installation allowance for students studying abroad.

The scholarship does not cover the following:

- Visa application(s) costs.
- Expenses to bring and/or support a scholar's family members.
- Extracurricular courses or training.
- Courses that do not meet the minimum credits required to earn the graduate degree.
- Language training not provided by the study program.
- Additional travel during the study program.
- Expenses related to research, supplementary educational materials, field trips, participation in workshops/seminars, exchange programs, conferences, or internships.
- Educational equipment, such as computers.
- Residence permit fee.

VII. Obligations

Beneficiaries awarded the M.Sc. scholarships are expected to:

- Sign a surety bond stating their commitment to their studies, to their return to their countries upon completion of their studies and to continue work and services to science, technology and development of their countries for at least twice the duration of scholarships.
- Devote themselves to their studies on a full-time basis and without interruption and provide IsDB with reports on their academic studies and activities on a regular basis.
- Not to seek or accept any other scholarship or remunerated work during their studies under the Program that may interfere with their studies or make fulfilment of their other obligations difficult, unless otherwise approved in writing by IsDB.
- Respect the laws of the country of study and maintain good personal and professional conduct consistent with the rules, regulations and objectives of the program and the overall mission of IsDB as an Islamic institution.

VIII. Roles of Offices of IsDB Governors

As the channel of announcement, the offices of IsDB Governors are expected to:

- Announce the program, as widely as possible, among the scientific and research communities in the country.
- Disseminate information to relevant scientific and research institutions and interested scholars in the country.
- Endorse the shortlisted applications in the proposed fields of study most needed for the country's development.

IX. Roles of Nominating Institutions

As a partner in the joint effort with IsDB, the institutions nominating candidates for the program are expected to:

- Duly nominate their candidates, assist them in all aspects of documentation preparation and secure the necessary endorsement from local authorities.
- Assist selected candidates to prepare for departure, place them on study leave and support them in their research.
- Help return scholars resettle and support them in their research and equipment needs.

X. List of 20 eligible LDMCs

1. Afghanistan
2. Benin
3. Burkina Faso
4. Chad
5. Comoros
6. Djibouti
7. Gambia
8. Guinea

9. Guinea-Bissau
10. Mali
11. Maldives
12. Mauritania
13. Mozambique
14. Niger
15. Palestine
16. Sierra Leone
17. Somalia
18. Togo
19. Uganda
20. Yemen