

## OAS – THE VRIJE UNIVERSITEIT BRUSSEL (VUB) 2017 SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

### OAS Partnerships Program for Education and Training (PAEC)

The Organization of American States (OAS) and the Vrije Universiteit Brussel (VUB), through the OAS Partnerships Program for Education and Training (PAEC), are offering scholarships to qualified candidates of the Americas to pursue master's degree programs in the areas mentioned in the table below.

<b>PROGRAMS:</b>	<p>Scholarship recipients may pursue master's degrees in the following study areas:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <a href="#">Physical and Land resources</a> (22 months)</li> <li>2. <a href="#">Business and technology</a> (22 months)</li> <li>3. <a href="#">Management science</a> (22 months)</li> <li>4. <a href="#">Business Engineering: Business and Technology</a> (22 months)</li> <li>5. <a href="#">Educational Science</a> (22 months)</li> <li>6. <a href="#">Architectural Engineering</a> (22 months)</li> <li>7. <a href="#">Biomedical Engineering</a> (22 months)</li> <li>8. <a href="#">Chemical and Materials Engineering</a> (22 months)</li> <li>9. <a href="#">Civil Engineering</a> (22 months)</li> <li>10. <a href="#">Electromechanical Engineering</a> (22 months)</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>11. <a href="#">Electronics and Information Technology</a> (22 months)</li> <li>12. <a href="#">European Master of Science in photonics</a> (22 months)</li> <li>13. <a href="#">Geography</a> (22 months)</li> <li>14. <a href="#">Linguistics and Literary Studies</a> (10 months)</li> <li>15. <a href="#">Computer Science</a> (22 months)</li> <li>16. <a href="#">Applied Computer Science</a> (22 months)</li> <li>17. <a href="#">Biology</a> (22 months)</li> <li>18. <a href="#">Molecular Biology</a> (22 months)</li> <li>19. <a href="#">Biomolecular Science</a> (22 months)</li> <li>20. <a href="#">Chemistry</a> (22 months)</li> <li>21. <a href="#">Physics and Astronomy</a> (22 months)</li> <li>22. <a href="#">Marine and Lacustrine Science and Management</a> (22 months)</li> <li>23. <a href="#">Communication Studies – New Media and Society in Europe</a> (10 months)</li> <li>24. <a href="#">Communication Studies – Journalism and Media in Europe</a> (10 months)</li> </ol>
<b>MODALITY:</b>	Onsite in Brussels, Belgium	
<b>LANGUAGE:</b>	English	
<b>DURATION:</b>	1–2 Years	
<b>DEADLINE:</b>	Scholarship application deadline: <b>January 31st, 2017</b>	
<b>START DATE</b>	September 2017	
<b>END DATE</b>	Varies based upon study area: 1 year (June 2018) or 2 years (June 2019)	
<b>BENEFITS:</b>	<p>Full tuition costs for the top ranked OAS scholarship recipients</p> <p>One-time payment of US\$ 1,350 to offset the cost of travel to Brussels for top ranked scholarship recipients</p>	
<b>Eligible OAS Member States</b>	All OAS Member States.	

## **1. ABOUT THE GENERAL SECRETARIAT OF THE ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN STATES**

The General Secretariat of the Organization of American States (GS/OAS) is the central and permanent organ of the OAS. Through its Department of Human Development, Education and Employment (DHDEE), GS/OAS supports OAS member states in creating policies and executing programs that promote human capacity development at all educational levels. By enabling formative opportunities to citizens, DHDEE strengthens democratic values and security under the framework of regional integration. DHDEE does this: (i) by supporting the efforts of OAS member states to improve the quality of and equity in education; and (ii) by assisting the citizens of the Americas in realizing their full potential by giving them access to knowledge and skills through training that improves the standard of living for individuals, families and communities in the region.

## **2. ABOUT THE VRIJE UNIVERSITEIT BRUSSEL**

The Vrije Universiteit Brussel is a dynamic and modern university with four campuses in Brussels, the heart of Europe. Education at master level is taking place at the main Brussels Engineering, Sciences and Humanities Campus, home to seven faculties. At the Brussels Health Campus one can find the medical campus and the University Hospital. Education and research are of very high quality. VUB's research teams are internationally recognized in many disciplines of fundamental and applied research. The Vrije Universiteit Brussel is an internationally renowned research institution with many opportunities for graduate studies. The university offers master's degree programs in a wide array disciplines. For more information, visit [www.vub.eu](http://www.vub.eu) and watch presentation video <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=P5Bv53ySDWo>.

## **3. APPLICATION FOR THE UNIVERSITY'S ADMISSION INFORMATION**

Selected master's candidates will be required to apply through the on-line system of VUB after accepting the OAS scholarship offer.

### **Student/Applicant's profile**

- Holder of a university degree. Having a university degree does NOT automatically mean you will be admitted as a graduate student. The admission can be subjected to a preliminary examination and an investigation into the applicant's suitability. The ultimate decision about the eligibility for graduate study resides with the Faculty in which the studies will take place.
- Good command in English language
- Excellent academic credentials

### **Admission Process:**

Before applying for this scholarship opportunity, students are encouraged to read the program's description, and ensure that the study area fulfills their expectations and interests. Student can find more information on Master's degree programs by clicking on the links provided per program in the table on page 1 of this announcement. Applicants must have a bachelor's degree to apply for a master's degree program.

### **University Contact Information:**

Applicants can contact the VUB International Relations and Mobility Office for more information on the graduate scholarship program at [international.relations@vub.ac.be](mailto:international.relations@vub.ac.be).

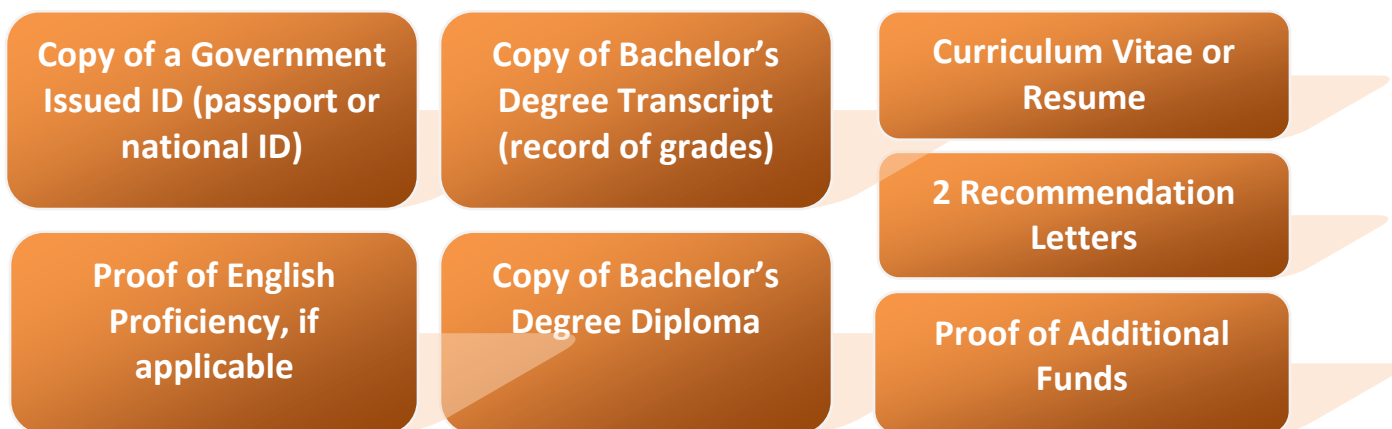
### **OAS Contact Information:**

For questions about this scholarship opportunity, please send an email to Ms. Jennifer Hoogdorp at [JHoogdorp@oas.org](mailto:JHoogdorp@oas.org).

## **4. SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION PROCESS**

To apply for this scholarship opportunity, you must submit a [scholarship application](#) online through the OAS Fellowship Management System.

**You are required to upload the following documents where indicated in the online application form. Please note that all supporting documents must first be combined into ONE PDF document before it can be uploaded in the application form. The application system does not allow for more than one document to be uploaded, hence the aforementioned request. Please be guided accordingly.**



### **Please note the following:**

a) All documents must be in English or official translated to English.

b) Students whose native language is not **English** will be required to submit **one** of the following as proof of English proficiency:

- A copy of official transcript verifying completion of studies in an English speaking university in the last five years;
- A test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) with a score of 580 or higher for the paper based test, 237 for computer-based test, or an internet-based TOEFL (IBT) score of at least 92;
- IELTS 6.5, or the equivalent
- The date stated on the TOEFL or IELTS certificate must be within two years of your proposed start date.

c) Proof that you have **sufficient funds** to cover remaining tuition and fees and other costs not covered by the scholarship by including **one, or a combination**, of the following documents with your scholarship application:

- a copy of a rental agreement on property showing you as the property owner;
- a copy of a bank statement or bank letter;
- a letter from an employer showing a monthly or yearly salary;
- a letter showing a student loan or additional scholarship(s), grants, financial aid.

d) One of the **letters of recommendation** should be provided by a university professor and the other should be provided by your current or most recent employer that includes: the letterhead of the University/Institution, the Professor's/Employer's position within the University/Institution, date and signature.

- The recommendation letters provided for admission consideration to the University can be used for scholarship consideration. However, if you choose to provide new recommendation letters directly to the OAS, the letters should be addressed to the OAS Scholarship and Training Programs, Department of Human Development, Education and Employment.

e) Selected students are strongly encouraged to register with their respective embassy/ consulate in Belgium, if existent.

f) You are required to write and include **two essays** in the scholarship application form. The essays should be written in English. Each essay should have a minimum of 800 characters (not words) and a maximum of 2900 characters, including spaces.

### Essay 1

Describe how acquiring this academic degree will directly impact and enhance your professional skills in your current job position or future career.

### Essay 2

Explain how you intend to apply the acquired knowledge and experience in the specific field of study that you will pursue to the development of your country or region. Also, please indicate the reasons for applying to this scholarship, financial need and how you will cover the additional costs not included in this scholarship.

## 5. SCHOLARSHIP BENEFITS AND FINANCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

<b>PROGRAMS:</b>	Please refer to the list of programs in the table on page 1 of this announcement
<b>SCHOLARSHIP BENEFITS</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Full tuition costs for the top ranked OAS scholarship recipients</li> <li>• One-time payment of US\$ 1,350 to offset the cost of travel to Brussels for top ranked scholarship recipients</li> </ul>
<b>FINANCIAL RESPONSIBILITY OF APPLICANTS</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tuition of 890-2950 EUR, if not among the top selected for a tuition fee waiver.</li> <li>• Annual administration fee; estimated a 105€</li> <li>• Immigration fees, estimated at €100</li> <li>• Settling-in fees, estimated at €500</li> <li>• Living expenses, estimated at €1000 per month</li> <li>• Visa charge, estimated at €250</li> <li>• Health insurance; estimated at 427€ (taxes excluded) per year</li> <li>• Travel expenses</li> <li>• Any other costs not mentioned.</li> </ul>
<b>Comments</b>	One-time payment of US\$ 1,350 will only be granted to the top ranked candidates from eligible OAS member states.

These above expenses listed as financial responsibility shall be the sole and exclusive responsibility of the scholarship recipients and the scholarship recipients will be responsible for all costs not covered by the scholarship.

Scholarship benefits are subject to the academic performance of the scholarship recipient. In order to receive these benefits, the scholarship recipient should not be reported with an unsatisfactory academic performance due to absences or failing courses.

## **6. SCHOLARSHIP ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS:**

To be considered for this scholarship opportunity, an applicant must:

**Be a citizen and/or permanent legal resident of any [OAS member state](#)**

**Submit a complete scholarship application with all required supporting documents**

**Have not received other scholarship from the OAS for the same level of studies and/or program of study as advertised in this announcement**

**Not be an OAS staff or individual who maintains employment contracts with the OAS or a staff of a Permanent Mission to the OAS or immediate relatives of a staff of a Permanent Mission to the OAS**

## **7. SCHOLARSHIP SELECTION CRITERIA**

- a) The merits and overall credentials of the candidate, including his/her academic and professional background;
- b) Geographical distribution of the applicants, taking into account the greater needs of the smaller and relatively less developed economies;
- c) Applicants whose proposals portray the highest potential for impact upon return to their sponsoring countries; and
- d) Gender diversity.

## **8. DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE STUDENT:**

- a) The scholarship will be formally awarded only after the selected awardees have signed the Scholarship Acceptance Form to formally accept the scholarship offer and agree to its terms and conditions.
- b) Applicants should take at least 6 weeks into account for their visa to be processed. Candidates will be required to show proof of sufficient funds to cover the expenses from a guarantor during the visa application process.

- c) Refrain from activities that are inconsistent with the status of an OAS Scholarship recipient, abiding by the regulations referred to in this Acceptance Form.
- d) Comply with all the academic guidelines and admission requirements requested by VUB and submit to the updates of these guidelines and requirements made by the academic authorities at VUB.
- e) Comply with the provisions indicated in the "Financial responsibilities of awardees."
- f) To retain the scholarship, scholarship recipients should not have low academic performance (GPA must be at least 3.0/4.0), due to absence from the program and/or course failure.
- g) The scholarship can be declined by the scholarship recipient before the start date of the program of study without financial penalties. However, if she/he declines the scholarship after that date without proof of force majeure, the OAS and VUB may require the scholarship recipient to reimburse all funding granted to her/him with the scholarship at the time in which the declination is processed.
- h) Commitment to return to work in their sponsoring country or permanent legal residence; in one of the OAS Member States; or at an international organization for at least the length of the duration of the scholarship. Failure to comply with this commitment, the GS/OAS and/or VUB could seek reimbursement for the total value of the scholarship awarded.

**APPLY NOW!**

**For more information: [www.oas.org/scholarships](http://www.oas.org/scholarships)**