



British Embassy
Athens



ΕΛΛΗΝΙΚΗ ΔΗΜΟΚΡΑΤΙΑ
ΥΠΟΥΡΓΕΙΟ ΠΑΙΔΕΙΑΣ, ΘΡΗΣΚΕΥΜΑΤΩΝ ΚΑΙ
ΑΘΛΗΤΙΣΜΟΥ

ΙΔΡΥΜΑ ΚΡΑΤΙΚΩΝ ΥΠΟΤΡΟΦΙΩΝ
(I.K.Y.)

Protocol No: 1051/1-2-2024

Call for Expression of Interest

**Short-term scholarships programme
for postgraduate and doctoral students enrolled in Greek Universities
for a research mobility in the United Kingdom,
set up in the framework of the cooperation between the Hellenic Republic and the United Kingdom
and delivered by the Greek State Scholarships Foundation, the British Embassy Athens
and the British Council Greece.**

**3rd Cycle – Academic year 2023 – 2024
(short-term research placements to be concluded by 30/06/2024)**

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 2023–2024 a short-term scholarships programme (hereafter “Programme”) providing for structured learning and research placements of a four (4) – week duration each, in the United Kingdom (hereafter “UK”). The Programme beneficiaries are postgraduate and doctoral students enrolled in Greek Universities.

This academic year the Programme is delivered pursuant to Regulatory Provisions as approved by joint Ministerial Decree (hereafter “MD”) **8201/Ζ1/24.01.2024** of the Greek Minister of Education, Religious Affairs and Sports and of the Greek Deputy Minister of Finance (**Government Gazette 707/τ.Β’/31-01-2024**).

The Programme, which in the academic year 2023–2024 is co-funded by IKY and the British Embassy, seeks to encourage the mobility of postgraduate and doctoral students enrolled in Greek Higher Education Institutions (hereafter “HEIs”) toward British Universities, thereby helping the students enhance their academic/scientific 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 UK from the European Union, to the mutual benefit of both the grantees and the HEIs involved.

The Call for Expression of Interest (hereafter the “Call”) for the academic year 2023–2024 opens on 2/2/2024 and closes on 23/2/2024 at 23:00 EET (Athens time).



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The academic placements for the academic year 2023–2024 must have concluded by 30 June 2024.

CHAPTER 1: SCOPE – BUDGET – FUNDING

1. IKY, the British Embassy and the British Council award **twenty-four (24) scholarships** of a four (4)-week duration each to postgraduate and doctoral students in the framework of the programme "**Greek-British Cooperation on Short-term Scholarships – 3rd Cycle**".
2. **In the academic year 2023–2024**, the Programme provides, more specifically, for **(a) six (6) scholarships to postgraduate students at master’s level** and **(b) eighteen (18) scholarships to doctoral students**. If the foreseen number of eligible applications in either category is not reached, IKY and the British Council, with the consent of the British Embassy, may move the vacancies to the other category to ensure the full absorption of the Programme funds.
3. In the academic year 2023–2024, the Programme is co-funded by IKY and the British Embassy for a total amount of **sixty-two thousand two hundred and forty euro and eighty-eight cents (62,240.88€)** for both categories of grantees. Each scholar will receive a gross amount of **two thousand five hundred and ninety-three euro and thirty-seven cents (2,593.37€)** for travel and accommodation expenses in the United Kingdom.

CHAPTER 2: CONDITIONS OF PARTICIPATION – ELIGIBILITY

The Programme is open to postgraduate and doctoral students enrolled in Greek HEIs who cumulatively meet the below conditions:

1. They reside permanently in Greece.
2. They possess a Greek Tax Identification Number (hereafter "TIN").
3. They hold a Degree from a Greek University with a minimum final score of six and five tenths (6.5/10).
- 4.1. Postgraduate students at Master’s level **(i)** obtained their Degree within the last five (5) years, **(ii)** are enrolled in a Postgraduate Programme of Studies (hereafter "PPS") at a Greek HEI, **(iii)** hold an attestation prepared by the PPS academic coordinator that the short-term mobility does not negatively impact the regular attendance of the PPS, and **(iv)** have been accepted, by the deadline set in the Call, by a British University to undertake a placement of four (4) weeks in a postgraduate programme at Master's level in the field of their postgraduate specialisation
- 4.2. PhD candidates **(i)** are enrolled in a Greek HEI and can provide evidence that the title of their thesis has been approved and their Three-Member Advisory Committee has been appointed, **(ii)** hold an attestation issued by 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. They hold an officially recognised English language certificate at C1 level as a minimum (see Greek Supreme Council for Civil Personnel Selection www.asep.gr/guide/4K_2020/englishproof.html).



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6. They are not currently 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 grant.
8. Male candidates must have completed their military obligations before the start of the scholarship or must have been legally exempt from them or have obtained a military service deferment, the length of which covers the full duration of the scholarship and 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 were not fully met. In this case, a refund of the amount already disbursed to the grantee will be immediately due.

CHAPTER 3: APPLICATION PROCESS – SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION – SCREENING

1. The Call for the academic year 2023–2024 **opens on 2/2/2024 and closes on 23/2/2024 at 23:00 EET (Athens time)** and can be found on the websites of IKY (www.iky.gr) and the British Council (www.britishcouncil.gr).
2. Applications are completed in English and submitted electronically through the platform hosted on the British Council website: <https://bit.ly/49yLUNt>.
3. Candidates must completely fill out the online application form, which also serves as a solemn declaration of Law 1599/1986, and attach the below supporting documents in pdf format:
 - 3.1 A copy of both sides of their ID card or of the personal identification pages of a valid passport.
 - 3.2 Any document proving that they hold a Greek TIN.
 - 3.3 Their University Degree from a Greek HEI clearly indicating 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 indicating the final Degree grade with the precision of two (2) decimal places.
 - 3.4 A formal acceptance letter by a UK HEI, approving the short-term placement of the candidate.
 - 3.5 An officially recognised English language certificate at C1 level as a minimum (see Greek Supreme Council for Civil Personnel Selection guidance www.asep.gr/guide/4K_2020/englishproof.html).
 - 3.6 A Europass CV in English (see <https://europa.eu/europass/en>).
 - 3.7 A certificate of military status for male candidates as per the provisions in Chapter 2, article 8.
 - 3.8 A letter or by the supervisor of the doctoral thesis attesting 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.
- 4.1. Postgraduate students at Master's level are requested to submit **(i)** an attestation from a Greek HEI stating that they are enrolled in one of its PPS, **(ii)** a letter by the academic coordinator of the PPS attesting that the short-term mobility does not impede the fulfilment of the students' obligations under the PPS, and **(iii)** 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.



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- 4.2. Doctoral students must submit **(i)** an attestation 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)** a letter issued by the supervisor of their doctoral thesis, setting out the objective of the short-term mobility and how it will benefit the 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 eligibility screening, quality assessment and ranking of the applications will be carried out by a committee set up jointly by IKY, the British Embassy and the British Council (see Chapter 5). The joint decision will regulate the composition and any other matter pertaining to the committee's operation.
6. The candidates are solely responsible for filling out correctly all the fields of the online application by the deadline set in the Call. No change to the application shall be possible past the deadline for the submission of applications. No application submitted in any other way (per email or post, etc.) after the deadline shall be further considered.
7. Applications submitted by candidates who fail to meet the eligibility criteria, or which are not submitted pursuant to the procedure set out in this chapter (have not been correctly or fully completed, are not accompanied by all supporting documentation, have not been submitted by the deadline set in the Call, etc.) shall be rejected as ineligible.
8. IKY, the British Embassy and the British Council reserve the right to request, within a deadline they will set, any additional clarifying document deemed necessary.

CHAPTER 4: SELECTION CRITERIA – GRADING SCALE

- 1.1 from 13 to 20 points, corresponding to their final Degree score times 2, with the precision of two (2) decimal places. Letter of Motivation: from 0 up to 30 points. Quality of the CV: from 0 up to 50 points.
2. The evaluation of criteria 1.2 and 1.3 will focus on the elements attesting to the scientific or professional competence in the respective 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 (hereafter "the Committee"). The Committee will comprise four (4) members in total, all holding a PhD: two (2) shall represent the British Embassy and the British Council, and two (2) shall represent IKY.
2. The Committee will first carry out an eligibility check on the applications and draw up a **Provisional List of Ineligible Applications**, clearly stating the reason for their disqualification. Said list will, upon approval by the IKY Board of Directors, the British Embassy and the British Council, be uploaded to the respective 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 publication and shall be sent electronically to the dedicated email address of the British Council scholarships@britishcouncil.gr, to the attention of the Committee.



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4. 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.
5. Each eligible application is evaluated by the Committee against the selection criteria described in Chapter 4.
6. Upon completion of the evaluation process, the Committee draws up a **Provisional List of Selected and a Provisional list of Runner-up Candidates**, in descending order. The Provisional Lists are approved by the IKY Board of Directors, the British Embassy and the British Council and posted on the websites of IKY and the British Council.
7. Objections against the **Provisional Lists of Selected and Runner-up Candidates**, well-argued and – documented, may be raised within five (5) working days of the lists’ publication date and will be sent electronically to the email address of the British Council scholarships@britishcouncil.gr, to the attention of the Committee.
8. Objections against the **Provisional Lists of Selected and Runner-up Candidates** may only be raised in relation to selection criterion 1.1 of Chapter 4 (Degree). Objections raised in relation to selection criteria 1.2. and 1.3. of Chapter 4 and/or the Call, the selection process and the Committees decisions, will not be considered.
9. The Committee examines the objections and subsequently draws up the **Final List of Selected and the Final List of Runner-up Candidates**. These lists will be validated by the IKY Board of Directors, the British Embassy and the British Council and thereupon published on the websites of IKY and the British Council.
10. 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 **Final List of Runner-up Candidates**.

CHAPTER 6: COMMENCEMENT AND DISBURSEMENT OF THE SCHOLARSHIP

1. The selected candidates will be called to sign a **Scholarship Agreement** with IKY and the British Council. The agreement will specify the obligations of the grantee and the purpose, duration, height and terms of the scholarship as well as the modality of its disbursement.
2. Candidates are requested to send the signed scholarship agreement to the British Council’s dedicated email address scholarships@britishcouncil.gr in pdf format and within the set deadline.
3. IKY, the British Embassy and the British Council reserve the exclusive right, upon their agreement, to negate the award of a scholarship to any candidate who does not submit the signed agreement within the set deadline. In this case and, if possible, the grantee will be replaced by the first runner-up candidate.
4. The disbursement of the scholarship commences upon the signing of the scholarship agreement.

CHAPTER 7: FINANCIAL AND OTHER PROVISIONS – ADMINISTRATIVE AND FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT

1. Successful applicants in both categories (master’s or doctoral level) will each receive a total gross amount of **two thousand five hundred and ninety-three euro and thirty-seven cents (€2,593.37)**.



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2. After all legal statutory deductions and deductions of bank charges, 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 8: TERMS OF THE SCHOLARSHIP

1. Candidates have sole responsibility for securing their acceptance by the UK HEI of their choice by the deadline set in this Call and for fulfilling the objectives of their academic placement as described in the Letter of Motivation mentioned in Chapter 3, paragraph 4.1 and 4.2.
2. Suspension of the commencement of the scholarship or suspension of the scholarship in between shall not be allowed.
3. The scholarship is governed by the terms and conditions of the joint MD, the Call and the Scholarship Agreement.
4. Within one (1) month of the completion of the short-term mobility, the scholars shall send to the British Council's dedicated email address scholarships@britishcouncil.gr the following documents in pdf format: (i) postgraduate students at Master's level, a **Final Report**, signed by themselves and the coordinator of the (Greek) PPS and (ii) doctoral students, an **Activity Report**, signed by themselves and the supervisor of their thesis. (iii) Both reports must include an **executive summary in English of up to 500 words**.
5. 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 scholar must submit the required supporting documents within the deadline set, in the form and in the manner indicated.
6. In their Final Report or Activity Report the beneficiary shall mention the following: ***The mobility took place in the framework of the programme "Greek-British Cooperation on Short-Term Scholarships", which is delivered by the State Scholarships Foundation (IKY), the British Embassy Athens and the British Council Greece.***
7. IKY, the British Embassy and the British Council may revoke the scholarship and ask, at their discretion, that all or part of it is returned, in case it is found – even retrospectively – that the eligibility criteria or the terms of the joint MD, the Call and the Scholarship Agreement were not fully met – **except for cases of force majeure**.
8. IKY, the British Embassy and the British Council will deliberate over the invocation of reasons of force majeure, following a timely and well-argued application by the scholar, who bears the relevant burden of proof. Force majeure means any unforeseen, exceptional circumstance or event beyond the scholar's control, which expressly and surely prevents him/her from fulfilling one or more of their obligations and which could not in this case be prevented even by acts of utmost diligence and prudence.

CHAPTER 9: OTHER PROVISIONS

1. The establishment 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.



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2. Further information and clarifications in relation to the present Call are provided during working days and hours:
- by the British Council at scholarships@britishcouncil.gr and on 210-36 92 360 and 210-36 92 381.
 - by IKY at exoterikou@iky.gr and on 210-37 26 328 and 210-37 26 330.

For technical support regarding the online application please contact:

Thanasis.Tsiroyiannis@britishcouncil.org.