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Call for Expression of Interest

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

**5th Cycle - Academic year 2025-2026
(short-term placements to be completed by 30/06/2026)**

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”), deliver in the academic year 2025-2026 a short-term scholarships programme (hereafter “Programme”) in the United Kingdom for postgraduate and doctoral students enrolled in Greek Universities.

The Programme for this academic year is delivered pursuant to Regulatory Provisions approved by Joint Ministerial Decree (hereafter “JMD”) 133630/Z1/2025 by the Greek State Secretary for Education, Religious Affairs and Sport, and by the Greek State Secretary for the Economy and Finance (Government Gazette 5843/B/4-11-2025).

The Programme, which in the academic year 2025-2026 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”) towards British Universities, thereby supporting postgraduate and doctoral students to enhance their scientific and academic

competencies, and expand their research activities. More widely, the Programme seeks to foster the bilateral Greek-British 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 for the academic year 2025-2026 opens on Thursday 06/11/2025 and closes on Friday 05/12/2025 at 23:00 Greece time.

The short-term placements must have been completed by 30/06/2026.

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 - Fifth Cycle** ".
2. **In the academic year 2025-2026**, the Programme offers (a) **six (6) scholarships to postgraduate students at Master's level** and (b) **eighteen (18) scholarships to doctoral students**. Should the number of eligible applications in either category not be reached, IKY and the British Council, with the agreement of the British Embassy, may move the vacancies to the other category to ensure the full absorption of the Programme's funds.
3. In the academic year 2025-2026, the Programme is co-funded **by IKY and the British Embassy** and the total budget amounts to **sixty-two thousand, two hundred and forty euro and eighty-eight cents (€ 62,240.88)** for both types of scholarships. 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 related to their placement in the UK.

CHAPTER 2: ELIGIBILITY

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

1. They hold a Greek Tax Identification Number (hereafter "TIN").
2. They hold a Degree from a Greek HEI with a minimum final grade of six point five tenths (6.5/10).
3. Postgraduate students at Master's level (i) have obtained their Degree within the last five (5) years, (ii) are enrolled on a Postgraduate Programme of Studies (hereafter "PPS") at a Greek HEI, (iii) hold an attestation issued by the PPS academic coordinator ensuring

that the short-term mobility does not obstruct the regular attendance of the PPS, and **(iv)** have been accepted, by the deadline set in this Call, by a British HEI to undertake a short-term placement of four (4) weeks in a postgraduate programme at Master's level in the field of their postgraduate specialisation.

4. 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 ensuring that the short-term mobility does not disrupt their doctoral research and **(iii)** have been accepted, by the deadline set in this Call, by a UK HEI for a short-term mobility of four (4) weeks relevant to the candidate's doctoral thesis.
5. They hold an internationally recognised English language certificate at C1 level as a minimum (see Greek Supreme Council for Civil Personnel Selection (hereafter "ASEP") guidance https://www.asep.gr/guide/4K_2020/englishproof.html).
6. They are not currently enrolled in another study programme in the UK as undergraduate, postgraduate or doctoral students or as beneficiaries of another academic short-mobility programme, including distance learning.
7. Should they have been awarded – 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. They have not participated as grantees in a previous cycle of the Programme.
9. Male candidates must have fulfilled their military obligations before the start of the scholarship or must have been legally exempt from them or must have obtained a military service deferment, the length of which covers the full duration of the scholarship and this academic mobility.

CHAPTER 3: APPLICATION PROCESS – SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION – SCREENING AND ASSESSMENT

1. The Call for Expression of Interest for the academic year 2025-2026 (hereafter the "Call") **opens on Thursday 06/11/2025 and closes on Friday 05/12/2025 at 23:00 Greece time**. The Call is available online on the websites of IKY (www.iky.gr) and of the British Council (www.britishcouncil.gr).
2. Applications are completed in English and submitted electronically through the platform hosted on the British Council website at the following link:
https://britishcouncil2.formstack.com/forms/greek_british_cooperation_on_short_term_scholarships_fifth_cycle
3. The candidates must fill in all fields of the online application form, which also serves as a solemn declaration of Law 1599/1986, and attach the below supporting documents in Portable Document Format (hereafter "PDF").

- 3.1** A copy of both sides of their ID card or of the personal identification pages of their passport – both documents need to be valid.
- 3.2** Any document proving that they hold a Greek TIN.
- 3.3** Their University Degree awarded by a Greek HEI, clearly stating the final grade with the precision of two (2) decimal places; alternatively, should the University degree has not been issued yet, a relevant certificate of completion of studies issued by the Registry of the relevant Department 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 internationally recognised English language certificate at C1 level as a minimum (see ASEP guidance https://info.asep.gr/sites/default/files/2025-02/pararthma_glwssomatheias_A2_17_2_2025_%5B15752%5D.doc)
- 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 9.
- 4.** Postgraduate students at Master's level are requested to submit **(i)** an attestation issued by a Greek HEI stating that they are enrolled in one of its PPS, **(ii)** an attestation by the academic coordinator of the PPS ensuring that the short-term mobility does not deter the candidates from fulfilling their obligations under the PPS, and **(iii)** a Letter of Motivation of up to 700 (seven hundred) words in English, where the candidates must set out their deliverables upon completion of the short-term mobility and explain how the latter will add value to their postgraduate studies.
- 5.** Doctoral students must submit **(i)** an attestation issued by the Greek HEI they are enrolled in, clearly stating the title of their thesis and the date of appointment of their Three-Member Advisory Committee, **(ii)** an attestation issued by the supervisor of their doctoral thesis, setting out the objective of the short-term mobility and how it is expected to benefit the candidate and **(iii)** a Letter of Motivation of up to 700 (seven hundred) words in English, where the doctoral students must set out their deliverables upon completion of the short-term mobility and explain how the latter will add value to the elaboration of their thesis.
- 6.** Candidates are solely responsible for filling out the online application correctly and fully by the deadline set in this Call. No change to the application shall be possible past the deadline for the submission of applications. No application submitted in any other way (by e-mail or post, etc.) after the deadline shall be considered.
- 7.** Applications submitted by candidates who fail to meet the eligibility criteria and/or which are not submitted in line with the process set out in this Call (not submitted by the deadline set in the Call, not fully or correctly completed, not accompanied by all supporting documentation, etc.) shall be rejected as ineligible.

8. IKY, the British Embassy and the British Council reserve the right to request, by a deadline they will set, any additional clarifying document deemed necessary.

CHAPTER 4: SELECTION CRITERIA - GRADING SCALE

1. The selection and final ranking of eligible candidates will be based on the following qualitative criteria:
 - 1.1 Degree grade: **from thirteen (13) up to twenty (20) points**, corresponding to their final Degree grade - from six point five (6.5) to ten (10) - times two (2), with the precision of two (2) decimal places.
 - 1.2 Letter of Motivation: **from zero (0) up to thirty (30) points**.
 - 1.3 Quality of the CV: **from zero (0) up to fifty (50) points**.
2. The evaluation of criteria 1.2 and 1.3 will also take into consideration elements attesting to the candidates' scientific or professional competence in their respective academic field (academic qualifications, professional/academic/research experience, publications, presentations in international and/or national conferences, awards, etc.).

CHAPTER 5: SELECTION PROCESS

1. The eligibility screening, quality assessment and ranking of the applications is carried out by the Evaluation and Selection Committee (hereafter "the Committee"), set up by joint decision of IKY, the British Embassy and the British Council. The joint decision regulates the composition and any other matters pertaining to the committee's operation.
2. The Committee will comprise four (4) members in total, all holding PhD qualifications: two (2) shall represent IKY and two (2) shall represent the British Embassy and the British Council.
3. The Committee first carries out an eligibility screening of applications and draws up a **Provisional List of Ineligible Applications**, clearly stating the reason for their disqualification. Upon approval by the IKY Administrative Board, the British Embassy and the British Council, the list will be published on the respective websites of IKY and the British Council.
4. 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 British Council at scholarships@britishcouncil.gr.
5. The Committee will examine the objections raised and will subsequently draw up the **Final List of Ineligible Applications**. This list, upon approval by the IKY Administrative Board, the British Embassy and the British Council, will be published on the websites of IKY and the British Council.
6. Each eligible application is assessed and scored against the selection criteria set out in Chapter 4.

7. Upon completion of the assessment process, the Committee draws up a **Provisional Ranking List**, in descending order. The Provisional List is approved by the IKY Administrative Board, the British Embassy and the British Council and published on the websites of IKY and the British Council.
8. Objections against the Provisional Ranking List, well-argued and –documented, may be raised within five (5) working days of the list's publication date and sent to the British Council at scholarships@britishcouncil.gr, to the attention of the Committee. Objections may only be raised in relation to selection criterion 1.1 of Chapter 4 (Degree grade). Objections shall not be raised in relation to selection criteria 1.2 and 1.3 of Chapter 4 and/or against the Call, the assessment process and the Committee's decisions.
9. The Committee examines the objections and subsequently draws up the **Final Ranking List**. This list will be validated by the IKY Administrative Board, the British Embassy and the British Council and thereupon will be published on the websites of IKY and the British Council.
10. The scholarships are awarded to the candidates with the highest scores in the Final Ranking List. In case a successful candidate is removed from the list or withdraws before the start of the scholarship, the grant will be awarded to the next candidate on the Final Ranking List.

CHAPTER 6: COMMENCEMENT AND DISBURSEMENT OF THE SCHOLARSHIP

1. Successful candidates will be invited to sign a **Scholarship Agreement** (hereafter "Agreement") with IKY and the British Council. The agreement will specify the obligations of the grantee and the purpose, duration, terms and height of the scholarship, as well as the way in which it will be disbursed.
2. IKY, the British Embassy and the British Council reserve the right to negate the awarding of a scholarship to any candidate who does not submit the signed Scholarship Agreement within the set deadline and in the manner that shall be set out. In this case and, if possible, the grantee will be replaced by the next successful candidate on the Final Ranking List.
3. The disbursement of the scholarship commences upon the signing of the scholarship agreement.

CHAPTER 7: FINANCIAL PROVISIONS – ADMINISTRATIVE AND FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT

1. Successful applicants in both categories will each receive a total gross amount of **two thousand, five hundred and ninety-three euro and thirty-seven cents (€ 2,593.37)**.
2. After all legal statutory deductions and deductions of any bank charges, the scholarship will be paid in advance by IKY to a bank account that the scholar holds in a Greek bank,

provided that the beneficiary complies with their obligations as stipulated in this Call and the Scholarship Agreement they have signed.

CHAPTER 8: SCHOLARSHIP TERMS

1. Suspension of the commencement of the scholarship or suspension of the scholarship in between shall not be allowed.
2. The scholarship is governed by the terms and conditions of the JMD, the Call and the Scholarship Agreement.
3. Within one (1) month of the completion of the short-term mobility, the scholars shall send to IKY at exoterikou@iky.gr and to the British Council at scholarships@britishcouncil.gr the following documents in PDF: (i) postgraduate students at Master's level, a **Final Report of up to 1,200 words** in Greek, signed by themselves and the coordinator of the (Greek) PPS and (ii) doctoral students, an **Activity Report of up to 1,200 words** in Greek, signed by themselves and the supervisor of their thesis. Both reports must include an **executive summary** in English of up to 500 (five hundred) words.
4. 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 these 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.
5. 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"***.
6. In case it is found out – even retrospectively – that the eligibility criteria or the terms of the Call and the Scholarship Agreement were not fully met, IKY, the British Embassy and the British Council may revoke the scholarship and ask, at their discretion, that all or part of the scholarship is returned – **except for cases of force majeure**.
7. IKY, in agreement with 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, which is supported by evidence. Force majeure means any unforeseen, exceptional circumstance or event beyond the scholar's control, which expressly and certainly prevents them 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: FURTHER PROVISIONS

1. The drafting and validation of the **Final Ranking List** does not commit IKY, the British Embassy and the British Council to awarding a grant to any candidate.
2. Should any further issues, which are not included in this Call, arise in relation to the delivery of the Programme in the academic year 2025-2026, will be addressed by the IKY Administrative Board, the British Embassy and the British Council through joint decisions.
3. Additional information and clarifications in relation to the Call are provided during working days and hours:
 - by the British Council at scholarships@britishcouncil.gr and on 210-36 92 333, 210-36 92 360.
 - by IKY at exoterikou@iky.gr and on 210-37 26 328 and 210-37 26 330.