

Commonwealth and Valletta Action Plan Scholarships for Postgraduate Studies for Students from Ghana & Nigeria at the University of Malta

Call for Applications 2018-2019

The Government of Malta announces the second call for Commonwealth and Valletta Action Plan Scholarship applications for four students from Ghana and Nigeria wishing to pursue post-graduate studies at the University of Malta. This call is part of the Commonwealth Scholarship and Fellowship Plan (CSFP); an international programme under which Commonwealth member governments offer scholarships and fellowships to citizens of other Commonwealth countries. The CSFP was established at the first Commonwealth Education Conference in 1959. Since its establishment, over 30,000 citizens of all Commonwealth countries have benefited from this programme. These scholarships are also being offered in conjunction with; the granting of these scholarships by the Government of Malta is a result of Malta's commitment to implementing Sustainable Development Goal 4, which aims at expanding the number of scholarships available globally to developing countries by 2020, as well as a result of Malta's commitment, made at the Valletta Summit on Migration of 11-12 November 2015, to launch projects in support of legal migration to selected African countries as an element of the comprehensive logic of the Action Plan.

The Scholarships are designed to facilitate the formation of young professionals in their respective area of study. Malta is an ideal location for the realization of this goal, not only because of the relevant expertise it offers in sectors in which these scholarships will be provided, but also because of the robust bilateral ties it enjoys with Ghana and Nigeria.

Objective

Through these scholarships, Malta as a Commonwealth country and as current Chair-in-Office wants to demonstrate more directly its support to citizens from other Commonwealth member states. The specialised formation of young and promising students is an investment in the future of their countries, geared towards enhancing sustainable development, the 9th Principle of the 2013 Charter of the Commonwealth.

Furthermore, this programme will serve as a platform to showcase the higher education opportunities that exist in Malta and to demonstrate Malta's support for excellence and intellectual achievement.

The University of Malta

The University of Malta is the highest teaching institution in Malta. It is publicly funded and open to all those who have the requisite qualifications. Over the past few years, the University has reviewed its structures in order to be in line with the Bologna Process and the European Higher Education Area. Conscious of its public role, the University strives to create courses that are relevant and

timely in response to the needs of the country. The supreme governing bodies of the University are the Council and the Senate. The present structure of the University was established by the 1988 Education Act.

The University is geared towards the infrastructural and industrial needs of the country in order to provide expertise in crucial fields. Over 3,000 students graduate in various disciplines annually. The degree courses at the University are designed to produce highly qualified professionals, with experience in research, who will play key roles in industry, commerce and public affairs. There are a further 2,800 pre-tertiary students at the G. F. Abela Junior College which is also managed by the University.

The University today has fourteen faculties: Arts; Built Environment; Dental Surgery; Economics, Management & Accountancy; Education; Engineering; Health Sciences; Information & Communication Technology; Law; Media & Knowledge Sciences; Medicine & Surgery; Science; Social Wellbeing and Theology.

Lying at the crossroads of the Mediterranean, the University of Malta has, over its 400-year history been the hub for international academic exchange on the island. This legacy has been carried on to the present day as the University hosts close to one thousand international students from 86 different countries. Additionally, it actively collaborates with universities in Europe, Asia, the United States, Africa and Australia, and a host of international visitors, experts and external examiners from across the globe, which has contributed to changing the University into an international campus that celebrates diversity and cultural richness. With English as its language of instruction, and wide-ranging support services that meet the needs of its local and international community, the University consistently seeks to initiate projects that boost its international student figures and extend its network to new partners in order to create sustainable collaborations across diverse fields of interest.

The University of Malta currently hosts over 11,000 students, of which 10% are international students from 92 different countries, following courses at undergraduate and postgraduate level. For the academic year 2016/17, the University hosted 400 students on Erasmus+ (European) and other exchange programmes with the US, Japan, Australia, Canada and China, whilst another 925 international students are currently reading for a full degree.

The principal contact point for prospective and registered international students/visitors is the International Office: <http://www.um.edu.mt/international>.

This Scholarship offer gives beneficiaries access to the following list of Master's Degree level courses:

Masters programmes by reseach

Masters of Arts by research in:

- Anglo-Italian Studies
- Anthropology
- Archaeology
- Classics
- Contemporary Mediterranean Studies
- English*
- European and Global History
- French
- Geography
- German
- History
- Humanities and Medical Sciences
- International Relations
- Italian
- Oriental Studies (Near Eastern Studies)
- Oriental Studies (Arabic)
- Oriental Studies (Hebrew)
- Philosophy
- Social Studies, and Sociology

Master of Arts in Cognitive Science

Master of Arts in Digital Arts

Master of Arts in Information Policy and Governance

Master of Arts in Knowledge and Information Management

Master of Arts in Media and Communications

Master of Science in Biology

Master of Science in Chemistry

Master of Science in Geosciences

Master of Science in Metamaterials

Master of Science in Physics

Master of Science in Operations Research

Master of Science in Mathematics

Master of Science in Statistics

Taught Masters programmes

Master of Arts in English (Modern and Contemporary Literature and Criticism)*

Master of Arts in English (English, Culture and the Media)*

Master of Arts in English (English Language)*

Master of Arts in Archaeological Practice

Master of Science in Strategic Management and Marketing

Master of Science in Pharmacy (*commences in February*)

Masters of Art in Creativity and Innovation

Applicants to Masters by Research programmes are required to submit a research proposal with their application.

***Applicants to Masters of Arts in English courses are required to refer to this link for information about entry requirements set by the Department of English, Faculty of Arts. If you have further questions concerning this matter please send an email to international@um.edu.mt. www.um.edu.mt/international/international/english_language_requirements**

N.B: While every attempt is made to ensure that information is accurate and up-to-date as of 30 January 2018, some information may be subject to change. Applicants will be informed in due course.

Admission Requirements

1) A recognised degree as deemed relevant by the University Admissions Office: Students are expected to hold a first degree at the classification deemed necessary outlined in the course entry requirements.

2) English Language Proficiency: Applicants who have not studied in Malta are required to present an internationally recognised English Language Proficiency Certificate at the required level. Further information about English Language Requirements is available at: http://www.um.edu.mt/international/international/english_language_requirements

3) Further details: For further details, on the List of Courses offered and the Postgraduate Course Prospectus for October 2018 kindly refer to the following links: <http://www.um.edu.mt/registrar/prospective/admissions>

<http://www.um.edu.mt/courses/>

Preferences

- Candidates employed in public office in Ghana or Nigeria, or working actively with NGOs in these two countries, will be given preference.
- Preference will be given to candidates who would be unable to attend the programme without the scholarship.
- During the selection process, value will be given to the candidate's academic merit, the quality of the study plans as well as the potential of the impact of the scholarship holder on development in Ghana or Nigeria;

The Scholarship

The two scholarships will cover:

- Payment of the University of Malta Tuition Fees.
- Health Insurance to cover a premium up to a maximum of **EUR 500 per year**. Students will be guided on this and other arrangements upon arrival.
- Reimbursement for the obligatory Health Test of **EUR 45** to be carried out in Malta as required for the processing of the Residence Permit. (Information about the health test that will be carried out upon arrival in Malta is available at: <http://www.um.edu.mt/international/international/healthtests>). This Health Test would need to be carried out once upon arrival and would not need to be repeated once the year elapses.
- One return journey to Ghana or Nigeria, the cost of which is capped at **EUR 1000**. Any additional trips or travel costs higher than this amount will have to be covered by the student.
- Costs for full board accommodation for the duration of the course.
- **An additional stipend** will be provided. Students will be entitled to receive a stipend amounting to €200 per month, for a period of up to 16 months which would allow applicants to cover other expenses, including transport, academic material and books, food and leisure. Kindly refer to the Annex for an indication of Malta's Cost of Living.
- The C Schengen visa fee of **EUR60** will be reimbursed upon the presentation of a receipt. The student is legally required to apply for a residence permit within the validity period of their visa. The residence permit application fee of **EUR27.50** shall also be covered by the scholarship. (The residence permit application form could be found at: <https://identitymalta.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/07/CEA-Form-N.pdf>

Applicants from Ghana should apply for their visa at the Italian Consulate in Accra and the applicants from Nigeria at the Italian Consulate in Lagos. In accordance with the Schengen visa code, visa fees shall be waived for students in receipt of a scholarship, as for individuals travelling to the Schengen zone for the purpose of study.

The scholarship holders will be requested to attend the Orientation Programme that is organised for all new international students joining the University of Malta. The date of Orientation will be communicated at a later stage.

Instructions to Applicants and Conditions of Selection

- Applicants who wish to be considered for the scholarship are required to fill in the Commonwealth and Valletta Action Plan Scholarships application form, attaching a copy of their first degree certificate and transcript, a copy of their high school certificate, a copy of their passport/national ID card and three letters of reference. These are to be submitted as signed and scanned copies, to their respective University. *ONLY candidates applying through their respective Universities shall be considered for a scholarship.*
- Interested applicants are to contact the Vice-Chancellor's office of their University for details of how to apply.
- Applicants who intend to apply for the scholarship must meet the entry requirements set out by the University of Malta and the conditions for joining the specific programmes indicated above. Undergraduate students who would not yet have fulfilled all the course requirements at the time of application (i.e. are not in a position to provide proof of attainment of the academic qualifications required to join the programme), would be considered for a scholarship on a conditional basis.
- Applicants are required to present an internationally recognized English Language Proficiency Certificate at the required level. Applicants are also requested to present a copy of their passport.
- Applicants may be required to attend an interview in the respective country.
- Applicants should be Nationals of Ghana or Nigeria, who are currently residing in Ghana or Nigeria.
- The respective Universities will be shortlisting candidates for the Scholarship based on entry requirement guidelines provided by the University of Malta. Shortlisted candidates would be bound to pay the University of Malta application fee of **EUR50** (this will not be reimbursed) in order to be considered for a Scholarship.
- The scholarship holder will be requested to enter into an agreement with the University of Malta for the duration of his/her studies in Malta. The agreement shall be binding in terms of the observation of rules and regulations of the host University and host country: to seriously engage in studies, register monthly progress with his/her academic tutor/coordinator and complete the set programme within the established time frame.
- The nomination deadline from Ghanaian and Nigerian universities to the Association of Commonwealth Universities is **Monday, 9th April 2018**. Documents that are submitted after the deadline will not be considered.

Annex I – Malta’s Cost of Living

Kindly refer to this link for an estimate of living costs that the scholarship holder is likely to incur whilst in Malta, on a monthly basis:

<http://www.um.edu.mt/international/international/livingcosts>

Note: As mentioned above, the Scholarship includes accommodation on a full-board basis.

The following source provides a good estimate of an itemized break down of the Cost of Living expenses in Malta as of January 2018, further enabling scholarship candidates to get an indication of the personal subsistence funds required during their stay in Malta throughout their Masters programme:

https://www.numbeo.com/cost-of-living/country_result.jsp?country=Malta