



OAS – THE VRIJE UNIVERSITEIT BRUSSEL (VUB) 2016 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 graduate studies in the areas mentioned in the table below.

PROGRAMS:	<p>Scholarship recipients may pursue master's degrees in the following study areas:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Physical and Land resources (22 months) 2. Business and technology (22 months) 3. Management science (22 months) 4. Management (evening Programme) (10 months) 5. Business Engineering: Business and Technology (22 months) 6. Educational Science (22 months) 7. Architectural Engineering (22 months) 8. Biomedical Engineering (22 months) 9. Chemical and Materials Engineering (22 months) 10. Civil Engineering (22 months) 11. Electromechanical Engineering (22 months) 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 12. Electronics and Information Technology (22 months) 13. European Master of Science in photonics (22 months) 14. Geography (22 months) 15. Linguistics and Literary Studies (10 months) 16. Computer Science (22 months) 17. Applied Computer Science (22 months) 18. Biology (22 months) 19. Molecular Biology (22 months) 20. Biomolecular Science (22 months) 21. Chemistry (22 months) 22. Physics and Astronomy (22 months) 23. Marine and Lacustrine Science and Management (22 months) 24. Communication Studies – New Media and Society in Europe (10 months) 25. Communication Studies – Journalism and Media in Europe (10 months)
MODALITY:	Onsite in Brussels, Belgium	
LANGUAGE:	English	
DURATION:	10–22 months	
DEADLINE:	Scholarship application deadline: January 24th, 2016	
START DATE	September 2016	
END DATE	Varies based upon study area: 10 months (June 2017) or 22 months (August 2018)	
BENEFITS:	Full tuition costs One-time payment of US\$ 1,350 to offset the cost of travel to Brussels	
Eligible OAS Member States	All OAS Member States except the United States and Canada.	

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 and Education (DHDE), 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, DHDE strengthens democratic values and security under the framework of regional integration. DHDE 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 two parkland campuses in Brussels, the heart of Europe. The main Etterbeek-campus is home to seven faculties. At the Jette-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 and watch presentation video <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=P5Bv53ySDWo>

3. APPLICATION FOR ADMISSION INFORMATION

Selected master's candidates will be required to apply in the on-line system of VUB after accepting the 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 the scholarship, 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 are required to have a bachelor's degree to apply for a master's degree program.

University Contact Information:

Applicants may contact the VUB International Relations and Mobility Office for more information on the graduate scholarship program at international.relations@vub.ac.be and the OAS at OAS_VUBpgrm@oas.org

4. SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION PROCESS

To apply for this scholarship opportunity, you must submit a [scholarship application](#) through the OAS Fellowship Management System. You will be required to upload the following documents where indicated in the application form:



Please note the following:

- a) Students whose native language is not **English** will be required to submit proof of English proficiency. Requirements can be found [here](#).
- b) 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.
- c) 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.

- d) Supporting documents should be attached in pdf format and as **one** document. Please note that the application system only allows applicants to upload the supporting documents **only once**. Hence, all documents must be combined into one file before uploading.
- e) In addition to above documents, selected students will be asked to provide proof of **sufficient funds** to cover cost of living expenses and other costs not covered by the scholarship to the VUB and for visa processing. More information about the VISA procedure could be found [here](#):
- f) **ALL DOCUMENTS MUST BE IN ENGLISH OR OFFICIALLY TRANSLATED INTO ENGLISH**

OAS Contact Information:

For questions about this scholarship opportunity, please send email to OAS_VUBpgrm@oas.org.

5. SCHOLARSHIP BENEFITS AND FINANCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

PROGRAMS:	Please refer to the list of programs in the table on page 1 of this announcement
SCHOLARSHIP BENEFITS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Full tuition costs • One-time payment of US\$ 1,350 to offset the cost of travel to Brussels
FINANCIAL RESPONSIBILITY OF APPLICANTS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Annual administration fee; estimated a 103€ • Immigration fees, estimated at €100 • Settling-in fees, estimated at €500 • Living expenses, estimated at €1000 per month • Visa charge, estimated at €250 • Health insurance; estimated at 427€ (taxes excluded) per year • Travel expenses • Any other costs not mentioned.
Comments	The full tuition costs 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 awardee. In order to receive these benefits, the awardee 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:

Submit a complete scholarship application with all 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

Be a citizen and/or permanent legal resident of any [OAS member state](#), except the United States and Canada.

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 countries of origin; 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, awardees 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 awardee before the start date of the program 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 awardee 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 country of origin or 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 Partner could seek reimbursement for the total value of the scholarship awarded.

APPLY NOW!

For more information: www.oas.org/scholarships