



Ministry of Foreign Affairs

MENA SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAMME

The MENA Scholarship Programme is initiated and fully funded by the Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs. This ministry has contracted Nuffic, the Netherlands organization for international cooperation in higher education to administer the MENA Scholarship Programme.

The MENA Scholarship Programme aims to contribute to capacity building within organizations and institutions in the six selected countries: Algeria, Iraq, Lebanon, Morocco, Oman and Syria. Moreover a network of 100 alumni can pay a positive contribution to the relations between the Netherlands and their respective countries.

Scholarships are available for short courses on the MENA course list 2010 only. Scholarship applications for participation in other courses will not be considered.

Target group

The MENA Scholarship Programme's target groups are mid-career professionals who are employed by relevant organizations or institutions in one of the identified fields of study: water management, environmental sciences, business administration and management, agriculture and geology and earth sciences.

The candidates must be nationals of and working in one of the designated countries. While scholarships are awarded to individuals, the need for training must be demonstrated in the context of the organization for which the applicant works. The training must help the organization to develop its capacity. This means that applicants must be nominated and the scholarship application motivated by the employer on the application form and in a separate support letter.

Nuffic will strive to spend half of the available funding from the MENA Scholarship Programme budget on scholarships for female candidates.

Eligibility criteria

Candidates applying for a MENA scholarship must:

- be a national of and working in one of the six selected countries;
- be a mid-career professional with at least two years work experience;
- not be employed by a large industrial, commercial, international or multinational organization, which can be assumed to have sufficient resources of its own to finance staff training;
- apply for a course on the MENA course list;
- not have received a MENA Scholarship or any other fellowship in the three years prior to the start of the proposed MENA course;
- complete a MENA scholarship application form and submit all the required documentation to the Netherlands Embassy;
- meet the admission requirements of the selected course. As such they must have at least a diploma or a bachelor's degree in one of the designated fields of study and other educational or professional requirements, which may vary per course;
- offer evidence of proficiency in speaking and writing the language of instruction (English in most cases); preferably a candidate must provide evidence in the form of an official and

verifiable score in an internationally recognized test, such as IELTS (a score of at least 6.0) or TOEFL (a score of at least 550 points on the paper based test or 213 points on the computer-based test or 79 points on the internet-based test). In case the candidate cannot provide sufficient evidence, the embassy will evaluate the candidate's knowledge of the language;

- be nominated by their employer, who pledges to continue to pay a substantial part of the candidate's salary during the study period, and guarantees the candidate will be able to return to an equivalent position at the end of the scholarship period;
- demonstrate a solid link between their work and the requested training; the course must have added value for the sustainable capacity development of the employing organization and the development of the country;
- be available for the entire period of the course and be physically and mentally able to take part in the entire course;
- declare that they will return to their home country immediately upon completion of the course.

Duration of the MENA Scholarship Programme

The programme will run between January 2010 and December 2010. All courses will be conducted in 2010 and have a duration between two and twelve weeks.

The applications and selection procedure

The application and selection procedure consists of the following steps:

1. Candidates apply for a MENA scholarship by presenting a completed MENA scholarship application form to the Netherlands embassy in their own country. The application form can be obtained from the embassy. The application form should be accompanied by the necessary documentation. The application should be submitted well before the scholarship application deadline through the Netherlands embassy in the applicant's own country (see deadlines). Some embassies require applications to be submitted in duplicate. In some countries, applications have to be submitted to the embassies through local government organizations. Candidates are therefore advised to check any local regulations with the Netherlands embassy in their country.
Candidates should NOT send their scholarship application forms directly to Nuffic or to the Dutch institution, but should forward them to the Netherlands embassy in their own country.
2. The embassies assess each application against the criteria listed above, give specific recommendations and prioritize all applications.
3. The embassies forward all eligible applications to Nuffic.
4. If the applicant does not yet have admission to the short course of their choice, Nuffic will forward the applications to the Dutch institution of the course.
5. The Dutch institution assesses the application and decides whether or not the applicant's educational background and professional experience meet the specific requirements for the course in question. Admission of the candidates is the institution's decision. Admission must be unconditional in terms of the candidate's education and language proficiency. If the applicant already has admission to the chosen course, step 4 and 5 can be skipped.
If the applicant is not admitted to the course, he or she will not be eligible for a MENA scholarship.
6. Nuffic allocates the scholarships based on the priority list of the embassies.

7. The Dutch institution informs selected candidates about the outcome of their application via the embassy. The Nuffic informs candidates that are not eligible or were not selected for a scholarship.
8. Nuffic awards the grant to the Dutch institution to cover the scholarship holder's costs, including the tuition fees.
9. In cooperation with the Netherlands embassy, the institution makes all further arrangements with the scholarship recipients.
10. The Dutch institutions pay each scholarship holder a monthly allowance for the duration of the short course; they also administrate the scholarships, make logistical arrangements, and give guidance to the scholarship holders.

Scholarship

A MENA scholarship is a contribution to the costs of the chosen short course. The following items are covered: subsistence allowance, international travel costs, visa costs, tuition fee, medical insurance and an allowance for study materials. MENA allowances are paid to the scholarship holder by the Dutch institution. The allowances are considered to be sufficient to cover one person's living expenses during the study period. The fellowship holders must cover any other costs from their own resources.

Deadlines

There are two application deadlines for the MENA Scholarship Programme. Depending on the course for which candidates wish to apply, the deadline to submit the applications to the embassy is either 1 March 2010 or 1 July 2010. A reference to the scholarship application deadline can be found on the MENA course list. For candidates from Iraq some courses have a different application deadline, please check this on the course list. Selection of the candidates takes place after the application deadline.

Rules & Regulations

The MENA Scholarship Programme is governed in general by the Rules & Regulations of the Netherlands Fellowship Programmes (NFP), although there are exceptions for certain procedures (securing placement, selection of candidates). A copy of the NFP Rules & Regulations will be given to selected candidates.

The parties involved

Netherlands Embassies

The Netherlands embassies assess all applications for a MENA Scholarship. They use standard criteria but are also free to define additional criteria appropriate to the local situation. Embassies can reject applications or make specific recommendations regarding their future processing. The embassy prioritizes the applications.

Nuffic

The MENA Scholarship Programme is managed by Nuffic. Nuffic prepares the documentation for the MENA Scholarship Programme and guides the process by which candidates are selected for scholarships. Nuffic allocates the scholarships. Nuffic awards a grant to the Dutch Institution that will provide the study or training.

Dutch Institutions

The four Dutch Institutions are selected higher education institutions: the International Institute for Geo-information Science and Earth Observation (ITC), Maastricht School of Management (MSM), UNESCO-IHE Institute for Water Education, and Wageningen International. These institutes are specialized in transferring knowledge and skills at a post-secondary level. The short courses on the MENA Scholarship course list are all offered by officially recognized Dutch institutions, that have been assessed for their capacity to receive and teach students or professionals from a variety of backgrounds.

The Dutch institutions assess whether applicants are academically qualified to take part in the course. They decide on the admission of the candidates to the selected course. Nuffic will award a grant to these institutes to enable the selected candidates to follow the chosen course. The institutes administrate the MENA scholarship, make logistical arrangements, and provide guidance for the scholars.

Contact addresses

Nuffic

Capacity Building & Scholarships Directorate
Scholarship Programmes Department
P.O. Box 29777
2502 LT The Hague
The Netherlands
Phone: +31 70 4260 167, Fax +31 70 4260 189
www.nuffic.nl

Royal Netherlands Embassy Rabat

B.P. 329
Rabat
Morocco
Phone: +212 537 219600, Fax: +212 537 219665
E-mail: rab@minbuza.nl
www.mfa.nl/rab

Royal Netherlands Embassy Muscat

P.O. Box 3302
Ruwi 112
Sultanate of Oman
Phone: + 968 246 03706, Fax: +968 246 03778
E-mail: mus@minbuza.nl
www.mfa.nl/mus

Royal Netherlands Embassy in Damascus

P.O. Box 702
Damascus
Syria
Phone: +963 11 333 6871, Fax: +963 11 3339369
E-mail: dmc@minbuza.nl
www.mfa.nl/dmc

Royal Netherlands Embassy Baghdad
Park Al-Sadoun
Hay Al-Nidhal 103
Street No. 38
House No. 10
Baghdad
Iraq
Phone: +964 1 77 82571, Fax:-
E-mail: bad@minbuza.nl
www.mfa.nl/bag

Royal Netherlands Embassy Algeria
23-27 Chemin Sheikh Bachir El-Ibrahimi
B.P. 72
16030 El-Biar
Algiers
Algeria
Phone: +213 21 922828, Fax: +213 21 922947
E-mail: alg@minbuza.nl
www.mfa.nl/alg

Royal Netherlands Embassy Lebanon
Netherlands Tower
Charles Malek Avenue
Opposite Centre Sofil
2073-0802 Achrafieh
1100-2190
PO Box 167190
Achrafieh
Lebanon
Phone: +961-1-204663, Fax: +961-1-204664 or 961-1-339393
E-mail: bei@minbuza.nl
www.netherlandsembassy.org.lb

Wageningen International
International Training
Lawickse Allee 11, Wageningen
P.O. Box 88, 6700 AB Wageningen
The Netherlands
Phone: +31 317 495 495, Fax: +31 317 495 395
E-mail: info.wi@wur.nl
www.cdic.wur.nl

Maastricht School of Management (MSM)
Executive Education Programs Department
Endepolsdomein 150, 6229 EP Maastricht
P.O. Box 1203, 6201 BE Maastricht
The Netherlands
Phone: +31 43 387 0808, Fax: +31 43 387 0800
E-mail: ep@msm.nl
www.msm.nl

UNESCO-IHE Institute for Water Education
Central Services
Westvest 7, 2611 AX Delft
P.O. Box 3015, 2601 DA Delft
The Netherlands
Phone: +31 15 215 1715, Fax: +31 15 212 2921
E-mail: info@unesco-ihe.org
www.unesco-ihe.org

International Institute for Geo-information Science and Earth Observation (ITC)
Education Affairs
Hengelosestraat 99, 7514 AE Enschede
P.O. Box 6, 7500 AA Enschede
The Netherlands
Phone: +31 53 487 4444, Fax: +31 53 487 4400
E-mail: education@itc.nl
www.itc.nl

© Nuffic, October 2009

Nuffic is the Netherlands Organization for International Cooperation in Higher Education. Our motto is Linking Knowledge Worldwide. This means linking people, because it's knowledge that makes us unique as people. Nuffic works in line with Dutch government policy to serve students and higher education institutions in three key areas:

• **Capacity Building & Scholarships**

Administering international mobility programmes (scholarships) and institutional cooperation programmes.

• **Communication**

Providing information about higher education systems in the Netherlands and in other countries; providing credential evaluation services; providing information in the Netherlands about studying abroad, and in other countries about studying in Holland; promoting Dutch higher education in other countries; encouraging international mobility.

• **Knowledge & Innovation**

Conducting studies into international cooperation in higher education; providing information to expert groups and consultation forums; transferring our knowledge of international cooperation in higher education through courses and seminars.

Nuffic
Kortenaerkade 11
P.O. Box 29777
2502 LT The Hague
The Netherlands
t +31 70 4260 260
f +31 70 4260 399
www.nuffic.nl

The information contained in this publication has been compiled with the greatest of care. Nevertheless, we are unable to guarantee its accuracy or completeness at the time of reading. The information may have been changed or updated. Nuffic cannot accept any liability for these changes. We recommend that you verify the accuracy of the information yourself where appropriate.

All intellectual property rights for this publication belong to Nuffic. No part of this work may be reproduced, stored in an automated retrieval system or published in any form, without the prior written permission of the author.