

Call for Application: Stipendium Hungaricum Dissertation Scholarship for doctoral students graduating in the spring semester of the academic year 2024/2025

1. The Stipendium Hungaricum Scholarship Programme

1.1. Mission statement

The Stipendium Hungaricum Scholarship Programme was launched in 2013 by the Hungarian Government. The main goal of the programme is to support the internationalisation of Hungarian higher education and its development, to strengthen the international relations of the Hungarian academic and research community, to enhance the cultural diversity of higher education institutions, and to promote the good reputation and competitiveness of Hungarian higher education throughout the world. The programme is based on bilateral educational cooperation agreements signed between the Ministries responsible for higher education in the sending countries/territories and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade of Hungary. More than 90 Sending Partners are engaged in the programme on five continents, and the programme's geographical scope is expanding each year.

The programme's core mission is to increase the number of international students in Hungary and encourage Hungarian higher education institutions to attract international students.

Since 2013, the number of Stipendium Hungaricum scholarship holders has grown significantly, contributing, at the same time, to an increase in the ratio of self-funded international students at Hungarian universities. Between 2013 and 2020, the ratio of international students studying in Hungarian higher education doubled, and the ratio of Stipendium Hungaricum scholarship holders among them quadrupled.

The number of both Stipendium Hungaricum applicants and awardees, as well as the number of available scholarship places, are continuously increasing. In 2024, more than 50,000 applications were received, and approximately 4500 scholarships were awarded – the ratio clearly shows that, since its launch, the Stipendium Hungaricum scholarship has become a programme of excellence.

The Stipendium Hungaricum Programme is supervised by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade and managed by Tempus Public Foundation (hereinafter referred to as TPF).

1.2. Background of the call for application

Stipendium Hungaricum scholarships are available for bachelor's, master's, one-tier master's, doctoral, and non-degree programmes (preparatory and specialisation courses).

In Hungary, the duration of doctoral programmes is 8 semesters. Doctoral programmes are divided into two phases: the first phase (4 semesters) is for professional training and research, while the second phase (4 semesters) is for research and dissertation.

In compliance with the prevailing Hungarian legislation, Stipendium Hungaricum scholarship holders can request an extension to their scholarship at the end of their bachelor's, master's, and one-tier master's programmes. By law, doctoral programmes may not be extended even if the scholarship holder has successfully obtained their absolutorium, and the only step left for them is to acquire their doctoral title by the defence of their thesis. This separate call for applications aims to grant an opportunity to scholarship holders completing their 4-year doctoral programmes within the framework of the Stipendium Hungaricum Scholarship Programme to finish their dissertations as scholarship holders.

It is important to emphasise that those awarded a Dissertation Scholarship are not eligible for the one-time HUF 400,000 graduation allowance upon completion of their defence.

The Dissertation Scholarship does not extend the already existing Stipendium Hungaricum scholarship status. The purpose of this scholarship is to help doctoral students to finish their research and dissertation writing within the scope of the scholarship and acquire doctoral degree from a Hungarian Doctoral School.

2. The Stipendium Hungaricum Dissertation Scholarship

2.1 Eligibility for the Dissertation Scholarship

Only those Stipendium Hungaricum scholarship holders are eligible to apply

- who obtain their absolutorium in the spring semester of the 2024/2025 academic year (from 1 February 2025 to 31 August 2025) but shall finish their dissertation after the end of their student status and
- for whom it is an absolute necessity to stay in Hungary to finalise their doctoral and research activity
- who obtain the Letter of Justification (see the annexes) at the time of the application signed by the Supervisor and the Head of the Doctoral School

2.2. Non-Eligibility

Applications will not be considered if

- any of the non-eligibility criteria of the Stipendium Hungaricum scholarship programme applies to the applicant
- the applicant fails to obtain their absolutorium by the end of the spring semester of the 2024/2025 academic year (31st of August 2025)
- the applicant was previously awarded the Dissertation Scholarship

2.3. Duration of the Scholarship

The Dissertation Scholarship starts in September 2025 and lasts for the number of awarded months but not later than the calendar month of the public defence of the thesis. The Scholarship Holders must start their studies in September 2025, which means that no postponements are allowed.

The maximum duration of the Dissertation Scholarship is eight (8) months, but it may not be longer than requested in the application.

The Board of Trustees of TPF will decide the actual duration of the awarded SH Dissertation Scholarship. The duration of the awarded scholarship may be shorter than what the applicant applied for. The duration of the awarded scholarship may not be extended.

The Dissertation Scholarship will be available for the 2024/2025 spring semester application round as follows:

- a) the Stipendium Hungaricum Dissertation Scholarship will be available for all eligible applicants for 1 to 8 months as the minimum and the maximum duration.

2.4 Provisions covered by the scholarship

The scholarship holder shall receive the following provisions over the duration of the Scholarship:

- **Monthly stipend**
 - HUF 180,000 per month for the 1st, 2nd, 3rd months of the scholarship period
 - HUF 140,000 per month for the 4th, 5th, 6th months of the scholarship period
 - HUF 43,700 per month for the 7th and 8th months of the scholarship period
- **Accommodation contribution**
 - there is no contribution to the accommodation within this scholarship
- **Medical insurance**
 - medical insurance for up to HUF 65,000, arranged by the host institution with a Social Security Card

The monthly stipend shall be paid by the host institution on a monthly basis. These provisions constitute **only a contribution** to the living expenses of the scholarship holder in Hungary, meaning that they may **not fully cover all the living costs** during the scholarship period.

2.5. Application documents for the Dissertation Scholarship

Applicants are required to submit the following documents to the online application system:

- a **letter of justification** from their Supervisor in Hungarian, explaining why the applicant needs the scholarship and why it is necessary for them to stay in Hungary. The letter should contain the Supervisor's professional opinion on the dissertation and the applicant's work in general; the number of months suggested for funding should also be indicated. The letter of justification must be signed by the Supervisor and the Head of the Doctoral School (please note that those applicants who **submit this document in the English language will be automatically rejected**)

- **motivation letter (at least one page)** containing a detailed explanation of their need for the scholarship and the necessity of the scholarship holder's presence in Hungary during the scholarship period
- **monthly work plan** for the proposed scholarship period
- **class plan** for all four classes to be taught by the scholarship holder during the scholarship period
- **absolutorium** (if you have not received this yet from your university, you will have a chance to upload it later, but no later than the last day of the semester, 31st of January during the autumn semester and 31 August during the spring semester)

Please find all templates in the annex. **The letter of justification must explain why it is essential for the scholarship holder to stay in Hungary for the requested period and which of the proposed activities cannot be completed online.** The Tempus Public Foundation will not consider applications where the absolute necessity of the applicant's presence in Hungary during the scholarship period is not justified. The scholarship will be awarded only to those applicants who have submitted a complete and well-founded justification, work plan, motivation letter and class plan.

Examples of activities that require personal attendance in Hungary: laboratory work, any research activities at a Hungarian institution (e.g., library, archives), fieldwork, experiments, any research activities that require in-person meetings in Hungary (e.g., interview, activities at a Hungarian stakeholder that cannot be carried out online) etc. Please note that these are examples only, and the Call for Application does not cover all acceptable activities.

All scholarship holders must teach at least four (4) classes during the first 5 months of their scholarship period.

The class plan must include all four (4) classes the scholarship holder will teach. The description of each class should be at least half a page long (a total of two pages). The draft must include the title of the class, the main goals and outlines, the teaching method, and a short bibliography.

We have provided templates for every document, which you can find in the annex. Please make sure that an answer is given for each of the criteria indicated.

The application deadline is 15 April 2025, 14:00 CET.

The online application system can be reached at apply.stipendiumhungaricum.hu. You will need your old DreamApply account, which has been used for your doctoral studies. The applicants have to copy their previous applications and the identical fields that are also present in the Appform they completed in the past, and the one they are filling out will be automatically filled out for them. **Please do not create a brand new account. Use your previous one. Those of the applicants who create new accounts will not be able to apply. If you have any problems with the registration, please contact stipendiumhungaricum@tpf.hu.**

Applications should be submitted; only saved applications will not be considered. Please note that no applications will be accepted without the online submission and after the deadline.

2.6 Termination of scholarship status

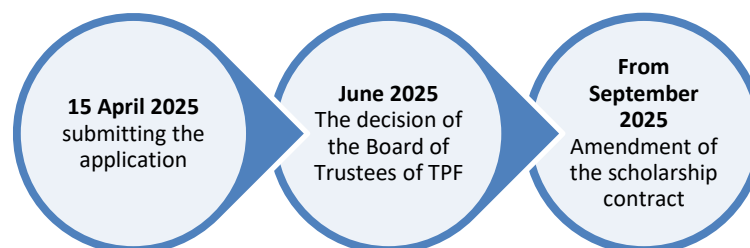
The Dissertation Scholarship holder status automatically expires:

- a) at the end of the awarded period
- b) at the end of the calendar month of the defence of the thesis
- c) if the scholarship holder leaves the country for more than 10 days

Furthermore, the scholarship status is terminated in full accordance with the relevant provisions of the programme's Operational Regulations.

3. The application process and selection procedure for the Dissertation Scholarship

3.1. Preliminary application timeline



3.2. Selection Procedure

All required documents need to be submitted to the online application platform by all applicants by 15 April 2025, 14:00 CET. The application platform can be reached at apply.stipendiumhungaricum.hu.

Applications that are only saved in the online system but not submitted will be automatically rejected. The applications successfully submitted to Tempus Public Foundation's online application system first undergo a technical check by TPF. During this stage, TPF checks the basic eligibility criteria required documents and checks if the Statement for Application is accepted in the system. These eligible and successfully submitted applications are forwarded to the host institutions to approve or correct the duration of the scholarship indicated by the applicant. In the next stage, submitted applications will be assessed by the Directorate for Internationalisation of Higher Education of TPF on the basis of the documents received. **For the Dissertation Scholarship, the most important criterion of the decision is the necessity of the applicant's presence in Hungary. Those applications that do not clearly justify the absolute necessity of the applicant's presence in Hungary may be rejected.**

The list of scholarship awardees will be decided upon at the TPF Board of Trustees meeting in June 2025.

The host institutions, the awardees, and the sending partners will have been informed of the final results by the end of June 2025.

In case the applicant is due to obtain their absolutorium during the spring semester of the academic year 2024/2025 (i.e., the absolutorium is expected after the decision of the TPF Board of Trustees), the dissertation scholarship will be awarded conditionally. In this case, the applicant must upload his/her absolutorium by the 31 August 2025.

The Tempus Public Foundation's decision is not subject to appeal.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, which manages the Stipendium Hungaricum Scholarship Programme, reserves the right to suspend the scholarship programme temporarily before or after the deadline for submission of applications or to change the starting date of the training courses specified in this Call for Applications. In this case, applicants will be informed by the Tempus Public Foundation via the online application system and through the Stipendium Hungaricum website. By submitting an application, the applicant acknowledges and accepts this and undertakes not to make any claim for damages or other claims or to assert any claims against the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade or the Tempus Public Foundation in the event of the above-mentioned circumstances. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade and the Tempus Public Foundation shall not be liable to applicants for any damages arising from this paragraph.

3.3. Amendment of the scholarship contract

Since the Dissertation Scholarship constitutes a separate form of support, the original SH scholarship agreements of all awarded applicants will be amended.

The amended scholarship agreement – among all mandatory points set out in the Operational Regulations of the Stipendium Hungaricum Programme – will contain the following:

- the start, duration, and estimated end date of the dissertation scholarship period
- the scope of provisions covered by the dissertation scholarship

Annex:

1. Template for the Letter of Justification
2. Motivation Letter
3. Work plan
4. Class plan
5. Operational Regulations of the Stipendium Hungaricum Scholarship Programme