

Call for Application of the Dissertation Scholarship for doctoral students graduating in the spring semester of the academic year 2025/2026 in the Stipendium Hungaricum and the Hungarian Diaspora Scholarship Programme

1. Background of the call for application

1.1. The Stipendium Hungaricum and the Hungarian Diaspora Scholarship Program

The Stipendium Hungaricum Scholarship Programme and the Hungarian Diaspora Scholarship Programme (hereinafter referred to as Scholarship Programmes) were launched by the Hungarian Government. The mission of the Scholarship Programmes is defined in the Operational Regulations (see Annexes 5 and 6).

The Scholarship Programmes are overseen by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade and administered by the Tempus Public Foundation (hereinafter referred to as TPF).

1.2. Doctoral studies in the Scholarship Programmes

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 and Hungarian Diaspora 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 defending their thesis. This separate call for applications aims to provide an opportunity for scholarship holders completing their 4-year doctoral programmes within the framework of the Scholarship Programmes to complete 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 scholarship status. The purpose of this scholarship is to help doctoral students finish their research and dissertation writing within the scope of the scholarship and acquire a doctoral degree from a Hungarian Doctoral School.

2. The Dissertation Scholarship

2.1 Eligibility for the Dissertation Scholarship

Only those scholarship holders are eligible to apply

- who obtain their absolutorium in the spring semester of the 2025/2026 academic year (from 1 February 2026 to 31 August 2026), but will 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 thesis 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 relevant Scholarship programme (i.e. Stipendium Hungaricum and Hungarian Diaspora Scholarship Programme) applies to the applicant, for details consult the Operational Regulations of the Scholarship Programmes (Annexes 5 and 6)
- the applicant fails to obtain their absolutorium by the end of the spring semester of the 2025/2026 academic year (31st of August 2026)
- the applicant was previously awarded the Dissertation Scholarship

2.3. Duration of the Scholarship

The Dissertation Scholarship starts in September 2026 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 2026, which means that no postponements are allowed.

The maximum duration of the Dissertation Scholarship is five (5) 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 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 2025/2026 spring semester application round as follows:

The Dissertation Scholarship will be available to all eligible applicants for a minimum duration of 1 month and a maximum duration of 5 months.

2.4 Provisions covered by the scholarship

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

- **Monthly stipend**
 - HUF 43,700 per month during the scholarship period
- **Accommodation contribution**
 - there is no contribution to the accommodation within this scholarship
- **Medical insurance**
 - medical insurance for up to HUF 32,500, 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, 31 January during the fall 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., interviews, activities at a Hungarian stakeholder that cannot be carried out online), etc. Please note that these examples are provided for illustration purposes only, and the Call for Applications does not encompass all acceptable activities.

All scholarship holders must teach at least four (4) classes during 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 all documents, which can be found in the annex. Please ensure that an answer is provided for each of the specified criteria. There is no opportunity to upload missing documents after the application deadline, except for the absolutorium.

The application deadline is 30 April 2026, 14:00 CET.

2.6. Application procedure

You will need your old DreamApply account, which has been used for your doctoral studies. The applicants must copy their previous applications and the identical fields that are also present in the Appform they completed in the past. The new application they are filling out will be automatically populated for them. **Please do not create a brand new account. Use your previous one. Applicants who create new accounts will not be able to apply.**

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

The online application system for

- **Stipendium Hungaricum scholarship** holders can be reached at
- <https://apply.stipendiumhungaricum.hu/>
- **Hungarian Diaspora Scholarship Programme** scholarship holders at <https://apply.diasporascholarship.hu/>

All required documents need to be submitted to the online application platform by all applicants by 30 April 2026, 14:00 CET. There is no opportunity to upload missing documents after the application deadline, except for the absolutorium.

If you encounter any issues with the registration (e.g., you receive a message stating that your application is blocked), please contact

stipendiumhungaricum@tpf.hu (Stipendium Hungaricum scholarship holders)

or

diasporascholarship@tpf.hu (Hungarian Diaspora scholarship holders)

2.7 Termination of scholarship status

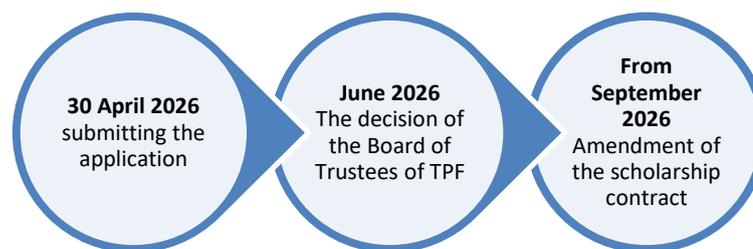
The Dissertation Scholarship holder status automatically expires:

- a) at the end of the award 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

Applications that are only saved in the online system but not submitted will be automatically rejected. The applications successfully submitted to the Tempus Public Foundation's online application system are first subjected to a technical check by TPF. During this stage, TPF verifies the basic eligibility criteria, including the required documents, and checks if the Statement for Application is accepted in the system. In the next stage, submitted applications will be assessed by the Directorate for Study in Hungary of TPF based on 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 will be rejected.**

The list of scholarship awardees will be decided upon at the TPF Board of Trustees meeting in June 2026.

The host institutions, the awardees, and the sending partners will have been informed of the final results by the end of July 2026.

In case the applicant is due to obtain their absolutorium during the spring semester of the academic year 2025/2026 (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 31 August 2026.

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

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, which manages the Scholarship Programmes, reserves the right to suspend the scholarship programmes 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 Scholarship Programmes 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 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 scholarship agreements of all awarded applicants will be amended.

The amended scholarship agreement – along with all mandatory points set out in the Operational Regulations of the Scholarship Programmes – 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. Template for the Motivation Letter
3. Template for the Work Plan
4. Template for the Class plan
5. Operational Regulations of the Stipendium Hungaricum Scholarship Programme
6. Operational Regulations of the Hungarian Diaspora Scholarship Programme