

# **SCHOLARSHIPS INTERNATIONAL TRAINING 2025-2026**

## **CALL FOR APPLICATIONS**

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**FIVE-YEAR PROGRAMME 2022-2027**

13 AUGUST 2024

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## 01. SUBJECT

Call for applications for the **award of a scholarship as part of the international trainings taught/given during the 2025-2026 academic year.**

## 02. CONTEXT

The Academy for Research and Higher Education (ARES) is the federation of higher education institutions (HEIs) of the Wallonia-Brussels Federation (FWB) in Belgium.

As an umbrella organisation, ARES ensures overall coordination of the higher education sector in FWB.

ARES is also a recognised stakeholder/actor in Belgian development cooperation.

As such, it manages a budget from the Directorate-General for Development Cooperation and Humanitarian Aid (DGD) to carry out academic cooperation projects between French-speaking Belgian higher education institutions and their counterparts in 31 partner countries.

This call for proposals is part of the ARES International Training programme, which aims to build the capacity of young professionals from partner countries by providing them with specialised training or continuing education in Belgium.

## 03. SCHOLARSHIPS – INTERNATIONAL TRAINING

### 03.1 / OBJECTIVE

To give nationals of an **ARES partner country** the opportunity to pursue a specialised **bachelor's degree**, a specialised **master's degree** or **continuing education diploma** at an FWB establishment in Belgium.

### 03.2 / TARGET AUDIENCE

- » Nationals of an ARES partner country.
- » Holders of a higher education diploma.
- » With a minimum of 2 years' professional experience after the end of a bachelor's degree for specialised bachelors and a master's for specialised masters and continuing education courses.

### 03.3 / DURATION

- » Specialised Bachelors' and masters': 1 year (one academic year beginning in September of year X and ending in June of year X+1).
- » Continuing training: between 2 and 6 months, depending on the course chosen.

### 03.4 / ELIGIBLE COUNTRIES

Benin, Bolivia, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cambodia, Cameroon, Cuba, Democratic Republic of Congo, Ecuador, Ethiopia, Haiti, Indonesia, Kenya, Madagascar, Mali, Morocco, Mozambique, Nepal, Niger, Peru, Philippines, Republic of Guinea (Conakry), Rwanda, Senegal, South Africa, Tanzania, Palestinian Territories, Tunisia, Uganda, Vietnam, Zimbabwe.

### 03.5 / FINANCING

#### 03.5.1 / SPECIALISED BACHELORS MASTERS

| POST   | TERMS AND CONDITIONS  |
|--|---|
| International travel expenses                    | Economy class on an IATA airline, maximum one return trip per academic year   |
| Subsistence allowance                            | Monthly package for 12 months (+13 <sup>e</sup> reduced month)  |
| Exceptional charges related to visa applications | Included in the subsistence allowance, but for amounts exceeding €200, based on actual costs which must be justified. |
| Fees from travel inter-establishment             | Up to €250, based on actual costs, which must be justified  |
| Insurance costs                                  | Paid directly by ARES   |

#### 03.5.2 / CONTINUING EDUCATION

| POST  | TERMS AND CONDITIONS  |
|---|---|
| International travel expenses                   | Economy class on an IATA airline, maximum one return trip per academic year |
| Subsistence allowance                           | Monthly allowance for the duration of the course                            |
| Additional fees related to international travel | Fixed price of €200   |
| Insurance costs                                 | Paid directly by ARES   |

### 03.6 / HOW TO SUBMIT AN APPLICATION

Applying for an ARES scholarship is **free**. ARES does not charge any fees at any stage of the application or selection process. You can report any concerns about individuals or companies claiming to be acting on behalf of ARES and requesting any payment by emailing [scholarships-cooperation@ares-ac.be](mailto:scholarships-cooperation@ares-ac.be).

### 03. 6.1 / HOW TO SUBMIT A GRANT APPLICATION

Your application must be submitted to ARES via the GIRAF platform.

The procedure in **4 key stages**:

#### 01. Have an active GIRAF account

##### » Create your account

Once your account has been validated by ARES (it will take a few hours to a few days, so there's no need to create several accounts), you will receive a confirmation email to create a password and log in.

» **Already have an account?** If it has already been activated by ARES in previous years, you can re-use this account and, if necessary, reset your password.

#### 02. Access the application form

It is available via the **Competitive Calls** tab in your profile.

**Please note that you only need to click once on the "Apply for international training 2025-2026" button.** You will then find your form in the table **"My Tasks"** of the same **"Competitive Calls"** tab.

#### 03. Fill in the form

It can be completed in several times, as long as you use the **"Save as draft"** option. You will always find your form in the **"My tasks"** table of the **"Competitive calls"** tab.

#### 04. Submit your application

Once you click on **"Submit my application"**, your file is sent to ARES and you can no longer modify it. You can still consult it in the **"My submitted dossiers"** table.

### 03. 6.2 / DADLINE FOR SUBMISSION OF APPLICATIONS

Applications must be submitted by October 18, 2024 at 12 noon (Belgian time, UTC+1), latest. Applications submitted after this date will not be considered.

### 03. 6.3 / INFORMATION ON THE SELECTION OF CANDIDATES

ARES will send an e-mail to **successful and reserve candidates and to unsuccessful candidates by June 2025 latest, following the various stages of the application process.**

ARES does not provide candidates with any other information.

## 03.7 / ADMISSIBILITY CRITERIA

To be eligible, applicants must:

01. Be a national of, live and work in one of the 31 partner countries (see 3.4 Eligible countries on page 4).
02. Hold an appropriate diploma
  - » For specialised masters and continuing education courses (Bac+5 equivalent)
    - » **Have a degree** comparable to a 2<sup>nd</sup> cycle degree (300 ECTS credits) from a Belgian university;
  - » For specialised bachelor's (equivalent to Bac+3)
    - » **Have a diploma** comparable to a 1<sup>st</sup> cycle diploma (180 ECTS credits) of Belgian higher education. The candidate must have held the relevant academic degree for a maximum of 20 years at the time the course begins. This maximum period is increased by one year per event of childbirth and/or adoption.
03. Prove relevant professional experience in one of the partner countries for at least two years after the end of Bac+3 for specialised bachelor's holders, or Bac+5 for specialised masters and continuing education students.
04. Complete the application form in the language in which the course is given and be able to attest a good written and spoken knowledge of that language. In addition, knowing a minimum of French enables better integration in everyday life in Belgium.
05. Apply for just one course.

*Please note that meeting the admissibility criteria in no way guarantees selection and eligibility for the course (see Selection criteria).*

**Candidates do not need to have been previously admitted to one of Belgium's French-speaking higher education institutions in order to apply for ARES grants.**

### List of documents required for an application to be accepted:

1. 2 recommendation letters (academic and/or professional).
2. Certified copies of original diplomas.
3. Certified copies of original transcripts for all years.
4. Proof of occupancy for the last 5 years
5. Certificate of nationality or copy of passport.
6. Pre-project (for certain courses - see [course-specific admission conditions](#))

**No follow-up will be given to applications that:**

- 01.** are not completed in full and are not accompanied by the mandatory attachments (certified copy of diploma, etc.). A certified copy is defined as a copy of the document marked "true copy" with the stamp and signature of the relevant authority (notary, town hall, local authority, etc.);
- 02.** do not clearly indicate compliance with the eligibility criteria specified above (certified copy of diploma, professional experience, etc.).

## **03.8 / / SELECTION CRITERIA**

For each course, selection is done by a jury, based on 8 criteria.

### **03. 8.1 / THE QUALITY OF THE ACADEMIC CAREER**

The academic quality of applications is assessed on the basis of diplomas, lists of courses taken, results, teaching or research activities and publications.

For diploma courses, priority is given to people who do not already hold a diploma with equivalent skills, except in exceptional circumstances, duly justified in the application.

### **03. 8.2 / PREVIOUS SCHOLARSHIPS**

Priority is given to people who have not yet received an ARES grant in Belgium.

### **03. 8.3 / PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE**

Priority is given to people who, after their university studies, have had the opportunity to work in a profession related to development issues covered by the courses on offer. The social impact of the professional experience is also considered.

### **03. 8.4 / MEMBERSHIP OF A PARTNER INSTITUTION**

People who work in an institution with which ARES has entered into a partnership, either as part of Institutional Support or as part of a development research or training project in the South, are given priority in the event of a tie on the other selection criteria.

### **03. 8.5 / THE POTENTIAL OF PEOPLE TO BE AGENTS OF CHANGE IN THEIR OWN SOCIETY**

Particular attention is paid to applications from people who, in addition to their academic qualities, have demonstrated a commitment to development.

### 03. 8.6 / NATIONALITY CRITERIA

ARES wishes to diversify the geographical origin of grant holders. It ensures that no one nationality is over-represented in all the international courses organised under the programme.

### 03. 8.7 / THE GENDER

The cascade effect for gender must be respected in the selection process. It is defined as follows: the proportion of women selected must be greater than or equal to the proportion of female applications judged to be of sufficient quality. If this cascade effect is not respected, the selection must be justified on an ad hoc basis. ARES guarantees the possibility of deferring a grant for men and women in the event of pregnancy.

### 03. 8.8 / THE ABILITY (PERSONAL AND PROFESSIONAL) TO ENSURE THE TRANSFER OF KNOWLEDGE AND SKILLS ACQUIRED BY GRANTEES

Maximum guarantees are required concerning the candidate's return to his or her country of origin or to another country, as well as his or her reintegration into a profession that will enable him or her to use the training acquired in Belgium for development purposes (e.g. a work contract, a formal promise of employment) and to produce a multiplier effect.

## 04. SCHEDULE

| DATE   | ACTION   |
|--|--|
| August 13, 2024  | Opening of the call for applications   |
| October 18, 2024 at 12 noon ( <b>Belgian time, UTC+1</b> ) | Deadline for submitting applications via the GIRAF platform  |
| From November 25, 2024 to April 11, 2025.                  | Candidate selection process  |
| June 2025  | Communication of results to<br>» Successful candidates and candidates on waiting list<br>» Unsuccessful candidates |

## 05. CONTACT

Questions about **the International Training call for proposals**? Contact ARES via [scholarships-cooperation@ares-ac.be](mailto:scholarships-cooperation@ares-ac.be).

Questions about the **content of a course**? Contact the **people listed for each course on the [ARES website](#)**.