ACADÉMIE
DE RECHERCHE ET
D'ENSEIGNEMENT
SUPÉRIEUR

Belgique
partenaire du développement

INTERNATIONAL TRAINING SCHOLARSHIPS

CALL FOR APPLICATIONS

2027-2032 Program

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CONTEXT

» ARES, a recognised actor in Belgian development cooperation

The Academy for Research and Higher Education (ARES) is the federation of higher education institutions (HEIs) in the Wallonia-Brussels Federation (FWB) in Belgium. As the sole umbrella organisation, it provides overall coordination for the higher education sector in the FWB.

ARES also plays a crucial role in Belgian cooperation as a non-governmental partner. It manages a budget from the Directorate-General for Development Cooperation and Humanitarian Aid (DGD) and, in collaboration with the universities, universities of applied sciences and higher arts schools of the FWB, coordinates the implementation of the French-speaking academic component of this cooperation, both in Belgium and in 32 partner countries.

» From Knowledge to Change: Towards 2032

This call for proposals forms part of ARES's 2027–2032 cooperation programme **'From Knowledge to Change'**.

This programme :

» aims to strengthen the contribution of academic cooperation to the stability, resilience and sustainable development of partner societies, whilst simultaneously mobilising human capital, higher education institutions and knowledge networks;
mobilises all institutions in French-speaking Belgium alongside their academic and non-academic partners in the Global South.

» ARES, VLIRUOS and the ITM: the academic #TeamBelgium

The ARES cooperation programme is part of a shared academic strategy implemented across Belgium, alongside the programmes of VLIR-UOS and the Institute of Tropical Medicine (ITM). Working together under the #TeamBelgium banner, the three partners pool their expertise to implement the **Higher Education and Science for Sustainable Development (**HES4SD**)** strategy.

Within this framework, and to address contemporary global challenges, these three institutions are committed to supporting academic cooperation projects aligned with their shared ambition:

» to stimulate innovation that generates impact.
» to develop mutually beneficial partnerships.
» to train the change-makers of tomorrow.
» to strengthen Belgium's role in the world.

HIGHER EDUCATION & SCIENCE FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

ARES ACADÉMIE DE RECHERCHE ET D'ENSEIGNEMENT SUPÉRIEUR

vliruos sharing minds, changing lives

INSTITUTE OF TROPICAL MEDICINE ANTWERP

01. SUBJECT OF THE CALL

Call for applications for the **award of a scholarship as part of the international trainings taught/given during the 2027-2028 academic year.**

- Opening date: 3 August 2026
- Deadline for applying to create or validate a new GIRAF account: 4 September 2026 at 4.00 pm (Belgian time, UTC+1)
- Closing date for the submission of applications via the GIRAF platform: 18 September 2026 at 12 noon (Belgian time, UTC+1)

02. SCHOLARSHIPS « INTERNATIONAL TRAINING »

International training programmes, based within higher education institutions (HEIs) in the Wallonia-Brussels Federation (FWB) and fully integrated into their study programmes, aim to **strengthen the skills and knowledge** of participants, enabling them to **become agents of change** within their home institutions and in society, in support of development.

Within this framework, international training scholarships offer 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, while benefiting from a scholarship to support their studies.

Target audience

- Resident of an ARES partner country.
- Holder 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. ELIGIBLE COUNTRIES

The **32 eligible countries** for International Training grants are:

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

04. FINANCING

For the specialised Bachelor and the specialised 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 (+13e reduced month)
Exceptional charges related to visa applications	Variable. Up to €200, included in the subsistence allowance. If the total amount exceeds €200, the excess will be reimbursed on the basis of actual costs, upon submission of supporting documents.
Fees from travel inter-establishment	Up to €250, based on actual costs, which must be justified
Insurance costs	Paid directly by ARES

For the 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

05. DURATION

- **For the specialised Bachelor and the 8 specialised Masters:**
  1 year (one academic year beginning in September of year X and ending in June or September of year X+1).
- **For the Continuing training:**
  6 months

06. HOW TO SUBMIT AN APPLICATION

06.1 / INSTRUCTIONS FOR APPLICANTS

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. All information relating to the processing of personal data is available on the ARES website.

06. 1.1 / HOW TO SUBMIT A GRANT APPLICATION

Your application must be submitted to ARES via the GIRAF platform (www.giraf.ares-ac.be).

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. The creation of new accounts will be suspended two weeks before the deadline for this call for applications.

» **Already have an account?** If it has already been activated by ARES and you have used it in the previous two years, you can reuse this account and, if necessary, reset your password. Otherwise, you will need to create a new GIRAF account.

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 2026-2027**" 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. Please note that there are some compulsory fields (marked with an *) that must be completed in the form in order to save your form for the first time.

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 "**Mes dossiers soumis''** table.

06. 1.2 / INFORMATION ON THE SELECTION OF CANDIDATES

By **June 2027 latest**, following the various stages of the application process, ARES will send an e-mail to

» **successful and reserve** candidates;

» **unsuccessful candidates**.

ARES does not provide candidates with any other information. Any appeals against the selection decision must be lodged with the Council of State.

06.2 / ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

To be eligible, applicants must :

01. Be a permanent resident and work in one of the 32 eligible countries (see 3.4 Eligible countries on page 4). Exception: Palestinian nationals are eligible even if they do not reside in one of these 32 countries.

02. Hold a higher education qualification and meet the admission requirements for the course, a description of which can be found on the ARES website.

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. Provide evidence of at least two years' relevant professional experience in one of the 32 eligible countries, following the award of the last higher education qualification.

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 integratation in everyday life in Belgium.

05. Apply for just one course.

Please note that meeting the elegibility criteria in no way guarantees selection and eligibility for the course (see 6.3 Selection criteria on page 8).

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, national identity card (voter registration card not permitted) or copy of passport.
6. Proof of residence (residence certificate, resident card or resident permit. If such a document doesn't exist in your country of residence, please provide a signed declaration on honor)
7. A commitment from the employer to re-employ the employee.
8. Pre-project (for certain courses - see course-specific admission conditions)

Before applying, it is essential to familiarise yourself with the specific entry requirements for each course (course descriptions are available on the ARES website).

No follow-up will be given to applications that are not completed in full and are not accompanied by the mandatory attachments.

06.3 / SELECTION CRITERIA

For each course, selection is done by an academic jury, based on **8 criteria**:

01 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.

02 Previous scholarships

People who have previously received an ARES grant in Belgium are not eligible

03 Professionnal 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.

04 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.

05 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.

06 Nationality criteria

Every institution organising an international training programme ensures that its intake is geographically diverse.

07 The gender

The selection of applications aims to ensure gender parity in each course. The cascade effect for gender will 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.

08 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.

07. SCHEDULE

DATE	ACTION
August 03, 2026	Opening of the call for applications
September 4, 2026 at 12 noon (**Belgian time, UTC+1)**	Deadline for requesting the creation and validation of new GIRAF accounts
September 18, 2026 at 12 noon (**Belgian time, UTC+1)**	Deadline for submitting applications via the GIRAF platform
From October 2026 to Mai 2027.	Candidate preselection and selection process
June 2027	Communication of results to » Successful candidates and candidates on waiting list » Unsuccessful candidates

Deadline for submission of applications

Applications must be submitted by September 18, 2026 at 12 noon (Belgian time, UTC+1), latest. Applications submitted after this date will not be considered.

08. CONTACT

Questions about the International Training call for proposals?

» Contact ARES via scholarships-cooperation@ares-ac.be.

Questions about the content of a course?

» Contact the people listed for each course on the ARES website.

Enquiries regarding personal data ?

» Visit the ARES website.