Call for scholarship application of the Ministry of Foreing Affairs and Trade for the credit-based Hungarian Language and Hungarian Studies Programme in the academic year of 2019/2020

Note: This document has been prepared in English as a complementary material to the official Hungarian language call-for-application. In case of doubt, please refer to the original version and/or contact us.

Based on paragraph 2 of the 241/2016. (VIII.16.) Government Regulation the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade (MFA) invite applications for a **10-month Hungarian State scholarship in the academic year of 2019/2020 for the**

HUNGARIAN LANGUAGE AND HUNGARIAN STUDIES PROGRAMME.

The scholarship is intended for individuals of non-Hungarian citizenship (and of non-Hungarian descency) to increase their Hungarian language competence and "Hungarology" knowledge acquired at universities outside Hungary.

The objective of the Hungarian Language and Hungarian Studies scholarship is to improve, broaden and strengthen the Hungarian language skills and "Hungarology" knowledge of graduate or undergraduate students of Hungarian studies. The two-semester course takes place in the MFA in Budapest with the cooperation of the University of Pécs.

Individuals between the age of 18 and 35 years of non-Hungarian citizenship, whose native language is other than Hungarian, and are graduate or undergraduate students of Hungarian studies are invited to apply.

About the programme:

The goal of Hungarian Language–Hungarian Studies training is to increase the Hungarian language competence and "Hungarology" knowledge acquired at universities outside Hungary. The programme provides a great opportunity for participants to actively explore Hungary and contemporary Hungarian culture. The accredited training programme affiliated with the University of Pécs, offers 26–55 ECTS credit points. The training programme is coordinated by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade.

There are three types of curricula (A, B, C) available according to the different language competence of students.

The 10-month long training consists of two semesters including a study period of 13/15 weeks and an exam period of 4 weeks. During their study period students have to attend 28/30 classes, while in the exam period they have to take 4-6 exams. During the training there are cultural programmes as well, e.g. museum visits organized for the students.

Improving the students' language skills is a major goal of the training. Intensive language learning takes up 12–28 lessons a week in small study-groups. Language training is completed with an international ECL language exam approved by the Hungarian state. Its credit value is of 10/15 depending on the level (intermediate or advanced).

The interdisciplinary courses in Hungarian Studies transfer complex and diverse knowledge of the present Hungary and its cultural heredity. Beside compulsory lectures and seminars students take part in optional seminars according to their individual field of interest. The credit value of "Hungarology" studies is all in all 16/36/40.

At the end of their training students sit for a language-exam. At the end of Training-B and -C they also write a final paper and take a final exam on one of the topics of their Hungarian studies.

Class attendance is compulsory. Should a participant miss classes without cause, or violate the Study and Exam rules or Disciplinary Guidelines, he/she will lose the right to continue the programme and the right to dormitory placement. Any individual who has been expelled from the programme will have to repay all stipend (monthly allowance) received up to that date.

Duration of the programme is 10 months (September 2019 – June 2020).

The scholarship includes:
- full tuition fee
- HUF 45,000/month allowance (to be paid monthly)
- free accommodation in the dormitory (3-bedded rooms)
- student card (offering discounts)
- basic health services

The scholarship does not cover the following expenses:
- travel to and from Hungary
- language exam fee (ECL exam of level B2 or C1: approx. HUF 25,000)
- food
- public transport season ticket
- personal expenses
- fee of type "Other" visa, if neccessary

Maximum number of scholarships to be awarded: 40

Deadline of applications: 19 March 2019, 24.00 (UTC+1)

Applications will be evaluated by 29 March 2019 and applicants will be notified about the results within 7 workdays afterwards via e-mail. Decisions on the applications are made by the MFA Board. All decisions are binding. **MFA will not consider applications submitted after deadline and/or incorrectly and/or incompletely and/or illegibly.**

Successful applicants must confirm the acceptance of the scholarship via e-mail.

Steps of application:

The call for application is published in Hungarian at
https://balassischolarship.kormany.hu

in English at
https://balassischolarship.kormany.hu/call-for-application-hungarian-studies

1. Filling in the application form and questionnaire

In case you speak Hungarian:
download the Hungarian-language application form (Excel document) at https://balassischolarship.kormany.hu and fill it in electronically (no handwriting!)

In case you do not speak Hungarian:
download the English-language application form (Excel document) at https://balassischolarship.kormany.hu/call-for-application-hungarian-studies and fill it in electronically (no handwriting!)

NOTE! The application form and the questionnaire are two different sheets in the same Excel document. Fill **both of them** electronically (no handwriting!).

2. Obtaining required documents
Required documentation and references for the application:
– a professional plan of max. two pages describing the applicant's field of interest/research (required format: Word document)
– copy of transcripts and diplomas (required format: .pdf)
– copy of passport (required format: .pdf)
– reference letter from an acknowledged expert in the field of Hungarian Studies or in the applicant's field of interest (required format: .pdf)
– copy of document certifying vaccinaton obtained so far/vaccination booklet, if any (required format: .pdf)

3. Printing and signing the application form
Print the application form filled in eletronically, then sign with blue ink and scan in colour.

NOTE! The questionnaire is <u>not</u> to be printed, signed and scanned.

4. Submitting the application material via e-mail to balassischolarship@mfa.gov.hu
To submitting the application the following documents have to be sent by e-mail:
– application form and questionnaire filled in electronically (Excel document),
– signed and scanned application form (.pdf document),
– a professional plan of max. two pages describing the applicant's field of interest/research (required format: Word document)
– copy of transcripts and diplomas (required format: .pdf)
– copy of passport (required format: .pdf)

– reference letter from an acknowledged expert in the field of Hungarian Studies or in the applicant's field of interest (required format: .pdf)
– copy of document certifying vaccinaton obtained so far/vaccination booklet, if any (required format: .pdf)

The applicant must accept the following conditions for obtaining the scholarship:

- Taking part in medical screening tests shortly after arrival to be performed by the assigned medical service provider of the MFA. Obtaining „medically recommended for training" result is required for using the scholarship and start the training. Should the medical screening give „medically not recommended for training" result, the scholarship-holder has to undertake to cancel his/her participation in the scholarship programme and to move out of the dormitory.
- Signing a scholarship agreement with the MFA.

Further information:
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The official call-for-application and the application form can be found at the Balassi Scholarship Programme webpage of the Ministry of Foreing Affairs and Trade
(in Hungarian: https://balassischolarship.kormany.hu,
in English: https://balassischolarship.kormany.hu/call-for-application-hungarian-studies.