

Government of Pakistan
FINANCE DIVISION
HRM Wing
(Quality Assurance – I Section)

CIRCULAR


Subject: **ANNOUNCEMENT OF IsDB SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAMMES FOR THE ACADEMIC YEAR 2023-2024**

Ministry of Economic Affairs vide its O.M No. 2(1)IDB-I/2019 dated 5th April, 2023 on the subject noted above and to state that the Islamic Development Bank (IsDB) has announced Merit Scholarship Programme for High Technology (MSP) for Ph.D and Post-Doctoral Research for the academic year 2023-24. Brochure is available at website of Finance Division.

2. Interested Officers of this Division are requested to furnish their nominations duly recommended by the AFS/head of the respective Wing to **QA-I Section by 20.4.2023**. After the approval of FTC, the nominated officer will submit online application form via IsDB scholarship online portal (www.isdb.org/scholarships).

Note:- "In addition to the eligibility criteria specified for a training, all officers who are working on contract basis/fixed pay package or having less than two years continuous government service or less than three months of service in Finance Division or against whom disciplinary proceedings/inquiry is in progress, may need not to apply".

Encl: As above.


(Madina Rafique)
Section officer (QA-I)
☎: 9208523

All Officers (BPS-17 & above) of Finance Division, Islamabad
Finance Division's U.O No.F.2 (12) QA-I/2014 dated 12.4.2023

- Webmaster, Finance Division, with the request to upload the circular on Finance Division's website.

Islamic Development Bank
Banque Islamique de Développement
President's Office — Bureau Du Président



Date:.....30/08/1444H.....التاريخ

Corres:.....22/03/2023G.....الموفق

H.E. Sardar Ayaz Sadiq
Minister for Economic Affairs
Governor, IsDB
Islamabad - Islamic Republic of Pakistan
Email: minister@ead.gov.pk

Subject: Announcement of IsDB Scholarship Programs for the Academic Year 2023-2024

Your Excellency,

Since its inception, the Islamic Development Bank (IsDB) has been keenly focused on supporting human capital development, in addition to its mainstream development financing activities, with the aim of ensuring socioeconomic progress in its member countries.

In its Realigned Strategy (2023–2025), the IsDB reiterated this commitment by dedicating an entire pillar to supporting comprehensive and inclusive human capital development. Through this pillar, IsDB will undertake capacity development initiatives, including scholarship programs, to address member countries' pressing development challenges.

In this regard, I am pleased to inform you that applications are open for the IsDB Merit Scholarship Program for High Technology (MSP) for Ph.D. and Postdoctoral Research for the academic year 2023-2024 (announcement poster attached). Interested candidates from your esteemed country are invited to apply via the IsDB scholarship online portal (www.isdb.org/scholarships) no later than 30 April 2023.

To attract the largest possible number of distinguished candidates, I kindly request that Your Excellency's office publish the attached announcement in leading local journals, newspapers, and media and share it with relevant educational and research institutions in the country.

Moreover, it would be highly appreciated if an institution from your esteemed country, preferably from the Ministry of Higher Education, is designated to serve as a focal point for the implementation of the IsDB scholarship programs.

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Islamic Development Bank
Banque Islamique de Développement
President's Office — Bureau Du Président



البنك الإسلامي للتنمية
مكتب الرئيس

We look forward to receiving applications from your most talented candidates and to supporting them in their educational endeavors.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.

Dr. Muhammad Al Jasser
Chairman
Islamic Development Bank Group

SM

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Islamic Development Bank
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البنك الإسلامي للتنمية
مكتب الرئيس



Call for Scholarship Applications
for the Academic Year 2023-2024

The Islamic Development Bank (IsDB) is pleased to invite applications for the **Merit Scholarship Program for High Technology for Ph.D. and Postdoctoral Research (MSP)** for the Academic Year 2023-2024.

Interested candidates are welcome to submit their applications through the scholarship online portal www.isdb.org/scholarships no later than 30 April 2023.

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IsDB Scholarship Applications for 2023-2024

Welcome to **Islamic Development Bank Scholarship Programme for The Academic Year 2023-2024**

Please note that the Islamic Development Bank (IsDB) does not charge any fees at any stage of the scholarship process. Never disclose or send money to any entity or person in relation to your application.

For any inquiries and /or assistance , please correspond with only:

E-mail: scholar@isdb.org

To apply for **IsDB Scholarship Programmes (2023 – 2024), please [click here](#)**

IsDB Scholarship Programmes

SCHOLARSHIP



I. Introduction

Mindful of the importance of qualified human resources for social advancement and sustainable development, the Islamic Development Bank (IsDB) has been very keen from the outset of its establishment to focus on human capital development alongside its mainstream development financing activities.

In recognition of the vital need to develop the human resources of the Muslim communities in non-Member Countries (non-MCs), IsDB launched its undergraduate scholarship programme (SP) in 1983 under the title Scholarship Programme for Muslim Communities (SPMC).

Capitalizing on the experience of a decade of the SPMC, IsDB decided to establish the Merit Scholarship Programme (MSP) for Ph.D. studies and post-doctoral research in applied science and high technology to strengthen the scientific, technological and research capabilities of institutions in Member Countries (MCs), which was launched in 1992. Later, the Master of Science Scholarship Programme (M.Sc.) was launched in 1998 as a feeding programme for the MSP, realizing that 20 of the Least Developed Member Countries (LDMCs) could not benefit from the latter.

In IsDB's Realigned Strategy 2023 – 2025, the Bank dedicated an entire pillar to the support of comprehensive and inclusive human capital development. Through this pillar, IsDB aims to help MCs and Muslim communities in non-MCs to address these challenges

with capacity-development initiatives, including scholarship programmes. It is also an important component of IsDB's efforts to promote economic development and shared prosperity through the global development of human capital by investing in education.

Currently, there are four programmes offered by IsDB:

1. IsDB Scholarship Programme for Muslim Communities in Non-Member Countries (SPMC)

The SPMC was launched in 1983 to enable academically meritorious and financially impoverished young Muslim students from Muslim communities in non-MCs to undertake undergraduate studies in medicine, engineering, computer sciences, information technology, agriculture, and other related fields in their own countries or the IsDB MCs.

2. IsDB Master of Science Scholarship Programme (M.Sc.)

The M.Sc. Scholarship Programme was launched in 1998 to assist 20 IsDB LDMCs in the development of their human capital, especially in science and technology, which are both relevant and necessary for their development.

3. IsDB Merit Scholarship Programme for High Technology (MSP)

The implementation of the Merit Scholarship Programme commenced in 1992. The programme is dedicated to advanced studies and/or research (3-year Ph.D. and 6-12-month post-Doctorate) in 16 applied science and high technology areas deemed necessary for the development of the MCs.

4. IsDB-ISFD Scholarship Programme

The IsDB-ISFD Programme was launched in 2019 by IsDB and the Islamic Solidarity Fund for Development (ISFD), with the specific aim of reducing poverty in 21 Least Developed IsDB Member Countries (LDMCs). The programme provides educational opportunities for academically meritorious and financially impoverished young men and women from 21 LDMCs to pursue bachelor studies in medicine, engineering, agriculture and other related fields or a technical diploma at a public institute in their home countries or in other IsDB member countries.

Guidance & Counselling Activities

IsDB graduates are the key to deliver the impact of socioeconomic development programmes in their countries. Therefore, IsDB felt the need to motivate students to fulfil the IsDB dream of not only producing successful graduates but also developing them as good citizens and competent professionals capable of achieving IsDB's corporate objectives regarding the development of their communities and countries.

As a result, IsDB initiated a support programme called "**Guidance and Counselling Activities**" for students involving the appointment of honorary counsellors to support and guide students, organize annual seminars for group learning to support the students'

personal development, which includes mentorship and learning meetings, educational development seminars and tutoring during vacation.

For programmes details

II. Schedule of Activities

The programmes are formally announced every year in February for the September student intake. The following schedule is drawn on the basis of academic calendars of universities and institutions around the world where IsDB students will study.:

	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September
Preparation									
Call for applications									
In-house review of applications									
Processing/short-listing									
Announcement of results									
Placement									

III. Administration of the Programmes

The programmes are managed by the Special Assistance Division (SpAD) under the supervision and guidance of an Internal Executive Committee (IEC) composed of members of the IsDB Senior Management and chaired by the IsDB Vice President, Operations. The SpAD facilitates the applications, selection process and placement of students. It also undertakes all matters related to the administration and financial support of the students while they are studying and monitors their academic performance to ensure timely completion of their studies.

Applications for SPMC, M.Sc. and IsDB-ISFD programmes are reviewed by the IEC to identify candidates with the highest potential for final approval by the Chairman. Applications for MSP are submitted for a second phase of review by a panel of eminent scientists to ascertain the scientific and development relevance of the field of study and to assess the overall qualifications of the applicants. Recommendation of candidates for final selection is made by the IEC and given final approval by the Chairman of the IEC.

For further information, please write to scholar@isdb.org.

Announcement of IsDB Scholarship Programs for the Academic Year 2023-2024

2) Merit Scholarship Programme for High Technology (MSP) for IsDB Member Countries

I. Background

The Merit Scholarship Programme (MSP) was introduced in 1992. It offers scholarships for higher study at renowned high-tech universities and institutions around the world.

II. Objective

The objective of the MSP is to develop technically qualified human resources in IsDB MCs by providing scholarships to promising and outstanding scholars and researchers to undertake advanced studies and research in the fields of applied science and technology needed for the development of the member countries. The main objectives are:

- To develop technically qualified human resources in the MCs;
- To enhance the scientific, technological and research capability and potential of scholars and researchers in MCs;
- To help meet national needs for science and technology; and
- To strengthen the scientific, technological and research capability of institutions in MCs.

III. Concept of the Programme

The concept is to meet the needs of the MCs in science and high technology areas that are crucial to their development by enhancing the scientific, technological and research potential of their scholars/researchers and institutions. The scholars are expected to return to their countries/institutions to apply new know-how for the development of their countries.

IV. Fields of Study

The programme covers studies and research at two levels: (i) three-year or 36 months Ph.D. study; and (ii) 6-12 months Post-Doctoral research. The duration of both Ph.D. study and post-doctoral research are in line with international standards and practice.

Fields of studies and subjects are determined by the direct need and the purpose of meeting the countries' developmental needs related to science and technology. The needs are categorised by the following justifications: (i) lack of expertise; (ii) emerging science; (iii) problem-solving; and (iv) science management.

For general guidance, a broad list of 17 fields of studies is drawn and outlined hereunder. However, as the field of study is chosen from this list, it must gain merit by the relevance and value to the countries' development needs and fall within one of the above four categories.

1. **L**aser and Fibre Optics
2. **C**onductors/Semiconductors
3. **P**olymer Science
4. **G**enetic Engineering/Biotechnology
5. **N**uclear Science/Engineering
6. **E**lectronics/Micro Electronics/Telecommunication
7. **C**omputer Science (including CAD/CAM)
8. **R**enewable Energy/Fuel Technology
9. **H**ydrology/Water Resources
10. **M**etallurgy
11. **C**hemical Engineering/Material Sciences
12. **M**edicine/Pharmaceutical
13. **A**griculture/Food Technology
14. **S**ystem Engineering
15. **S**pace Science/Technology
16. **E**nvironmental Preservation Technology
17. **T**echnology Management and Innovation (For post-doctoral research only).

V. Institutions of Study

Priority is given to Ph.D. applicants with secured admission at universities that have concluded a cooperation agreement with IsDB, such as the University of Cambridge; the University of Oxford; the University of Queen Mary; the University of London in the United Kingdom; a number of reputable universities in Malaysia, Turkey and the Makerere University in Uganda.

Successful candidates for the Ph.D. programme may also secure admission at one of the reputable universities in IsDB member countries listed among the top 1,000 in the Times Higher Education Supplement (THES) or QS international universities ranking.

Successful candidates for post-doctoral research are invited to undertake their research project at centres of excellence in IsDB member countries that have facilities and equipment to undertake cutting-edge research projects.

VI. Eligibility requirements

The programme is only for scholars from MCs who are attached to educational, scientific and technological institutions and research centres in their home countries and are actively working in the scientific and technological development of their countries.

The programme does not award scholarships to sole individuals, but to individuals at the institutional level. The institutions are partners in the programme. Promising and talented individuals are sponsored and nominated by their institutions and accepted as appropriate by the offices of IsDB Governors in terms of the developmental and scientific needs of their countries.

To be **eligible**, applicants for the MSP must meet set criteria, including:

- **Be** up to the age of: (a) 35 years for Ph.D. study; or (b) 40 years for post-doctoral research;
- **Have** an M.Sc. (for Ph.D. study) or Ph.D. (for post-doctoral research) in a field of science/technology listed under the programme;
- **Have** above average ("Very Good") academic achievement;
- **Have** good command of the language of the institution of study and the ability to conduct scientific work in it;
- **Have** work and/or research experience of not less than two (2) years for Ph.D. study or five (5) years for post-doctoral research in the related field;
- **Have** a record of publications/research in the same field;
- **Have** a proposed field of study and/or research in one of the fields listed under the approved fields of study with scientific and development relevance to the country being clearly demonstrated in a research proposal endorsed by the nominating institution;
- **Applicants** for post-doctoral research who have had a post-doctoral experience outside their countries within the past two years are not eligible;

Not be an IsDB staff member or Executive Director, his/her alternate, and/or staff of any type of appointment (including temporary and consultant) of the IsDB Group nor a close relative of the aforementioned by blood or adoption, with the term "close relative" defined as mother, father, sister, half-sister, brother, half-brother, son, daughter, aunt, uncle, niece or nephew.

Notes :

The scholarship may only supplement, and shall not duplicate, any other source of financial support the applicant might have. If the applicant is awarded a scholarship, he/she must inform IsDB at that time if he/she has other sources of funding

Sending the application or getting admission by the academic institution does not mean that the applicant has been accepted for a scholarship. Accordingly, the applicant should not take any action concerning his/her current employment or otherwise until notified by IsDB of having been awarded a scholarship.

VII. Benefits and Facilities

For the successful candidates, the scholarship covers the following items:

- **C**ost of tuition fees as charged by the universities and payable to the universities directly
- **M**onthly stipend commensurate with the cost of living in the country of study, on a single-status basis
- **M**edical insurance under the university health scheme
- **T**hesis/scientific papers preparation
- **C**onference allowance for Ph.D. scholars
- **A** return air ticket and installation allowance for scholars studying overseas.

The scholarship does not cover the following:

- **V**isa application(s) costs;
- **E**xpenses to bring and/or support a scholar's family members
- **E**xtracurricular courses or training
- **L**anguage training not provided by the study programme
- **A**dditional travel during your study programme
- **E**xpenses related to research, supplementary educational materials, field trips, participation in workshops/seminars, exchange programmes conferences or internships;
- **E**ducational equipment, such as computers
- **R**esidence permit fee.

VIII. Obligations of the Beneficiaries

Beneficiaries awarded the scholarship shall:

Sign a surety bond stating their commitment to their studies, to return to their countries upon completion of their studies and to continue work and services to science, technology and development of their countries thereafter for at least twice the period of their studies under the IsDB Merit Scholarship Programme;

Devote themselves to their studies on a full-time basis without interruption and provide IsDB with reports on their academic studies and activities on a regular basis;

Not to seek or accept any other scholarship or remunerated work during their studies under the programme that may interfere with their studies or make the fulfilment of their other obligations difficult, unless otherwise approved in writing by IsDB;

Respect the laws of the country of study and maintain good personal and professional conduct consistent with the rules, regulations and objectives of the programme and the overall mission of the IsDB as an Islamic institution.

As a partner in the joint effort with IsDB, the institutions nominating candidates for the programme are expected to:

- Duly nominate their candidates, assist them in all aspects of documentation preparation and secure the necessary endorsements from local authorities;
- Assist selected candidates to prepare for departure, place them on study leave and support them in their research;
- Help return scholars resettle and support them in their research and equipment needs.

X. Roles of offices of IsDB Governors

As the channel of announcement, the offices of IsDB Governors are expected to:

- Announce the programme, as widely as possible, among the scientific and research communities in the country;
- Disseminate information to relevant scientific and research institutions and interested scholars in the country;
- Endorse the shortlisted applications in the proposed fields of study that are most needed for the development of the country.

XI. List of Member Countries

- | | |
|----------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. Afghanistan | 31. Maldives |
| 2. Albania | 32. Mali |
| 3. Algeria | 33. Mauritania |
| 4. Azerbaijan | 34. Morocco |
| 5. Bahrain | 35. Mozambique |
| 6. Bangladesh | 36. Niger |
| 7. Benin | 37. Nigeria |
| 8. Brunei Darussalam | 38. Oman |
| 9. Burkina Faso | 39. Pakistan |
| 10. Cameroon | 40. Palestine |
| 11. Chad | 41. Qatar |
| 12. Comoros | 42. Saudi Arabia |
| 13. Cote d'Ivoire | 43. Senegal |
| 14. Djibouti | 44. Sierra Leone |
| 15. Egypt | 45. Somalia |
| 16. Gabon | 46. Sudan |
| 17. Gambia | 47. Suriname |
| 18. Guinea | 48. Syria |
| 19. Guinea Bissau | 49. Tajikistan |
| 20. Guyana | 50. Togo |
| 21. Indonesia | 51. Tunisia |
| 22. Iran | 52. Turkey |
| 23. Iraq | 53. Turkmenistan |
| 24. Jordan | 54. Uganda |
| 25. Kazakhstan | 55. United Arab Emirates |
| 26. Kuwait | 56. Uzbekistan |
| 27. Kyrgyz | 57. Yemen |
| 28. Lebanon | |
| 29. Libya | |
| 30. Malaysia | |