



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

Directorate-General Enlargement

A.3 - Task Force Turkish Cypriot Community

## LOCAL GRANT SCHEME

# European Community scholarships programme 2008/2009 Call for Interests

### 1. Purpose:

In line with the objective of bringing the Turkish Cypriot community closer to the European Union (EU), scholarships will be awarded in order to offer additional educational opportunities to Turkish Cypriot undergraduate students, graduates and teachers, raising their knowledge in a technical field and to offer the experience of carrying on studies and living in another EU Member State<sup>1</sup> for a better understanding of the EU.

### 2. Studies:

The European Community scholarships programme addresses undergraduate university students, graduates, and teachers<sup>2</sup> of secondary school and university. Please note that a scholarship is awarded for the duration of study in the EU Member State, up to one academic year maximum, and cannot be extended or postponed. For undergraduate students and graduates the period of studies must consist of a full academic year of the programme in the host university starting in Fall 2008, academic calendars varying in the different countries.

#### **Scholarships for undergraduate students:**

The European Community scholarships programme promotes student mobility. A student enrolled in an undergraduate Turkish Cypriot curriculum will be able to study an academic year in another EU Member State's university.

#### **Scholarships for graduates:**

Scholarships will also cover one academic year of a postgraduate degree at a University<sup>3</sup> in another EU Member State. There is no limitation to specific fields or studies/faculty. However, students applying to study in certain areas such as; **Macroeconomics, Agricultural economics, EU Law, Competition Law, European Studies, Statistics, Econometrics, Food Engineering, Environmental Engineering. Planning (urban and regional), Information Technology** will be given priority. Preference will be given to those that can prove that they they will be offered a

---

<sup>1</sup> EU-27

<sup>2</sup> Priority will be given to university teachers. However, also applications from non-university teachers would be considered particularly when this contributes to the improvement of teaching quality in the non tertiary education in fields where there are competence shortcomings, such as IT studies and languages.

<sup>3</sup> Equivalent institutions for postgraduate studies will also be accepted.

job in the northern part of Cyprus, upon completion of their studies. Applications are especially welcome from those already in employment who wish to upgrade job-specific skills.

### **Scholarships for teachers:**

The European Community scholarships programme allows for teachers' specialisation as well. University/or an equivalent organisation and secondary school teachers, will be able to follow a maximum one year curriculum in another EU Member State's university, in order to get specialised or trained in some particular technical fields. There is no limitation to a specific field of studies/faculty, however, teachers of IT studies and languages will be given priority. Such specialisation/training should represent an added value to applicants' teaching skills

### **3. Scholarship Includes:**

These grants are intended as a contribution towards covering the extra costs involved in studying abroad, that is to say a lump sum allowance of €15,000 for an academic year to cover higher general costs of living in the host country and the travel expenses (economy class). For shorter period studies the grant will be proportionate to the length of the course. In addition, the tuition fees will be reimbursed up to a ceiling of €2,000.

Please note that this programme is not a "full scholarship" programme and is not intended to cover all living costs abroad.

### **4. Eligibility criteria:**

#### **Undergraduate Students:**

- Must be from the Turkish Cypriot community,
- Must be registered in a university in the northern part of Cyprus and be ineligible for the Erasmus programme,
- Must have at least completed one year of university studies,
- Must be involved full time in a normal four-year-undergraduate Turkish Cypriot curriculum,
- Must have sufficient foreign language knowledge to continue to study in the language of teaching of the host university or equivalent institution of higher education,
- Must be in good physical health and have the ability to adapt themselves to different cultural and social environments,

#### **Graduates:**

- Must be from the Turkish Cypriot community,
- Must hold a university degree, (or obtain a University Degree before the signature of the contract)
- Must have sufficient foreign language knowledge to continue to study in the language of teaching of the host university or equivalent institution of higher education,
- Must not have studied in an EU university,
- Must be in good physical health and have the ability to adapt themselves to different cultural and social environments,

- Not benefit from a scholarship from another source for the proposed postgraduate degree.

**Teachers:**

- Must be from the Turkish Cypriot community,
- Must be university teachers in a university in the northern part of Cyprus or secondary school teachers in the northern part of Cyprus, and not able to participate the Erasmus programme,
- Must have sufficient foreign language knowledge to study in the language of teaching of the host university
- Must be in good physical health and have the ability to adapt themselves to different cultural and social environments,

**Applicants who do not comply with all the above eligibility criteria will be automatically rejected.**

**5. Important Notes:**

- Up to 110 scholarships will be granted to students and up to 35 scholarships<sup>4</sup> will be granted to teachers for the academic year 2008-2009 ( i.e. September 2008-August 2009)
- All grantees are required to come back to the northern part of Cyprus upon completion of their studies.
- The application packages are prepared separately for **Undergraduate Students, Graduates and Teachers**, please make sure to use the appropriate package. They can all be found on the following website: <http://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/cgi/frame12.pl>; please chose “OTHER”, tick on “open” and “grant”, then “submit query” and look for “Cyprus” on the right part of the webpage;
- In case of a need for clarification, please send your question(s) 21 days before the deadline (i.e. before 14<sup>th</sup> March 2008) to the following address: [elarg-scholarship@ec.europa.eu](mailto:elarg-scholarship@ec.europa.eu). All the questions will be compiled and answered in three different intervals, the final being 11 days before the deadline (i.e. before 24<sup>th</sup> March 2008) on the webpage: <http://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/cgi/frame12.pl>; as mentioned above, please chose “OTHER”, tick on “open” and “grant”, then “submit query” and look for “Cyprus” on the right part of the webpage;
- Applicants must obtain a **conditional admission** from a Member State university before sending their application form to this programme, and must **enclose such conditional admission (Annex 1) to their application. Applicants who do not comply with the requirement under this bullet point will be rejected.**

---

<sup>4</sup> The European Commission reserves the right not to allocate all the 110 scholarships to students and all the 35 scholarships to teachers for this call for interest.

- **Annex 3** to this call for interests is an official letter intended to help applicants explain the Programme in view of obtaining a conditional admission in a host university, if needed.
- For undergraduate students and teachers, the Turkish Cypriot University/secondary school where the Applicant is enrolled for university studies/is teaching must sign an Acknowledgment Form (**Annex 2**).
- There is no condition for Graduates to hold a job. However, priority will be given to those that can prove that they will be offered a job in the northern part of Cyprus upon completion of their studies. The job offer form in **Annex 2** shall only be used if applicable.
- The Application Form must be filled in correctly, typed or handwritten in block letters to ensure an easy reading, and must be mailed in **one (1) original and three (3) copies**, together with all supporting documents requested therein (see checklist at the end of the application form), to:

European Commission  
 DG Enlargement  
 Task Force for the Turkish Cypriot Community  
 Office CHAR 04/005  
 B-1049 Brussels – BELGIUM

The outer envelope must bear the reference “*Community scholarships programme – 2008/2009*”, the full name and address of the applicant and the words “*Not to be opened before the opening session*”. Delays in the mail system will not be taken into consideration.

Application packages may be sent via email to:

[elarg-scholarship@ec.europa.eu](mailto:elarg-scholarship@ec.europa.eu).

Subject: European Community scholarships programme

If you choose to email your application, please make sure to scan all supporting documents and attach them together with the **signed and dated** application form.

**Applicants who do not comply with the requirements under this bullet point will be rejected.**

## **6. Deadline:**

The deadline for the applications is **04 April 2008 at 17:00 hours (Brussels time)**. Applications received after this deadline will be automatically rejected.

## **7. Evaluation of applications**

The received applications will be evaluated firstly administratively according to the formal requirements and the eligibility criteria, then in terms of quality of the proposed project (reasons why the applicant wants to study abroad, etc.). Please refer to **Annex 4** for information on evaluation stages and criteria.

## **8. Short-listing and interviews**

### **Students and Graduates:**

The technically best 130 candidates will be short-listed and invited to an interview. In case more than one applicant obtains the same score at the 130<sup>th</sup> position, all such applicants will be interviewed. The aim of this exercise is to determine if pre-selected students have the capacity and the motivation to follow classes in another Member State in a foreign language.

### **Teachers:**

The technically best 45 candidates will be short-listed and invited to an interview. In case more than one applicant obtains the same score at the 45<sup>th</sup> position, all such applicants will be interviewed. The aim of this exercise is to determine if pre-selected teachers have the capacity and the motivation to follow classes/training in another Member State in a foreign language.

## **9. Signature of the contract**

The selected applicants will sign a contract and will receive an advance payment of the scholarship amount (see enclosed a draft contract template with annexes, for information. **Please note that the final version of the contract and its annexes might be different from the draft**).

Please note that the European Commission will not be able to help applicants find an accommodation. Applicants will have to contact the international department of their host university/institution in order to know what kind of help they can expect.

For teachers, please note that the European Commission will not be able to negotiate the conditions of their contracts with their Turkish Cypriot university/school. Applicants will have to clarify themselves the contractual/financial arrangements related to their salary and their return.

## **10. Non-Compliance with the Contract Conditions**

In case of non-compliance with the contract conditions (e.g. come back to the northern part of Cyprus upon completion of their studies) the grantee undertakes to repay the grant to the contracting authority.