

MENA Scholarship Programme (MSP)

Information for applicants

The MENA Scholarship Programme (MSP) offers scholarships to professionals for short courses in the Netherlands. The programme is funded by the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

The aim of the MSP

The main aim of the MSP is to contribute to democratic transition in the selected countries. It also aims at building capacity within organisations in the region, by enabling employees to take part in short courses in the Netherlands.

While the scholarship is awarded to individuals, the need for training must be demonstrated in the context of the organisation the applicant is employed by. The training must help the organisation develop its capacity. A candidate for the MSP, must therefore be nominated by an employer to participate in the programme.

For whom: the criteria

The target group is professionals (with a maximum age of 45 years) who are nationals of -and living and working in one of the selected countries: Algeria, Egypt, Iran, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, Syria* and Tunisia.

* MSP is not currently open to applicants applying from Syria. Applicants with the Syrian nationality may apply if they are residing and working in one of the other MSP countries on the list.

To be eligible for an MSP scholarship:

- one must be a professional and national of, and living and working in one of the countries on the MSP country list valid at the time of application;
- one must have a current employer's statement that complies with the formal Nuffic has provided. All information must be provided and all commitments that are included in the formal must be endorsed in the statement;
- one must not be employed by an organisation that has its own means of staff-development. Organisations that are considered to have their own means of staff development are for example:
 - multinational corporations (e.g. Shell, Unilever, Microsoft);
 - large national and/or a large commercial organisation;
 - bilateral donor organisations (e.g. USAID, DFID, Danida, Sida, Dutch ministry of Foreign affairs, FinAid, AusAid, ADC, SwissAid);
 - multilateral donor organisations, (e.g. a UN organisation, the World Bank, the IMF, Asian Development Bank, African Development Bank, IADB);
 - international NGO's (e.g. Oxfam, Plan, Care).
- one must have an official and valid passport (valid at least 3 months after the candidate submission date);
- one must have a government statement that meets the requirements of the country in which the employer is established (if applicable);

- the age of the MSP candidate must not exceed 45 years of age at the time of the grant submission.

How to apply

Before you apply, make sure you review the eligibility criteria carefully and check whether your employer is willing to nominate you for the scholarship.

When you are certain that you are eligible for an MSP scholarship, you can start making the necessary preparations for your application.

Follow these steps to apply:

1. Select a course on the MSP course list
2. Contact the Dutch higher education institution that is offering the course for information on:
 - course content
 - the application deadline (deadlines can differ per Dutch institution)
 - the application and selection procedures
 - the online application form and the supporting documents
3. Prepare your application and the supporting documents¹
4. Submit your online application via the Dutch institution offering the course

For any questions on the application -and selection procedures please contact the Dutch institution directly [<https://www.studyfinder.nl>]

Selection procedure

If your application meets all the course admission requirements and the MSP eligibility criteria, you can be nominated by the Dutch institution for a scholarship. If your application is nominated by a Dutch institution; the steps are as follows:

- The Dutch institution will submit a grant request to Nuffic requesting funding for eligible applications.
- The Netherlands Embassy will check the applications on their eligibility, and will assess the applications based on the eligibility criteria and the Embassy country focus areas.
- Only eligible applications will be taken in to further consideration. Applications that do not meet the eligibility criteria will be rejected.
- The selection will be determined by the available deadline budget, the number of applicants and the quality and suitability of the applications. Ideally half of the scholarships are allocated to female applicants.

The scholarships are awarded in a competitive selection to highly motivated professionals who are in a position to introduce the newly-acquired skills and knowledge into their employing organization.

Candidates whom have been nominated will be informed of the outcome of the selection by the Dutch institution.

¹ With your online application, you will be asked to upload a valid passport copy, a current statement from your employer, and depending on your country of employment; a government statement.