

## **2015 OAS-VUB Master's Scholarship Program** **Frequently Asked Questions**

### **Scholarship Application Process:**

**If I am offered an OAS-VUB scholarship will the OAS complete and submit the application documentation for admission to the university on my behalf?**

*No. You are responsible for completing and submitting your own application form and other required documents to the university. You will be required to send any additional documents that the university requires and that were not submitted to the OAS.*

### **Cost of Graduate Studies:**

**Does the OAS-VUB scholarship cover all cost of graduate studies?**

*No. The OAS-VUB scholarship covers tuition for the duration of the program of study and a one-time payment of US\$ 1,350 to offset the cost of travel to Brussels, All other costs not covered by the scholarship will be covered by the student such as: living accommodation (housing and meals, immigration process, etc.) You should seek additional sources of funding to cover these costs.*

### **Subsistence:**

**What is the estimated amount of money needed monthly to live in Brussels?**

*In principle a student must have sufficient means of subsistence to cover healthcare, living costs, study and repatriation costs. The minimum amount needed is fixed and indexed every year by royal decree. It is currently **614 EUR** net/month (academic year 2014-2015).*

**How can I prove that I have the means to cover cost of living in Brussels?**

*There are 3 ways that you can prove that you are capable of supporting yourself while studying in Brussels:*

- *Document showing that you have received another scholarship, a loan, or a grant issued by an international organization or a national authority, or a legal person, Belgian or foreign, with sufficient resources. The amount of the said grant or loan may not be below the minimum amount which a student must have every month as stated in the royal decree. If necessary, the student must produce proof of complementary resources; OR*
- *Document submitted by a guarantor: the guarantor is, any person (physical or legal, Belgian or foreign) that takes a commitment that charge will be taken and demonstrate that they have sufficient resources to take over responsibility for a student for one academic year or for the entire duration of the studies envisaged.*

*Any other type of proof of funds will not be considered.*

**If a person agrees to sponsor me for the duration of my studies, what documents showing commitment should be submitted and to whom?**

*A document may be obtained by the guarantor from authorities in Belgium if the person is a citizen or resident of the country. If the person does not reside in Belgium, he/she may request the document from the embassy or consulate responsible for his/her country of residence.*

*The guarantor will also have to provide bank statement or paper indicating other sources of revenue showing the total minimum amount of 1507 EUR ((604 EUR required for the student and an additional 973 EUR monthly).*

*The commitment becomes effective on the date that the sponsor signs the document.*

## **Employment while studying:**

### **Can I or a dependent get a part-time job?**

*You or your dependent are not prevented from working, provided that the labor laws of the country of study allow it and are respected.*

## **Travel:**

### **Will the OAS and/or VUB help me get the U.S. visa?**

*You are responsible for obtaining the student visa. Visit the nearest Belgian embassy or consulate for more information on the procedure to request a student visa. The OAS and VUB will not cover or reimburse fees associated with the process of securing a visa and airfare to Belgium. These costs are the sole responsible of the student.*

### **Does the OAS and/or VUB provide help finding accommodation?**

*You are responsible for securing your accommodation as well as the cost associated with your accommodation. You have the option of staying on campus or away from campus. It is recommended to contact the university to obtain information about housing and determine the best option for you.*

### **Will the OAS and VUB issue a letter of support to ensure that I get the student visa?**

*The OAS will only issue you Scholarship Acceptance Form which explains the terms and conditions of your scholarship. VUB will also give you an admission letter to include with the documents you submit to the consulate as well as communicate your name to the Belgian embassy to notify them of your impending visa application.*

*The OAS-VUB scholarship is complementary; therefore, it is not meant to cover all of the expenses you will incur during your studies. The OAS and VUB will take no responsibility for your finances.*

### **Do I need to apply for a visa each year?**

*The visa is valid for 1 academic year and is automatically renewed after you are registered at the university for the following year.*

*If you are not enrolled at the university by the time the visa expires you will need to reapply for the visa and cover all related costs.*

## **Dependents**

**Am I allowed to bring my family with me?**

*You can take your family with you to Belgium. You will be solely responsible for their wellbeing. You will be required to secure additional health insurance, repatriation, and cover their cost of living.*

*Please note that if you have dependent(s) that will be staying with you in Belgium, the guarantor will have to add 150 EUR monthly per dependent to the minimum total amount that he/she is required to have at his/her disposal.*

**End of Scholarship****Can I decline my OAS-VUB Scholarship?**

*You may decline your scholarship at any time prior to the start of your program of study. Please do so as early in the process as possible so that the next ranked candidate can take advantage of the scholarship opportunity.*

**If I decline the OAS-VUB Scholarship after I begin my studies, do I have to reimburse the OAS and VUB for the scholarship cost?**

*Yes. If you renounce, cancel or otherwise terminate the scholarship after you have started receiving scholarship benefits, you will be responsible for reimbursing the OAS and VUB a percentage of the amount of all scholarship expenses spent on your behalf.*