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Overview of the IsDB Scholarship Programmes

The IsDB is currently funding the following scholarship programmes: Undergraduate, Master, PhD, and Post-doctoral research. The Programmes are an important tool in the development initiatives led by the IsDB since 1983 to foster technology and knowledge sharing among member countries and Muslim communities in non-member countries.

The programmes are designed to attract talented male and female students and build the right competence required to empower communities with a special focus on “Sustainability Science” in line with the approved fields to support the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

For over (3) three decades, the Bank has helped to provide scholarship opportunities to 15,611 students and formed a pool of 13,253 well-trained development professionals and researchers transforming their countries and positively impacting future generations.

As a new initiative, the IsDB has also launched the following schemes:

1. **IsDB/ISFD Programme for Vocational Training and Undergraduate Studies:** This programme is an IsDB new initiative for 21 LDMCs funded by the Islamic Solidarity Fund for Development (ISFD) for the next ten years, starting from 2018-19 aiming at promoting entrepreneurship and reducing poverty.
2. **Joint Programme with The World Academy of Science (TWAS) in Trieste, Italy for Sustainability Science, Technology and Innovation:** This programme is an IsDB initiative for capacity building aiming at building critical mass in the fields of Science, Technology and Innovation (STI) to address sustainable development challenges of its member countries.

Partnership Programmes with Reputable top universities: The IsDB has linked the programmes with reputable universities worldwide. Therefore, a new partnership model has been pursued with the top (10) ten ranked universities in all beneficiary countries through Memorandum of Agreements. Under the new partnership model, the hosting universities will play a strategic role to provide the students with the necessary mentoring and guidance to ensure their academic success. They will equally facilitate the students’ financial entitlements, accommodation and promote the IsDB scholarship programmes.

Currently, the partnership programme includes Universities of Cambridge, Queen Mary, Imperial College London in the United Kingdom, Copenhagen University in Denmark, and McGill University in Canada. In addition, the bank is currently partnering with the Ministry of Education in Malaysia, Council of Higher Education in Turkey, Ministry of Higher Education

and Scientific Research in Tunisia, Morocco and Jordan to place IsDB students at top universities.

Setting-up Alumni for the IsDB graduates: IsDB Graduated students become part of a larger community of Alumni around the world to exchange knowledge and contribute with innovative solutions for the development of their local communities. IsDB will continue reaching-out to its Alumni and invite them to participate, among others, in an annual **Call for Innovation** through its recently launched **“Engage Platform & Transform Fund”**. The winning applicants will receive financial support to translate their innovative ideas into development solutions and possible commercialization.

I- Undergraduate Scholarship Programme

Introduction

The Programme was launched with the objective to provide educational opportunities for the academically meritorious young students from member countries and Muslim communities in non-member countries to pursue undergraduate or first-degree study in a university and to train them in specific fields to empower communities with a special focus on **“Sustainability Science”** to support the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the Presidency 5-Year Plan (P5P).

Concept

The Programme is more than just a scholarship programme in the traditional sense of a straight financial assistance to qualified students. It is also a tool for the improvement of the socio-economic conditions in general. It is a scholarship programme and a development programme at the same time since the students are required to play a leading role in assisting the development of their communities and countries. In other words, the IsDB aims to produce **Good Citizens and Talented Professionals (GCTP)** at the same time.

Benefits and facilities

The programme **covers full tuition** to be paid directly to the university, monthly living allowance commensurate with the cost of living in the country of study, medical expenses at public or university hospitals.

For the students who are selected to study abroad, the IsDB also provides them with economy class air tickets to and from the countries of study (once at the beginning and at the end of study), installation allowance and educational equipment.

To help students prepare themselves for their future leading role in the development of their communities and countries, the IsDB also provides them with extra-curricular activities under

a special programme called “Mentorship Programme” to ensure their academic progress and social and psychological integration in the university as well as the local community environment.

Eligibility Criteria

The Programme is open for academically meritorious students with strong desire to engage in social services and community development after graduation. The prospective candidate must meet the following eligibility criteria:

- Citizens of any of the IsDB member countries or Muslim communities in non-member countries
- Completed senior secondary education (or the equivalent of approximately 12 years of education) with good grades in major subjects.
- Not in receipt of any other scholarship at the time of application and during studies under the IsDB scholarship programme.
- Be medically fit and willing to undergo medical tests after selection.

Fields of Study

Eligible students must apply only for following fields of study:

Major Fields of study at Undergraduate Level	Potential Specializations for Graduate Students to pursue their Master and PhD
Medicine, Dentistry, Pharmacy, Nursing, Medical Laboratories, Microbiology, Public Health, Nutrition, Health Services Management, Bio-Medicine, Medical Technology, Veterinary, Chemistry, Biology, Bio-Technology and related fields.	Health
Engineering: Civil, Mechanical, Chemical, Electrical, Surveying, Urban Planning,	Sustainable Cities
	Innovation & Infrastructure Development
	Waste Management
Agriculture and Forestry	Sustainable Agriculture
Industrial Technologies	Plastic pollution and Micro-plastics
	Green Chemistry
	Responsible Growth
Physics, Geology and related fields	Energy

Computer Science, Information Technology, Telecommunication, and Electronics and related fields	ICT for Development
Natural Resources, Marine Sciences	Biodiversity
	Climate Change
	Water and Hygiene
Law, Media and Journalism, Political Sciences, Entrepreneurships, and related fields.	Development-related Social Sciences
Economics	Islamic Economics, Finance and Banking
Statistics, Demography Econometrics, and Social Studies	Population Growth
Education, Psychology and Learning, Education Policy and International Development	Education
	Education for Sustainable Development

Host Institutions

Selected students must obtain an admission only from one of the universities listed among the top (10) universities in each country.

Obligations

Candidates granted the Scholarship are expected to:

1. Sign a Surety Bond stating their commitment to their studies, their return to their countries upon completion of their studies and service their communities and countries;
2. Commit to cover, after the completion of his study, either the cost of the first year of his/her master's degree. In this case, the IsDB will support him/her by covering the cost of his/her 2nd year master degree or related cost of the first year's study for a new Undergraduate student from the same community he/she belongs to.
3. Devote themselves to their studies on a full-time basis and without interruption and provide the IsDB with reports on their academic studies and activities on a regular basis;
4. Seek or accept no other scholarship or remunerated work during their studies under the Programme which may interfere with their studies or make fulfillment of their other obligations difficult unless otherwise agreed to in writing by the IsDB;
5. 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.

Selection Process

The selection of candidates is supervised by a Selection Committee, composed of academicians in all development related fields and chaired by the Senior Advisor to the President for Science, Technology and Innovation (STI).

The Committee reviews the applications keeping in view the eligibility requirements and selection criteria of the Programme with the aim of identifying the candidates with the highest potential.

Important Note

The programme does not cover expenses for the student's family; extra-curricular courses of training; language courses and any additional travel during the study programme.

II- Master Scholarship Programme

Introduction

The Programme was launched with an objective to assist IsDB member countries and Muslim communities in non-member countries in the development of their human capitals in key areas of development to pursue Master degree in specific fields to empower communities with a special focus on "**Sustainability Science**" to support the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the Presidency 5-Year Plan (P5P).

The programme aims specifically to:

- increase the number of intermediate level technological manpower in the beneficiary countries which is necessary for an effective technology development, transfer and maintenance; and
- enhance the ability of students to participate in the IsDB PhD and Post-doctoral research programme.

Concept

- The Programme offers scholarships leading to a full-time Master degree (in 2 years maximum) either through course work, research or a combination of both. Whichever the mode, it must be completed within the specified two-year time frame and there is no possibility of extension with the IsDB funding.
- The scholarship is awarded as an interest-free loan (*Qard Hasan*) to the students. They are required to repay 50% of the loan after graduation, in easy installments to ensure the programme continuity in the long run. Besides, the students are also required to take part in the development of their communities/countries, through their respective

professions, while the community development services rendered by the graduates will contribute to the overall development of their communities/countries

Benefits and facilities

The programme covers full tuition fees to be paid directly to the university, living allowance on single-status basis, medical expenses at public or university hospitals, computer allowance, thesis preparation allowance and round-trip air-ticket and installation allowance for study abroad.

To help students prepare themselves for their future leading role in the development of their communities and countries, the IsDB also provides them with extra-curricular activities under a special programme called "Mentorship Programme" to ensure their academic progress and social and psychological integration in the university as well as the local community environment.

Eligibility Criteria

The Programme is designed to help promising mid-career professionals from member countries and Muslim Communities in non-member countries who meet the following criteria:

- Be a citizen of any of an IsDB member countries or Muslim communities in non-member countries.
- Be a graduate with a grade above "Good" in his/her bachelor studies.
- His/her proposed field of study is within the fields approved by the programme
- Be recommended by three referees (professional or academic)
- Seek or accept no other scholarship or remunerated work during their studies under the Programme which may interfere with their studies or make fulfillment of their other obligations difficult unless otherwise agreed to in writing by the IsDB;
- Be medically fit and be willing to undergo medical tests after selection

Fields of study

Under the programme, eligible students may apply only for studies in the following fields:

Sustainable Agriculture:	<i>Food Security, Resilient Crops, Postharvest Technologies</i>
Education	<i>Quality of Teaching, Pupil/Teacher Ratio, High Level Training</i>
Education for Sustainable Development	<i>Integration of Sustainability-related issues into national curricula and teaching syllabus documents</i>
Climate Change	<i>Strategies for Reductions of CO2 Emissions, Climate Mitigation and Carbon Sequestration Methods</i>

Energy	<i>Renewable Energy and Green Technologies, Solar Potential and Hydrogen Fuel Cells, Biogas and Biodiesel</i>
Sustainable Cities	<i>Insulation Technologies, Transportation, Urban Planning</i>
Responsible Growth	<i>Reduction of Waste, Serving Communities, Ethics of Growth</i>
Waste Management	<i>Recycling, Carbon Footprint Reduction, Waste to Energy Technologies</i>
Population Growth	<i>Urban Sprawl, Density and Epidemics, Overshoot</i>
Green Chemistry	<i>Alternative Technologies, Cutting-edge Research, Limitation of Pollution</i>
Biodiversity	<i>Loss of Biodiversity, Ecosystem Services, Mass Extinction, Agrobiodiversity</i>
Plastic pollution and Micro-plastics	<i>Plastic Incorporation into the Food Chain, Biodegradable Plastics, Recycling Possibilities.</i>
Water and Hygiene	<i>Water Purity and Availability, Sanitation and Quality.</i>
Health	<i>Medicine, Pharmacy, Nutrition.</i>
ICT for Development	<i>Computer Science, Laser and Fiber Optics, Telecommunication, Electronics</i>
Innovation & Infrastructure Development	<i>Build Resilient Infrastructure, Innovation and Industrial Development, Technological Infrastructure, Product Innovation.</i>
Islamic Economics, Finance and Banking	<i>Mode & Services of Islamic Banking and Finance, Sharia Standards for IFIs, Islamic Insurance & Takaful, Islamic Capital Market, Sharia & Operational Aspects of Sukuk, Islamic Micro-Finance, Zakat Management, Awqaf & Zakat Management.</i>
Development-related Social Sciences	<i>International economics, Journalism, Law, IP, Political Sciences, Entrepreneurships.</i>

Host Institutions

Selected students must obtain an admission only from one of the universities listed among the top (10) universities in each country.

Obligations

Candidates granted the Scholarship are expected to:

1. Sign a Surety Bond stating their commitment to their studies, their return to their countries upon completion of their studies and service their communities and countries and comply with the rules and regulations of the programme.

2. Devote themselves to their studies on a full-time basis and without interruption and provide the IsDB with reports on their academic studies and activities on a regular basis.
3. Seek or accept no other scholarship or remunerated work during their studies under the Programme which may interfere with their studies or make fulfillment of their other obligations difficult unless otherwise agreed to in writing by the IsDB.
4. 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.

Selection Process

The selection of candidates is supervised by a Selection Committee, composed of academicians in all development related fields and chaired by the Senior Advisor to the President for Science, Technology and Innovation (STI).

The Committee reviews the applications keeping in view the eligibility requirements and selection criteria of the Programme with the aim of identifying the candidates with the **highest potential**.

Important Note

The programme does not cover expenses for the student's family; extra-curricular courses of training; language courses and any additional travel during the study programme.

III- PhD and Post-doctoral research Programme

Introduction

The Programme aims at developing technically qualified human resources in the IsDB member countries and Muslim Communities in non-member countries by providing scholarships to promising and outstanding scholars and researchers to undertake advanced studies and research in development related fields with a special **focus on "Sustainability Science"**.

Concept

The Programme offers scholarships and is designed to help promising professionals and researchers to pursue a full-time Ph.D. study and/or Post-doctoral research in key areas of development with a special focus on **"Sustainability Science"** in line with the IsDB President's new strategy to empower communities to achieve the SDGs.

The main objectives of this programme are:

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

The scholarship is awarded as an interest-free loan (*Qard Hasan*) to the students. They are required to repay 50% of the loan after graduation, in easy installments to ensure the programme continuity in the long run. Besides, the students are also required to take part in the development of their communities/countries, through their respective professions, while the community development services rendered by the graduates will contribute to the overall development of their communities/countries

Benefits and Facilities

The programme covers full tuition/bench fees to be paid directly to the university, living allowance on single-status basis, medical expenses at public or university hospitals, conference and thesis preparation allowance and round-trip air-ticket and installation allowance for scholar studying abroad.

Eligibility Criteria

The Programme is designed to help promising mid-careers professionals from member countries and Muslim communities in non-member countries who meet the following criteria:

1) PhD study

- Have minimum Master degree (for Ph.D study) in one of the approved fields of the programme
- Have above average ("Very Good") academic standing;
- Preferably have work and/or research experience
- Have a proposed field of study and/or research in one of the fields listed under the approved fields of study of the programme with its scientific and development relevance to the country being clearly demonstrated in a research proposal.
- Seek or accept no other scholarship or remunerated work during their studies under the Programme which may interfere with their studies or make fulfillment of their other obligations difficult unless otherwise agreed to in writing by the IsDB;
- Be medically fit and be willing to undergo medical tests after selection.

2) Post-doctoral research

- Have PhD degree in one of approved fields of the programme

- Have above average ("Very Good") academic standing;
- Must have not less than two (2) years of experience in the field of his/her research
- Must 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 of the programme with its scientific and development relevance to the country being clearly demonstrated in a research proposal.
- Seek or accept no other scholarship or remunerated work during their studies under the Programme which may interfere with their studies or make fulfillment of their other obligations difficult unless otherwise agreed to in writing by the IsDB;
- Be medically fit and be willing to undergo medical tests after selection

Fields of study

Under the programme, eligible students may apply only for studies in the following fields:

Sustainable Agriculture:	<i>Food Security, Resilient Crops, Postharvest Technologies</i>
Education	<i>Quality of Teaching, Pupil/Teacher Ratio, High Level Training</i>
Education for Sustainable Development	<i>Integration of Sustainability-related issues into national curricula and teaching syllabus documents</i>
Climate Change	<i>Strategies for Reductions of CO2 Emissions, Climate Mitigation and Carbon Sequestration Methods</i>
Energy	<i>Renewable Energy and Green Technologies, Solar Potential and Hydrogen Fuel Cells, Biogas and Biodiesel</i>
Sustainable Cities	<i>Insulation Technologies, Transportation, Urban Planning</i>
Responsible Growth	<i>Reduction of Waste, Serving Communities, Ethics of Growth</i>
Waste Management	<i>Recycling, Carbon Footprint Reduction, Waste to Energy Technologies</i>
Population Growth	<i>Urban Sprawl, Density and Epidemics, Overshoot</i>
Green Chemistry	<i>Alternative Technologies, Cutting-edge Research, Limitation of Pollution</i>
Biodiversity	<i>Loss of Biodiversity, Ecosystem Services, Mass Extinction, Agrobiodiversity</i>
Plastic pollution and Micro-plastics	<i>Plastic Incorporation into the Food Chain, Biodegradable Plastics, Recycling Possibilities.</i>
Water and Hygiene	<i>Water Purity and Availability, Sanitation and Quality.</i>
Health	<i>Medicine, Pharmacy, Nutrition.</i>
ICT for Development	<i>Computer Science, Laser and Fiber Optics, Telecommunication, Electronics</i>

Innovation & Infrastructure Development	<i>Build Resilient Infrastructure, Innovation and Industrial Development, Technological Infrastructure, Product Innovation.</i>
Islamic Economics, Finance and Banking	<i>Mode & Services of Islamic Banking and Finance , Sharia Standards for IFIs, Islamic Insurance & Takaful, Islamic Capital Market, Sharia & Operational Aspects of Sukuk, Islamic Micro-Finance, Zakat Management, Awqaf & Zakat Management.</i>
Development-related Social Sciences	<i>International economics, Journalism, Law, IP, Political Sciences, Entrepreneurships.</i>

Host Institutions

Selected students must obtain an admission only from one of the universities listed among the top (10) universities in each country .

Obligations

Candidates granted the Scholarship are expected to:

1. Sign a Surety Bond stating their commitment to their studies, their return to their countries upon completion of their studies and service their communities and countries and comply with the rules and regulations of the programme.
2. Devote themselves to their studies on a full-time basis and without interruption and provide the IsDB with reports on their academic studies and activities on a regular basis;
3. Seek or accept no other scholarship or remunerated work during their studies under the Programme which may interfere with their studies or make fulfillment of their other obligations difficult unless otherwise agreed to in writing by the IsDB
4. 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.

Selection Process

The selection of candidates is supervised by a Selection Committee, composed of academicians in all development related fields and chaired by the Senior Advisor to the President for Science, Technology and Innovation (STI).

The shortlisted applications are reviewed in detail by a panel of eminent scientists to ascertain the scientific and development relevance of the field of study proposed and to assess the overall qualifications of the applicants. Recommendation for final selection is made by the Selection Committee.

Introduction

The Programme is funded by the Islamic Solidarity Fund for Development (ISFD), with the specific aim of reducing poverty in the following 21 Member Countries:

1. Afghanistan, 2. Bangladesh, 3. Benin, 4. Burkina Faso, 5. Chad, 6. Comoros, 7. Djibouti, 8. Gambia, 9. Guinea, 10. Guinea-Bissau, 11. Mali, 12. Mauritania, 13. Mozambique, 14. Niger, 15. Senegal, 16. Sierra Leone, 17. Somali, 18. Sudan, 19. Togo, 20. Uganda, 21. Yemen

The Programme aims at providing opportunities to financially impoverished, but academically talented young men and women to pursue Bachelor Degree or Technical Diploma in the IsDB approved scientific, social and technical fields. The aim is to improve their socio-economic conditions and enable them to make a meaningful contribution to the development of their countries.

Concept

The scholarship is awarded as an interest-free Flex-Pay Installment Loan (*Qard Hasan*) to the students. Repayment will take place once the students finish their study and secure a gainful employment, to a Local Education Trust Fund (LETf) established in each member country benefiting from the Programme.

Benefits and Facilities

The programme covers full tuition fees to be paid directly to the university or institutions, living allowance commensurate with the cost of living in the country of study, medical expenses at public or university hospitals, and round-trip air-ticket and installation allowance for scholars studying abroad.

To help students prepare themselves for their future leading role in the development of their communities and countries, the IsDB also provides them with extra-curricular activities under a special programme called "Mentorship Programme" to ensure their academic progress and social and psychological integration in the university as well as the local community environment.

Host Institutions

For Bachelor Degree, selected students must obtain an admission only from one of the universities listed among the top (10) universities in each country .

For Technical Diploma, selected students must obtain an admission from either a reputable Technical Training Institute, or one of the top (10) universities in each country.

Obligations

Candidates granted the Scholarship are expected to:

1. Sign a Surety Bond stating their commitment to their studies, their return to their countries upon completion of their studies and service their communities and countries;
2. Commit to repay the loan upon completion of study and securing gainful employment, to a Local Education Trust Fund (LETF), established in each member country benefiting from the Programme.
3. Devote themselves to their studies on a full-time basis and without interruption and provide the IsDB with reports on their academic studies and activities on a regular basis;
4. Seek or accept no other scholarship or remunerated work during their studies under the Programme which may interfere with their studies or make fulfillment of their other obligations difficult unless otherwise agreed to in writing by the IsDB;
5. 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.

Selection Process

The selection of candidates is supervised by a Selection Committee, composed of academicians in all development related fields and chaired by the Senior Advisor to the President for Science, Technology and Innovation (STI).

The Committee reviews the applications keeping in view the eligibility requirements and selection criteria of the Programme with the aim of identifying the candidates with the highest potential.

Important Note

The programme does not cover expenses for the student's family; extra-curricular courses of training; language courses and any additional travel during the study programme.

V- Joint Programme with The World Academy of Science (TWAS) in Trieste, Italy, for Sustainability Science, Technology and Innovation (STI)

Introduction

This is a joint programme in cooperation with The World Academy of Science (TWAS) in Trieste, Italy. It started in 2017 as an IsDB initiative for capacity building aiming at building critical mass in the fields of Science, Technology and Innovation (STI) to address sustainable development challenges of its member countries.

Objective:

The main objective of the programme is to contribute to build critical mass of young scientists, researchers and refugee scientists in the fields of STI relevant to the SDGs.

Scope:

The programme offers:

- 1) **Post-Doctoral Fellowships:** The Fellowships will support scientists for research visits of 3 months in selected Centers of Excellence. Fellowships will be awarded to scientists who will have a role in empowering their society.
- 2) **Grants for Joint Research and Technology Transfer Projects:** The Grants will fund joint projects to bring together complementary expertise that will tackle complex global challenges often require an interdisciplinary approach. One joint project will be selected. The project will see two research groups from different IsDB countries. The research question will likely focus on an issue relevant to both countries involved. Grants will be assigned on a competitive basis to those projects which produce a major and real-time impact.
- 3) **High Level Training Workshops on the Science-Policy-Diplomacy Nexus:** It aims to conduct high level training workshops on the Science-Policy-Diplomacy Nexus that would bring together scientists, policy-makers and diplomats to focus on issues of high priority for the region and within the context of the Sustainable Development Goals.
- 4) **Support for Refugee Scientists and Other Scientists at risk in IsDB Member Countries:** It aims to support refugee scientists and other scientists at risk in IsDB member countries that are being affected by civil strife or war. Efforts will be made to support them at universities and research centres in other IsDB member countries, but also in other countries

Implementation: TWAS with its affiliated bodies and network of partners will be implementing all activities envisaged under this programme. TWAS will be the IsDB's focal point in supervising the implementation of this programme and will be fully responsible for the coordination of all the activities relating to the programme.

Implementation schedule: The programme is scheduled to be implemented within 4 years starting from 2017.

