



ACADÉMIE
DE RECHERCHE ET
D'ENSEIGNEMENT
SUPÉRIEUR



Belgique
partenaire du développement



INTERNATIONAL TRAINING SCHOLARSHIPS

CALL FOR APPLICATIONS

2026-2027 call

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01. SUBJECT

Call for applications for the **award of a scholarship as part of the international trainings taught/given during the 2026-2027 academic year.**

02. CONTEXT

The Académie de recherche et d'enseignement supérieur (ARES) is the federation of higher education institutions (HEIs) of the Wallonia-Brussels Federation (FWB) in Belgium.

As an umbrella organisation, ARES ensures overall coordination of the higher education sector in FWB.

ARES is also a recognised stakeholder/actor in Belgian development cooperation.

As such, it manages a budget from the Directorate-General for Development Cooperation and Humanitarian Aid (DGD) to carry out academic cooperation projects between French-speaking Belgian higher education institutions and their counterparts in 31 partner countries.

This call for proposals is part of the ARES International Training programme, which aims to build the capacity of young professionals from partner countries by providing them with specialised training or continuing education in Belgium.

03. SCHOLARSHIPS - INTERNATIONAL TRAINING

03.1 / OBJECTIVE

To give nationals of an **ARES partner country** the opportunity to pursue a specialised **bachelor's degree**, a specialised **master's degree** or **continuing education diploma** at an FWB establishment in Belgium.

03.2 / TARGET AUDIENCE

- » Nationals of an ARES partner country.
- » Holders of a higher education diploma.
- » With a minimum of 2 years' professional experience after the end of a bachelor's degree for specialised bachelors and a master's for specialised masters and continuing education courses.

03.3 / DURATION

- » Specialised Bachelors and masters: 1 year (one academic year beginning in September of year X and ending in June or September of year X+1).
- » Continuing training: between 2 and 6 months, depending on the course chosen.

03.4 / ELIGIBLE COUNTRIES

Benin, Bolivia, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cambodia, Cameroon, Cuba, Democratic Republic of Congo, Ecuador, Ethiopia, Haiti, Indonesia, Kenya, Madagascar, Mali, Morocco, Mozambique, Nepal, Niger, Peru, Philippines, Republic of Guinea (Conakry), Rwanda, Senegal, South Africa, Tanzania, Palestinian Territory, Tunisia, Uganda, Vietnam, Zimbabwe.

03.5 / FINANCING

03.5.1 / SPECIALISED BACHELORS AND MASTERS

POST	TERMS AND CONDITIONS
International travel expenses	Economy class on an IATA airline, maximum one return trip per academic year
Subsistence allowance	Monthly package for 12 months (+13 ^e reduced month)
Exceptional charges related to visa applications	Included in the subsistence allowance, but for amounts exceeding €200, based on actual costs which must be justified.
Fees from travel inter-establishment	Up to €250, based on actual costs, which must be justified
Insurance costs	Paid directly by ARES

03.5.2 / CONTINUING EDUCATION

POST	TERMS AND CONDITIONS
International travel expenses	Economy class on an IATA airline, maximum one return trip per academic year
Subsistence allowance	Monthly allowance for the duration of the course
Additional fees related to international travel	Fixed price of €200
Insurance costs	Paid directly by ARES

03.6 / HOW TO SUBMIT AN APPLICATION

Applying for an ARES scholarship is **free**. ARES does not charge any fees at any stage of the application or selection process. You can report any concerns about individuals or companies claiming to be acting on behalf of ARES and requesting any payment by emailing scholarships-cooperation@ares-ac.be.

03.6.1 / HOW TO SUBMIT A GRANT APPLICATION

Your application must be submitted to ARES via the GIRAF platform.

The procedure in **4 key stages**:

01. Have an active GIRAF account

» **Create your account**

Once your account has been validated by ARES (it will take a few hours to a few days, so there's no need to create several accounts), you will receive a confirmation email to create a password and log in.

- » **Already have an account?** If it has already been activated by ARES in previous years, you can re-use this account and, if necessary, reset your password.

02. Access the application form

It is available via the Competitive Calls tab in your profile.

Please note that you only need to click once on the "**Apply for international training 2026-2027**" button. You will then find your form in the table "**My Tasks**" of the same "**Competitive Calls**" tab.

03. Fill in the form

It can be completed in several times, as long as you use the "**Save as draft**" option. You will always find your form in the "**My tasks**" table of the "**Competitive calls**" tab.

04. Submit your application

Once you click on "**Submit my application**", your file is sent to ARES and you can no longer modify it. You can still consult it in the "**Mes dossiers soumis**" table.

03. 6.2 / DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION OF APPLICATIONS

Applications must be submitted by September 19, 2025 at 12 noon (Belgian time, UTC+1), latest.
Applications submitted after this date will not be considered.

03.6.3 / INFORMATION ON THE SELECTION OF CANDIDATES

ARES will send an e-mail to **successful and reserve candidates and to unsuccessful candidates** by June 2026 latest, following the various stages of the application process.

ARES does not provide candidates with any other information.

03.7 / ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

To be eligible, applicants must :

01. Be a permanent resident and work in one of the 31 eligible countries (see 3.4 Eligible countries on page 4). **Exception: Palestinian nationals are eligible even if they do not reside in one of these 31 countries.**

02. Hold an appropriate diploma

» For specialised masters and continuing education courses (Bac+5 equivalent):

Have a degree comparable to a **2nd cycle** degree (300 ECTS credits) from a Belgian university;

» For specialised bachelor's (equivalent to Bac+3):

Have a diploma comparable to a **1st cycle** diploma (180 ECTS credits) of Belgian higher education.

The candidate must have held the relevant academic degree for a maximum of 20 years at the time the course begins. This maximum period is increased by one year per event of childbirth and/or adoption.

03. Prove relevant professional experience in one of the partner countries **for at least two years** after the end of Bac+3 for specialised bachelor's holders, or Bac+5 for specialised masters and continuing education students.

04. Complete the application form in the language in which the course is given and be able to attest a good written and spoken knowledge of that language. In addition, knowing a minimum of French enables better integration in everyday life in Belgium.

05. Apply for just one course.

Please note that meeting the eligibility criteria in no way guarantees selection and eligibility for the course (see Selection criteria).

Candidates do not need to have been previously admitted to one of Belgium's French-speaking higher education institutions in order to apply for ARES grants.

List of documents required for an application to be accepted:

1. 2 recommendation letters (academic and/or professional).
2. Certified copies of original diplomas.
3. Certified copies of original transcripts for all years.
4. Proof of occupancy for the last 5 years
5. Certificate of nationality or copy of passport.
6. Pre-project (for certain courses - see [course-specific admission conditions](#))

No follow-up will be given to applications that are not completed in full and are not accompanied by the mandatory attachments.

03.8 / SELECTION CRITERIA

For each course, selection is done by a jury, based on 8 criteria.

03. 8.1 / THE QUALITY OF THE ACADEMIC CAREER

The academic quality of applications is assessed on the basis of diplomas, lists of courses taken, results, teaching or research activities and publications.

For diploma courses, priority is given to people who do not already hold a diploma with equivalent skills, except in exceptional circumstances, duly justified in the application.

03. 8.2 / PREVIOUS SCHOLARSHIPS

Priority is given to people who have not yet received an ARES grant in Belgium.

03. 8.3 / PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Priority is given to people who, after their university studies, have had the opportunity to work in a profession related to development issues covered by the courses on offer. The social impact of the professional experience is also considered.

03. 8.4 / MEMBERSHIP OF A PARTNER INSTITUTION

People who work in an institution with which ARES has entered into a partnership, either as part of Institutional Support or as part of a development research or training project in the South, are given priority in the event of a tie on the other selection criteria.

03. 8.5 / THE POTENTIAL OF PEOPLE TO BE AGENTS OF CHANGE IN THEIR OWN SOCIETY

Particular attention is paid to applications from people who, in addition to their academic qualities, have demonstrated a commitment to development.

03. 8.6 / NATIONALITY CRITERIA

ARES wishes to diversify the geographical origin of grant holders. It ensures that no one nationality is over-represented in all the international courses organised under the programme.

03. 8.7 / THE GENDER

The cascade effect for gender must be respected in the selection process. It is defined as follows: the proportion of women selected must be greater than or equal to the proportion of female applications judged to be of sufficient quality. If this cascade effect is not respected, the selection must be justified on an ad hoc basis. ARES guarantees the possibility of deferring a grant for men and women in the event of pregnancy.

03. 8.8 / THE ABILITY (PERSONAL AND PROFESSIONAL) TO ENSURE THE TRANSFER OF KNOWLEDGE AND SKILLS ACQUIRED BY GRANTEES

Maximum guarantees are required concerning the candidate's return to his or her country of origin or to another country, as well as his or her reintegration into a profession that will enable him or her to use the training acquired in Belgium for development purposes (e.g. a work contract, a formal promise of employment) and to produce a multiplier effect.

04. SCHEDULE

DATE	ACTION
August 04, 2025	Opening of the call for applications
September 12, 2025 at 12 noon (Belgian time, UTC+1)	Deadline for requesting the creation and validation of new GIRAF accounts
September 19, 2025 at 12 noon (Belgian time, UTC+1)	Deadline for submitting applications via the GIRAF platform
From October 2025 to Mai 2026.	Candidate preselection and selection process
June 2026	Communication of results to - Successful candidates and candidates on waiting list - Unsuccessful candidates

05. CONTACT

Questions about the International Training call for proposals? Contact ARES via scholarships-cooperation@ares-ac.be.

Questions about the content of a course? Contact the people listed for each course on the [ARES website](#).

06. APPEAL

An appeal may be lodged against any decision with the Council of State, in accordance [with the procedures and deadlines prescribed by law](#).

For informational purposes:

An [application for annulment](#) on grounds of procedural flaws—either substantial or prescribed under penalty of nullity—as well as abuse or misuse of power, may be brought before the Council of State against any decision made by the Jury. This can be done by any party demonstrating harm or a vested interest, within sixty days from the notification of said decision, in accordance with Article 4, §1, paragraph 3 of the Rules of Procedure established by the Regent's Decree of 23 August 1948. This appeal, signed by the party concerned or by a lawyer, must meet specific requirements in terms of form and content. If the individual considers the matter too urgent to be addressed within the framework of an annulment appeal, a [suspension appeal](#) may be introduced at any time—either immediately with the annulment request, or through a separate later request—according to Article 17, §1, paragraph 2 of the coordinated laws on the Council of State of 12 January 1973. This appeal must also meet specific requirements in form and content. In particularly urgent and exceptional cases, a request for [extremely urgent suspension](#) may be submitted to the Council of State.