

Number: 1105-1/2023

The public scholarship, development, disability and alimony fund of the Republic of Slovenia (hereinafter: the fund) based on paragraph 1 of Article 41 of the Scholarship Act (Official Gazette of the Republic of Slovenia, no. 56/13, 99/13 - ZUPJS-C, 8/16, 61/17 - ZUPŠ, 31/18, 46/19, 80/20 - ZIUOOPE, 98/20 - ZIUPDV, 152/20 - ZZUOOP, 112/21 - ZNUPZ, 17/22, 54/22 - ZUPŠ-1; hereinafter: ZŠtip-1), publishes

Public tender for awarding scholarships for studies in the Republic of Slovenia for Slovenians abroad and Slovenians around the world for the academic year 2023/2024 (339th public tender)

1. Subject of the public tender

The subject of the public tender is the first award of scholarships to Slovenians abroad and Slovenians around the world to study at a 1st or 2nd level higher education or higher education program to obtain a publicly valid degree in the Republic of Slovenia for the 2023/2024 academic year for applicants who will be in the 2023 academic year /2024 enrolled in a year of higher education or 1st or 2nd level higher education.

The fund will decide on applications from investors who meet the conditions of this public tender in accordance with point 6 of this public tender.

2. Amount of tendered funds and scholarship

The amount of funds announced for scholarships according to this public call for the academic year 2023/2024 amounts to a total of EUR 275,000.00.

Investors who will be selected for a scholarship will be awarded:

- basic scholarship in the amount of EUR 236.97 per month;
- an allowance for compulsory health insurance based on point 14 of the first paragraph of Article 15 of the law regulating health care and health insurance, if he is not covered by compulsory health insurance from another title and if the scholarship holder claimed this allowance in the application and it was awarded to him, citizens of EU member states, the European Economic Area and the Swiss Confederation cannot be entitled to this allowance; from the conclusion of compulsory health insurance, the fund pays the supplement for compulsory health insurance in monthly contributions, taking into account the amount of this insurance, as determined by the applicable legislation.

Scholarships awarded under ZŠtip-1 are coordinated in the manner and within the time limits that apply to transfers, in accordance with the law regulating the coordination of transfers to individuals and households in the Republic of Slovenia.

3. Conditions of public tender

The applicant must fulfill the conditions set by ZŠtip-1 throughout the duration of the scholarship relationship.

The applicant must meet the following conditions:

3.1 has one of the following personal statuses:

- **A Slovene with a permanent residence outside the Republic of Slovenia**, who has citizenship of the Republic Slovenia, or

- **A Slovene with a permanent residence outside the Republic of Slovenia**, who has the status of Slovene without citizenship of the Republic of Slovenia, or
- **A Slovene with a permanent residence outside the Republic of Slovenia** without citizenship of the Republic of Slovenia and without the status of Slovene without citizenship of the Republic of Slovenia;

3.2 does not receive a Zois or state scholarship at the same time;

3.3 is not in an employment relationship or does not perform an independent registered activity in the Republic of Slovenia or abroad;

3.4 is not entered in the register of unemployed persons at the Employment Agency of the Republic of Slovenia or at the competent institution abroad;

3.5 is not a managing person of a commercial company or a director of a private institute in the Republic of Slovenia or in abroad;

3.6 is enrolled for the first time in the post-secondary or higher education program of the first and second level, for which he claims the right to a scholarship;

3.7 In the academic year 2023/2024, he is enrolled in a publicly valid (accredited) 1st or 2nd level post-secondary or higher education program at a publicly valid (accredited) educational institution in the Republic of Slovenia and will obtain a publicly valid diploma from the said study;

3.8 is not re-enrolled in the academic year for which the scholarship is being applied for, or is not enrolled in an additional study year a year after the end of the educational program or does not have an extended student status;

3.9 will obtain a higher level of education than the one already obtained in the educational program for which the scholarship is applied for;

3.10 if the applicant has already been granted the right to a scholarship for Slovenians around the world and abroad according to one of the previous tenders, he must demonstrate the completion of education at the level for which he received the scholarship by September 30, 2023 inclusive.

Investors who will acquire the right to a scholarship must fulfill the above-mentioned conditions for the entire duration of the scholarship education, otherwise the scholarship relationship will be terminated.

4. Required documentation

To apply for a public tender, the applicant must submit:

4.1 Mandatory documentation:

4.1.1 **an original**, fully completed and signed **application form**;

4.1.2 **original or certified copy of the certificate of all achieved grades** of the last completed formal education (certificates of all years of high school or certificate of passing all exams, including diploma certificate or completed state exam);

- if the applicant completed this education on a program where the evaluation system differs from the official method of evaluation at the secondary school level in the Republic of Slovenia, the fund may ask him to submit an official evaluation scale issued by the educational institution where the applicant obtained these grades;

4.1.3 **proof of fulfillment of the condition of one of the personal statuses**, as specified in point 3.1. public tender, whereby the applicant proves the status from the 2nd and 3rd indents by:

- a decision or opinion of the Office of the Government of the Republic of Slovenia for Slovenians Abroad and Worldwide (hereinafter: the Office), which is responsible for cooperation with Slovenians outside the Republic of Slovenia,
or

evidence on the basis of which the fund itself will obtain the opinion of the Office, namely:

a) Candidates who are members of Slovenian emigrant communities submit:

- proof of Slovene origin up to the second generation in a row (submission of extracts from birth registers, which show Slovene origin) and
- proof of membership in Slovenian emigration structures (societies, organizations, etc.) or proof of the candidate's active ties with the Republic of Slovenia or other relevant proof

b) candidates who are members of the Slovenian national community abroad:

- submit a written certificate that they are members of the Slovenian national community (the certificate is issued by one of the representative Slovenian organizations operating in their area), or other appropriate certificates;

4.2 Optional documentation:

4.2.1 evidence of active participation in Slovenian structures outside the Republic of Slovenia

(organizations, societies, clubs, circles, schools, missions, etc.), from which the time and substantive scope of the operation must be clear and are confirmed by the signature of the responsible person and a stamp, if it is a legal entity that does business with a stamp; if the applicant cannot submit such proof, he can attach a written explanation or justification; **4.2.2 application for compulsory**

health insurance at the Institute for Health Insurance of Slovenia in the academic year 2023/2024, if the applicant claims the right to an allowance for compulsory health insurance, the fund will check ex officio.

4.2.3 an original, fully completed and valid **power of attorney¹**, with which the applicant designates a representative to represent him in the administrative procedure for obtaining the right to a scholarship, **or proof of regulated temporary residence in the Republic of Slovenia, in accordance with the law governing the registration of temporary residence;**

Applicants submit the original application form (point 4.1.1.) and a **valid authorization or proof of regulated temporary residence in the Republic of Slovenia, in accordance with the law governing the registration of temporary residence** (point 4.2.6.). The required **proof of grades** (point 4.1.2.) can be submitted **in the original or a certified copy**. **Submitted documents are not returned by the fund**. All other required proofs can be copies, whereby the fund has the right to request inspection of the original proofs. All evidence can be submitted in a foreign language in Latin (not in Cyrillic), but the fund has the right to request a judicial translation of such evidence into Slovenian.

An applicant who does not have a regulated temporary residence in the Republic of Slovenia, in accordance with the law governing the registration of temporary residence, must authorize a person with a residence in the Republic of Slovenia for representation. Authorization forms are available on the website or at the fund's headquarters.

¹ **The authorization** is valid if all the required information of the authorizer is filled in on the prescribed form, which is part of the tender documentation (the applicant) and the authorized representative, including a handwritten signature, and is submitted to the fund in the original.

5. Criteria for evaluating investor applications

Applicants' applications are evaluated on the basis of the three criteria listed below under points a), b) and c).

Based on all the criteria, the investor can receive a maximum of 75 points in total.

a) Average grade – 25 points

For the calculation of the average grade, all numerically expressed grades of all years of the last completed educational program until 30 September 2023 are taken into account, including the grades of the final or matriculation exam or the diploma grade, if the candidate has this grade.

Based on the average score, the applicant can receive the following number of points: \bar{y} average

score from 2.0000 to 2.8000 inclusive	\bar{y} average score from 2.8000 to 3.3000 inclusive	0 points
3.3000 inclusive	\bar{y} average score from 3.3000 to 3.8000 inclusive	5 points
average score from 3.8000 to 4.3000 inclusive	\bar{y} average score from 4.3000 to 4.8000 inclusive	10 points
4.3000 to 4.8000 inclusive	\bar{y} average score 4.8000 and above	15 points
		20 points
		25 points

Grades obtained on programs abroad or in the Republic of Slovenia, where the grading system differs from the official method of grading at the secondary school level in the Republic of Slovenia, are first converted to the unified system of secondary school grades in Slovenia based on the institution's official grading scale. On the basis of such converted grades, an average is calculated, which is the basis for scoring.

The average score is calculated to 4 decimal places.

b) Active participation in Slovenian societies, organizations or other structures of Slovenians abroad

Republic of Slovenia - 25 points

The applicant must demonstrate active participation in Slovenian structures outside the Republic of Slovenia (organizations, associations, clubs, circles, schools, missions, etc.) with proofs or statements of responsible persons with the signature and stamp of the latter. Every activity claimed by the applicant must be defined in terms of content and time. Points are taken into account for the applicant's active participation in the last 5 years before the application deadline for this public tender.

For each demonstrated active participation that meets the conditions from the previous paragraph, the applicant receives **5 points**.

The maximum possible number of points according to this criterion is **25 points**. If the applicant claims several activities that exceed the maximum number of possible points according to this criterion, the activities are counted up to the maximum number of possible points.

c) Evaluation of the Office - 25 points

Since individual Slovenian communities outside the Republic of Slovenia differ greatly in terms of the organization or branching of organizational structures and activities, the possibilities of investors for active ethnic activities also differ. In order to eliminate the initial inequality, investors who come from environments with a poorly developed Slovenian ethnic structure, weak organization and ethnic activity can be awarded an additional 25 points. An additional 25 points can also be awarded to applicants who come from areas that the Office considers should be more adequately evaluated or strengthened from a national point of view.

In order to assess eligibility for the allocation of additional 25 points, the fund obtains the opinion of the Office. The maximum possible number of points according to this criterion is **25 points**.

6. Selection procedure and delimitation criteria

If applicants who meet the conditions of the public tender under a single item of the public tender jointly apply for lower funds than those offered, the applications will not be evaluated, and the funds will be received by all investors who meet the conditions of the public tender.

If the available funds are not sufficient for all investors, the Fund will first score the investors' applications according to the evaluation criteria specified in Chapter 5 of this public tender, and then rank them in order according to the number of points received, starting with the application with the most points to the one with the least points (hereinafter: list of applicants). If several applications receive the same number of points, the applications with the same number of points are additionally ranked among themselves according to the average score that was taken into account in the process of scoring the application according to the criteria from point a) Average score from Chapter 5 of the public tender.

One applicant from each country is first placed on the list of scholarship beneficiaries from the list of applicants, namely the one ranked highest among applicants from the same country on the list. If the available funds will not be sufficient for all such investors, the investors ranked higher on the list of investors will have priority in the selection.

Other investors from the list of investors are included in the list of scholarship beneficiaries in the order specified in the previous paragraph, until the tendered funds are used up.

If two or more applicants from the list of applicants have the same number of points and the same average grade, and the fund will not be able to award a scholarship to all such applicants based on the amount of available funds, it will use the following delimitation criteria to decide on the beneficiaries, with the second delimitation criterion being taken into account only if the applications cannot be classified according to the first delimitation criterion:

- the applicant comes from a country from which a smaller number of beneficiaries of this public tender come from, - the applicant is enrolled in a lower year of a lower level.

When there is only one applicant from a particular country who meets the conditions of the public tender, the application of such an applicant is not scored, but is immediately included in the list of scholarship beneficiaries.

The last applicant on the list, who would still be entitled to funds after this public tender, will be awarded the scholarship in the entire eligible amount.

7. Consideration of applications and duration of scholarship

The provisions of ZŠtip-1 and the Act on General Administrative Procedure are applied in the process of awarding scholarships according to this tender. For part of the procedure (determining the fulfillment of the condition from the 2nd and 3rd indents of Article 38 of ZŠtip-1) a special commission will be appointed, which is appointed by the fund's director by resolution.

Applicants who meet the conditions and are selected for a scholarship will be issued a decision granting the right to a scholarship from the academic year 2023/2024 until the end of the current educational program; this decision also decides on the amount of the scholarship for the academic year 2023/2024. The decision on awarding the scholarship is served by regular mail and is considered to have been served on the 21st day from the date of dispatch, which is indicated on the decision. The decision to award the scholarship is enforceable from the day it is dispatched, an appeal does not delay the execution of the decision.

The scholarship is paid by the 15th of the month for the previous month.

8. Obligations of investors

An applicant who is granted the right to a scholarship must:

- every year successfully complete the individual year for which he received the scholarship, except in the cases from 1. paragraph 87 of Article ZŠtip-1;
- every year, submit an application for continued receipt of the scholarship no later than the last month of the current academic year for the following academic year. If he does not submit an application for the continuation of the scholarship within the above-mentioned deadline, the scholarship relationship is suspended for a maximum of one year;
- successfully complete the educational program or obtain a higher level of education by September 30 of the following calendar year after the closing year;

- inform the fund within thirty days of the change or within thirty days of the day it became aware of the change about all changes that occur in the current academic year and could affect the scholarship relationship, which includes (but is not limited to) : • interruption or completion of education, • change of the educational program or educational institution, whereby the scholarship holder can obtain written information from the fund before intending to change the educational program as to whether the new educational program is appropriate,
- circumstances due to which the scholarship recipient no longer meets the conditions for obtaining or receiving a scholarship or an allowance for compulsory health insurance according to ZŠtip-1.

Suspension of the scholarship relationship, expiration and termination of the scholarship relationship, as well as the return of the scholarship and other obligations, are regulated by ZŠtip-1.

9. Deadline and method of submission of applications

The application must be submitted in a sealed envelope, clearly marked with the words "Application for the 326th public tender" and the exact address of the applicant on the back, to the address: Public scholarship, development, disability and maintenance fund of the Republic of Slovenia, Dunajska 20, 1000 Ljubljana.

The deadline for submitting applications begins on the day of publication of this public call on the fund's website and lasts until the end of the last **deadline for submitting applications, which is September 30, 2023.**

The application is submitted on time if the fund receives it before the deadline for its submission expires. If the application is sent by registered mail, the day it is received by the fund is considered the day it was sent to the mail. The application can be submitted in person at the fund's address every working day during the fund's business hours on Monday, Tuesday and Thursday between 9:00 and 14:30, on Wednesday between 9:00 and 16:00 and on Friday between 9:00 and 13:30.

Applications submitted after the deadline from the third paragraph of this chapter have expired will be discarded by the fund. The application is considered complete if it is submitted on the prescribed application form and contains all the required attachments and information specified in this public tender.

Investors who do not submit a complete application will be asked to supplement it. If the investors do not complete the application within a certain period of time after receiving the request to complete the application, the fund will discard their applications or will make a decision on the application based on the available facts.

10. Availability of documentation and additional information

Tender documentation is available on the fund's website <https://www.srips-rs.si/> and at the address of the Public Scholarship, Development, Disability and Maintenance Fund of the Republic of Slovenia, Dunajska 20, 1000 Ljubljana, during the fund's business hours.

Additional information is available at the e-mail address ad-futura@sklad-kadri.si or during the fund's business hours on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday from 9:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m., on Wednesdays from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. and on Fridays from 9:00 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., at Nives Prezelj, phone number 01 434 15 66 or in person at the fund's address.

Public scholarship, development, disability and maintenance fund of the Republic of Slovenia

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