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CRITERIA

Call for applications for a Master's degree scholarship as part of the IOC's training activities to encourage technology transfer, research and postgraduate studies. XVI Edition (September 2025-June 2026; September 2026-June 2027)

As part of its training and technical cooperation activities to encourage research and strengthen the skills of technical managers in the olive sector, the International Olive Council (IOC) plans to award four scholarships for the Master's degree in Olive Growing and Oil Technology.

The programme has been organised by the IOC in collaboration with the University of Córdoba (UCO); the Regional Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries, Water and Rural Development of the Government of Andalusia (CAPADR, by its Spanish acronym); the Andalusian Institute for Agricultural, Fisheries, Food Research and Training, and Organic Production (IFAPA, by its Spanish acronym); the International Centre for Advanced Mediterranean Agronomic Studies (CIHEAM, by its French acronym) through the Mediterranean Agronomic Institute of Zaragoza; the Spanish Higher Council for Scientific Research (CSIC, by its Spanish acronym); and the Olive Growers' Communal Heritage Foundation (FPCO, by its Spanish acronym).

The Master's programme will be delivered exclusively in Spanish and a full-time commitment is required. The specific conditions and details of the programme are available through the [Master's website](#).

The IOC's scholarships for this course aim to train professionals to meet the increasing demand for top-level specialists in the olive sector. The programme seeks to equip participants with skills tailored to the evolving needs of a sector undergoing continuous innovation. It also aims to promote research careers, facilitate technology transfer, encourage knowledge exchange and foster collaboration among participants.

The Master's in Olive Growing and Oil Technology is recognised for its academic excellence, ensuring a high employability rate in various fields of the olive oil sector.

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Graduates are well-prepared for careers in production, agriculture, food industries, and management, with opportunities in both public administration and private enterprises. They can take on roles as executives, managers and consultants in agricultural firms, oversee olive mills and processing plants, or manage other operations related to olive growing and oil technology.

The IOC scholarships cover registration fees, travel costs at the beginning and end of each academic year, as well as a monthly stipend of €1,050. The administration of these scholarships may be handled by another institution, typically the university.

Interested applicants are required to submit their individual applications online at http://www.masterolivicultura.org/index_in.html and [HERE](#) by **15 April 2025 at 12:00 (CET)**.

These scholarships are exclusively open to nationals of IOC member countries who meet all eligibility criteria and are selected through the selection process.

To qualify for the Master's programme, applicants must:

- Hold a university degree, preferably in agronomy, agricultural industries or food technology.
- Have knowledge of Spanish, as it is the working language of the course. Non-native Spanish speakers must attend a mandatory Spanish language course in early September.
- Have knowledge of English, as some course materials will be provided in English.

Work, research and academic studies related to the olive sector will be considered in the selection and awarding process.

The Master's programme spans two academic years, totalling 120 ECTS credits. The first year consists of a postgraduate specialisation course, covering production, industrialisation and economics. The second year consists of a research-focused year leading to the completion of a Master of Science thesis, enabling students to pursue a research career in the olive sector.

To qualify for the second-year IOC scholarship, students must pass all first-year exams with a minimum grade of 7/10. The thesis subject may also condition the award of the scholarship for the second year.

Please take into account the following additional information.



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The submission of applications does not in any way oblige the IOC to select candidates.

Scholarships are subject to budgetary availability.

Moreover, successful candidates will be chosen based on their application. The principles governing the scholarship and the criteria for exclusion, selection and award of the scholarship are outlined in Annex I.

Please note that some candidates may be excluded from the selection process, and the IOC may request additional documents from candidates or clarifications.

Finally, health insurance is mandatory before the course begins. The Master's Office at the UCO can provide guidance on this matter.



ANNEX I - PRINCIPLES GOVERNING THE SCHOLARSHIP. CRITERIA FOR EXCLUSION, SELECTION AND AWARD OF SCHOLARSHIPS

The principles governing the scholarships

- The objective of the scholarships is to help achieve the objectives set out in the [International Agreement on Olive Oil and Table Olives](#).
- Principle of non-profit: scholarships must not generate profit for the recipient.
- Principle of non-retroactivity: expenses incurred before the official award of the scholarship are not covered.
- Principle of non-cumulation: only one scholarship may be awarded per applicant per financial year.
- Principles of publicity, transparency and equal treatment.

Exclusion criteria

The exclusion criteria are designed to assess the eligibility of applicants.

Candidates will be excluded from the selection process if they:

- Are not nationals of an IOC member country
- Do not meet the eligibility requirements outlined in this call for applications.

Selection and award criteria

The selection criteria assess the applicant's ability to successfully complete the programme, while the award criteria evaluate the overall quality of the application.

Applicants must possess the necessary skills and qualifications to undertake the proposed work programme.

To be selected for and awarded a Master's scholarship, applicants must also meet the university's requirements.

Work, research and academic studies related to the olive sector will be considered in the selection and awarding process.

Geographical diversity will be prioritised in the allocation of scholarships.

Scholarships are subject to budgetary availability.



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CRITERIA FOR AWARDING THE MASTER'S SCHOLARSHIP	POINTS
Academic background (merits)	70
Work, research or studies related to the olive sector	20
Cover letter explaining the motivation for applying, including a detailed justification for the scholarship request and the anticipated impact on the applicant's academic and professional activities.	10