



Subject: IOC PhD Scholarships (2025-2029 Academic Period)

As part of its technical cooperation and training programme for 2025-2029, the International Olive Council (IOC) plans to award four (4) PhD scholarships to students from IOC member countries. The maximum duration of the PhD scholarship is four (4) years.

The subject of the doctoral thesis must be related to the objectives of the [International Agreement on Olive Oil and Table Olives, 2015](#), which the IOC is mandated to implement. Theses may focus on one of the following topics:

- Olive growing, environment, sustainability and climate change
- Table olives and olive oil quality and authenticity
- Nutritional qualities, public health and other intrinsic properties of olive oil and table olives
- Food systems, social and economic aspects of the olive sector

Priority will be given to candidates who conduct research on the olive sector and/or participate in projects related to the objectives of the 2015 Agreement.

Applicants have to be accepted into a PhD programme at a relevant university. Research conducted in collaboration with institutions from different countries is strongly encouraged.

Please note that the PhD thesis supervisor(s) must have a strong research background, and a copy of their CV must be included in the application.

Applicants should preferably hold a degree in agronomy, olive studies, food science and technology, chemistry, chemical engineering, biology, economics, or a related field. They must have earned at least 300 ECTS (European Credit Transfer System) credits or hold a university master's degree or equivalent, preferably in olive cultivation or a related subject, that qualifies them for doctoral studies. In addition, candidates must have obtained a weighted average mark equal to or higher than 7 (on a scale of 0 to 10) for the academic transcript corresponding to the studies granting access to the doctoral programme.

A minimum level of B2 in English (as defined by the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages, CEFR) is required, as students will be expected to write scientific papers in English during their doctoral studies.



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The IOC will cover the students' registration fees, tuition costs and expenses for research stays in R&D centres directly related to the PhD, up to a maximum of €1,500 per year. In addition, students will receive a monthly stipend of €1,400 to cover board and lodging. The IOC will also cover travel expenses, where applicable, at the start and end of the PhD. No additional expenses will be covered.

The deadline for submitting applications to the Executive Secretariat is **12 June 2025 at 12:00 p.m. (CET)**. Applications should be uploaded [HERE](#). The required application documents are outlined in Annex I.

Applicants must not already hold a doctoral degree and must commit to pursuing their PhD on a full-time basis.

Please note that the Executive Secretariat may request additional information during the evaluation process and that this announcement does not imply any obligation on the part of the IOC to award scholarships. The award of scholarships is subject to budgetary availability.

In principle, the programme is expected to begin in the 2025/2026 academic year.



ANNEX I – REQUIRED APPLICATION DOCUMENTS

Applications must include the following:

1. A duly completed PhD registration or pre-registration form, acceptance letter, or letter of intent
2. An official document detailing the PhD content (bibliography, objectives, research plan and methodology)
3. Curriculum vitae including at least:
 - a. Full name
 - b. Full address (including city, postcode, country)
 - c. Telephone number(s)
 - d. Email address (personal and professional)
 - e. Tax identification number and passport number
 - f. Date of birth
 - g. Nationality
 - h. Area of specialisation
 - i. Current position (institution, title, responsibilities)
 - j. Previous positions and research experience
 - k. Educational qualifications (with institution names and dates)
 - l. Language skills
4. A valid passport copy
5. Academic certificates for qualifications held or courses completed at the time of submission, showing grades obtained and the dates for each subject studied
6. Official certificate confirming a B2 level of English
7. CV of the thesis supervisor
8. Two recommendation letters
9. A Motivation letter



ANNEX II - PRINCIPLES GOVERNING THE SCHOLARSHIP: CRITERIA FOR EXCLUSION, SELECTION AND AWARD OF SCHOLARSHIPS

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, 2015](#).
- 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 awarded a PhD scholarship, applicants must meet the requirements outlined in this call for applications.

Geographical diversity will be prioritised in the allocation of scholarships.

Scholarships are subject to budgetary availability.

CRITERIA FOR AWARDING THE PHD'S SCHOLARSHIPS	POINTS
Academic background (merits)	40
Relevance of the thesis topic (and its detailed information)	50



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Motivation and recommendation letters

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