



## OAS – THE VRIJE UNIVERSITEIT BRUSSEL (VUB) 2015 SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

### OAS Partnerships Program for Education and Training (PAEC)

The Organization of American States (OAS) and the Vrije Universiteit Brussel (VUB) through the OAS Partnerships Program for Education and Training (PAEC), are offering scholarships to qualified candidates of the Americas to pursue Ph.D research in the areas mentioned in the table below.

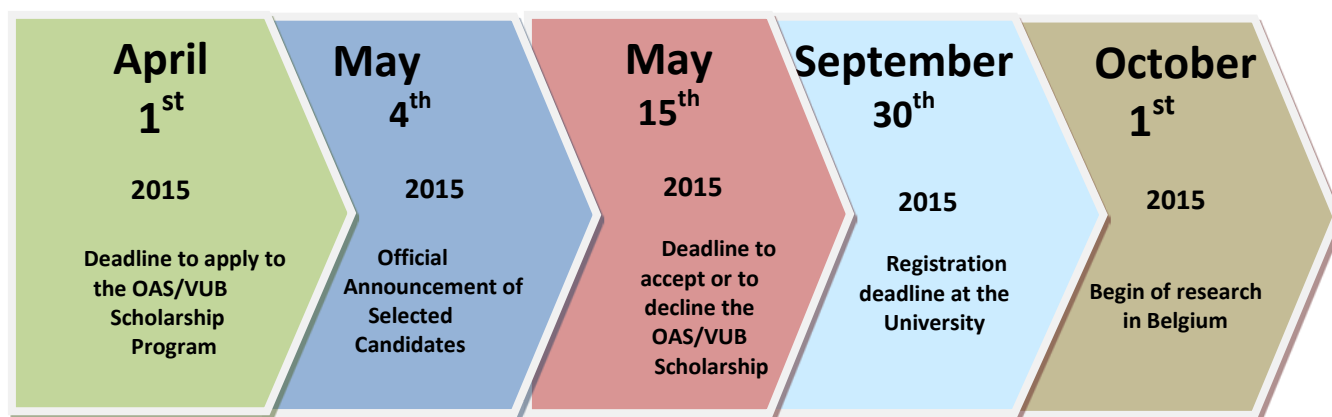
#### PROGRAMS:

Ph.D. candidates may pursue research in the following Faculties and Department:

- Arts and Philosophy
  - Department of Linguistics and Literary Studies
  - Department of Philosophy and Ethics / Rhea, Centre of Expertise in Gender, Diversity and intersectionality
- Psychology and Educational Sciences
  - Department of Educational Sciences
  - Department of Sociology and Political Science
  - Department of Technology and business Operations of Manufacture
- Economic and Social Sciences
  - Department of political Science & RHEA Center of Expertise Gender, Diversity and Intersectionality
  - Department of Sociology
  - Department of Business Technology and Operations
- Law and Criminology
  - Department of Interdisciplinary Studies of Law
  - Fundamental Rights and Constitutionalism Research Group
  - Department of International and European Law
- Medicine and Pharmacy
  - Department of Hematology & Immunology
  - Department of Biomedical Sciences
  - Diabetes Research Center
- Physical Education and Physiotherapy
  - Department of Sport Policy and Management
  - Department of Human Physiology
  - Department of Movement and Sports Training
- Science and Bio-engineering Sciences
  - Department of Mathematics
  - Department of Analytical, Environmental and Geo-Chemistry
  - Earth System Sciences
  - Department of Computer Science
- Engineering
  - Department of Applied Physics and Photonics
  - Department of Electronics and Informatics

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Department of Electro and Energytechnics</li> <li>○ Department of Mechanical Engineering</li> <li>○ Materials and Chemistry</li> <li>○ Physical Chemistry and Polymer Science</li> <li>○ Department of Computer Science</li> <li>○ Electricity</li> </ul>
<b>MODALITY:</b>	Onsite in Brussels, Belgium.
<b>LANGUAGE:</b>	English
<b>DURATION:</b>	4 years
<b>DEADLINE:</b>	Scholarship application deadline: <b>April 1<sup>st</sup>, 2015</b>
<b>BENEFITS:</b>	<p>Program cost which includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Application and tuition fee</li> <li>● Supervisor bench fee</li> <li>● General Health Insurance</li> <li>● Coverage for Repatriation</li> </ul>

## IMPORTANT DATES:



### The General Secretariat of the Organization of American States

The GS/OAS is the central and permanent organ of the Organization of American States (OAS). Through its Department of Human Development, Education and Employment (DHDEE), the GS/OAS supports OAS member states in creating policies and executing programs that promote human capacity development at all educational levels. By enabling formative opportunities to citizens, DHDEE strengthens democratic values and security under the framework of regional integration. DHDEE does this: (i) by supporting the efforts of OAS member states to improve the quality of and equity in education; and (ii) by assisting the citizens of the Americas in realizing their full potential by giving them access to knowledge and skills through training that improves the standard of living for individuals, families and communities in the region.

### The Vrije Universiteit Brussel

The Vrije Universiteit Brussel is a dynamic and modern university with two parkland campuses in Brussels, the heart of Europe. The main Etterbeek-campus is home to seven faculties. At the Jette-campus one can find the medical campus and the University Hospital. Education and research are of very high quality. VUB's research teams are internationally recognized in many disciplines of fundamental and applied research. The Vrije Universiteit Brussel is an internationally renowned research institution with many opportunities for doctoral projects. The university offers PhD trajectories in no less than 36 disciplines.

**The Doctoral Training Programme** of the VUB is organized by three Doctoral Schools. These interdisciplinary and interfaculty Schools support PhD students, stimulate the quality of doctoral research at the VUB and help promote junior researchers. The Doctoral Schools aim to provide a distinctive framework for the Doctoral Training Program and, in so doing, increase the visibility of doctoral research and enhance its image, both within and outside the academic world. More information [www.vub.eu](http://www.vub.eu)

## I. VUB PROGRAMS INFORMATION

### 1. Student/Applicant's profile:

- Holder of a Master's degree in a relevant field. Having a Master's degree does NOT automatically mean you will be admitted as a PhD student. The admission can be subjected to a preliminary examination and an investigation into the applicant's suitability. The ultimate decision about the eligibility for PhD research resides with the Faculty in which the research will be conducted.
- Good command in English language
- Excellent academic credentials

2. **Study Location/Modality:** Vrije Universiteit Brussel, Brussels, Belgium

3. **Study program start date:** October 1<sup>st</sup>, 2015

4. **Study program duration:** 4 years

5. **Approximate end date of the study program:** July 2019

6. **Language of instruction:** English

### 7. Admission process<sup>1</sup>:

7.1 Besides meeting the above mentioned diploma conditions, candidates must, in order to apply for admission as a PhD student, also have a supervisor and have indicated their choice of subject.

7.2 Applicants are required to submit an online application for an OAS/VUB scholarship through the OAS [Scholarship](#) Website.

7.3 Once the eligible candidates have been pre-selected by the OAS, the VUB will send eligible applicants' files to their faculty for evaluation and selection. The potential supervisor will conduct an interview to determine the applicant's knowledge of English and of the research domain. Academic background and motivation will also be evaluated.

7.4 VUB will announce the selection results to OAS.

7.5 OAS will announce the selection results to the PhD OAS-VUB scholarship holders.

7.6 Selected PhD-candidates will have to apply in the on-line system of VUB after sending the Scholarship Form of Acceptance to the OAS.

### 8. VUB contact information:

Applicants can contact the VUB International Relations and Mobility Office for more information on the Ph.D. scholarship program: [international.relations@vub.ac.be](mailto:international.relations@vub.ac.be)

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<sup>1</sup> Neither the OAS nor the University shall assume any responsibility arising from the acceptance or rejection of degree or diploma awarded by the University at educational institutions in the country of origin of the scholarship recipient.

## II. SCHOLARSHIP BENEFITS AND PROGRAM COSTS

### 1. Benefits:

1.1 The OAS-VUB scholarship covers the following benefits:

- Tuition fee,
- Application fee,
- Supervisor Bench Fee,
- General Health Insurance,
- Coverage for repatriation

### 2. Financial Responsibilities of Awardees:

2.1 The recipients of the scholarship will be responsible for the payment of the following costs:

- immigration fees, estimated at €100 or US\$135
- research expenses and study visit, estimated €500 or US\$678;
- settling-in fees, estimated at €500 or US\$678;
- living expenses, estimated at €1000 or US\$1356 per month;
- round trip airfare, estimated at €1000 or US\$1356; and
- visa charge, estimated at €250 or US\$339.

2.2 These above expenses shall be the sole and exclusive responsibility of the scholarship recipients and the scholarship recipients will be responsible for payment of the remaining fees and any other costs as needed to VUB.

### 3. Eligibility Requirements:

3.1 The OAS shall select the scholarship recipients in accordance with the criteria, recruitment and selection process.

3.2 The student must not have received other academic scholarships from the OAS or from the VUB for the same level of studies and/or programs as requested in the 2014 OAS/VUB application.

3.3 Be citizens and/or permanent legal residents of any [OAS Member State](#)

3.4 OAS staff, individuals who maintain employment contracts with the OAS, the staff of Permanent Missions to the OAS, and their immediate relatives, are not eligible to receive OAS/VUB scholarships.

3.5 No type of employment or commercial relationship shall be established between the OAS or the VUB and the PAEC OAS/VUB scholarship recipients. Similarly, the OAS and the VUB shall not assume any type of liability, whether civil, contractual or non-contractual, during the entire scholarship period.

### 4. Process to apply for the scholarship:

**STEP 1** Gather the following documents which must be included with the completed OAS/VUB scholarship application form and present in the following order:

1. Research proposal, which states the name of the faculty, the name of the department, the name of potential supervisor, the research topic per potential supervisor and research details (at least one and maximum of three choices are possible). Please see research topics and supervisors in file attached [here](#).
2. Copy of government issued identification document;

3. Transcript of records of highest educational studies, in this case, master's degree records;
4. Two recommendation letters;
5. Curriculum Vitae or Resume, without attachments;
6. Proof of English language proficiency;

**NOTE: Applicants must ensure that all information provided as part of the OAS Application form is accurate, true and correct. While documents are sent electronically, applicants must be able to present physical and original copies of these documents.**

**ALL DOCUMENTS MUST BE IN ENGLISH OR OFFICIALLY TRANSLATED INTO ENGLISH**

Take into account that you will be required to write two essays in the OAS online scholarship application form and that essays should be written in English.

Each essay must contain a minimum of 800 characters (not words) and a maximum of 2900 characters, including spaces.

- ✓ **Essay 1:** Describe how acquiring this academic degree will directly impact and enhance your professional skills in your current job position or career.
- ✓ **Essay 2:** The OAS – PAEC Scholarship requires recipients to return to their country of citizenship or legal residence upon completion of the studies. Please explain how you intend to apply the acquired knowledge and experience in the specific field of study that you will pursue, to the development in your country or region. Also, please indicate the reasons for applying to this scholarship, financial need and how you will cover the additional costs not included in this scholarship.

**STEP 2** Complete and send the [OAS/VUB Scholarship Application Form](#), along with the documents as indicated in step 1 above, which should be attached in pdf format and in **one** document in the order specified in Step 1. Please note that the application system only allows applicants to upload the supporting documents only once. Hence, all documents must be combined into one file before uploading. **Scholarship applicants must complete the scholarship application and submit it online before April 1<sup>st</sup>, 2015.**

**STEP 3** The evaluation process and selection done consecutively by OAS (Scholarship Selection) and VUB (Academic Selection, including a Skype interview), and announcement of results will take place. During this period, the candidate should await the announcement of the results, which will be published at [www.oas.org/scholarships](http://www.oas.org/scholarships) by **May 2015.**

**STEP 4** Acceptance of the scholarship offer will take place. Only the selected candidates will be contacted via e-mail, which will include the official offer and the instructions on acceptance of the scholarship.

**STEP 5** Awardee should prepare for the beginning of the study program: preparation of travel, visa application, among others.

## **5. Selection Criteria for the OAS-VUB Scholarship**

- 5.1 The merits and overall credentials of the candidate, including his/her academic and professional background and English language proficiency;
- 5.2 Geographical distribution of the applicants, taking into account the greater needs of the smaller and relatively less developed economies;
- 5.3 Applicants whose proposals portray the highest potential for impact upon return to their countries of origin; and
- 5.4 Gender diversity.

## **6. Duties and Responsibilities of the Student:**

- 6.1 The scholarship will be formally awarded only after the selected awardees have signed the Scholarship Acceptance Form to formally accept the scholarship offer and agree to its terms and conditions.
- 6.2 Applicants should take at least 6 weeks into account for their visa to be processed. Candidates will be required to show proof of sufficient funds to cover the expenses, as indicated in 2.1 above from a guarantor during the visa application process.
- 6.3 Refrain from activities that are inconsistent with the status of an OAS Scholarship recipient, abiding by the regulations referred to in this Acceptance Form.
- 6.4 Comply with all the academic guidelines and admission requirements requested by VUB and submit to the updates of these guidelines and requirements made by the academic authorities at VUB.
- 6.5 Comply with the provisions indicated in the "Financial responsibilities of awardees", in section II.
- 6.6 To retain the scholarship, awardees should not have low academic performance (GPA must be at least 3.0/4.0), due to absence from the program and/or course failure.
- 6.7 The scholarship can be declined by the awardee before the start date of the program without financial penalties. However, if she/he declines the scholarship after that date without proof of force majeure, the OAS and VUB may require the awardee to reimburse all funding granted to her/him with the scholarship at the time in which the declination is processed.
- 6.8 Commitment to return to work in their country of origin or legal residence in one of the OAS member states, or at an international organization, for at least the length of the duration of the scholarship. Failure to comply with this commitment, the GS/OAS and/or the VUB could seek reimbursement for the total value of the scholarship awarded.

**[APPLY NOW!](#)**

**For more information: [www.oas.org/scholarships](http://www.oas.org/scholarships)**