

Information Sheet: Scholarships for Students Specializing in Distributed Ledger Technologies (DLTs)

Introduction

The Centre for Distributed Ledger Technologies (“CDLT”) at the University of Malta (“University” or “UM”) is seeking to attract students through a scholarship scheme kindly made available by the Malta Information Technology Agency (“MITA”).

The scheme was established through an Agreement between UM and MITA, and was launched on 28 August 2018 in the presence of the Parliamentary Secretary for Financial Services, Digital Economy and Innovation.

The Scholarships forming part of this scheme will enable students to read for Masters and Ph.D. programmes which focus on Blockchain and Distributed Ledger Technologies (DLT) within any applicable discipline and programme offered at UM (subject to eligibility terms as follows).

Scholarship Support

The Scholarships shall, if and until further notice, be capped at the following amounts and shall cover the following types of fees for the following maximum terms:

#	Course – Postgraduate Degree Programmes	Maximum value		Maximum term (from date of award)
		Total University Tuition/Enrolment Fees	Total University Bench Fees	
a	Masters (full time)	Up to €10,000	€ 0	Up to Two (2) academic years
b	Masters (part time)	Up to €10,000	€ 0	Up to Three (3) academic years
c	Ph.D (full time)	Up to €2,400	€ 0	Up to Four (4) academic years
d	Ph.D (part time)	Up to €16,000	€ 0	Up to Eight (8) academic years

Tuition/enrolment fees and bench fees relating to any extension/s granted beyond the maximum Scholarship term as outlined above shall be borne by the awardee. Moreover, the said maximum Scholarship term does not cover any suspension or repetition of studies that are provided for by and in accordance with University regulations. Thus, the period of time during which the suspension or repetition subsists will not be covered by the awarded Scholarships.

Moreover, the Scholarships do not include accommodation and/or living expenses, examination fees (if applicable), travel as well as ancillary items including, but not limited to, books, all of which shall be borne by the awardees directly.

The Scholarship cannot be awarded to the same individual more than once for courses at the same MQF Level.

Eligibility Criteria

In order to apply for a Scholarship, the following criteria must be satisfied:

(a) Course

Scholarships are available with regards courses at the University:

- i. Starting from academic year 2018/19 or academic year 2019/2020 or academic year 2020/2021. Provided that the Scholarships may also be available with regards to courses already underway during the above-mentioned academic years subject, however, to availability of funds and fulfilment of the following requirements. Provided further that any Scholarships awarded with respect to courses already underway as aforesaid shall only cover tuition/enrolment fees and bench fees from the date of award onwards and not from date of commencement of the relevant course; &
- ii. Consisting of a postgraduate degree programme including a Ph.D.; &
- iii. On a full time or part-time basis; &
- iv. Having, in the case of a taught-based postgraduate degree programme, at least a minimum of thirty (30) ECTS credits (whether in the form of a dissertation consisting of a minimum of 30 ECTS credits or in the form of individual study-units that together make up 30 ECTS credits) directly related to DLTs; or
- v. In the case of a research-based postgraduate degree programme, the focus of such programme should be directly related to DLTs.

(b) Other Criteria

In addition to the above criteria, the applicants must:

- i. Be Maltese nationals or nationals of another State who are entitled to equal access to education under the same conditions as Maltese nationals in accordance with EU law; &
- ii. Have submitted an online application for a postgraduate degree programme (as per (a) above) and be in possession of an unconditional letter of acceptance for this programme

issued by the University of Malta or be currently enrolled in a postgraduate degree programme (as per (a) above); in the case of taught Masters, students who have applied but not yet received their unconditional letter of acceptance may provisionally apply for the scholarship; &

- iii. NOT be in receipt of a full scholarship from another sponsoring institution or organisation. However, an applicant who holds a partial scholarship, from another institution may also be considered. Such a grant should be disclosed to the Selection Board when applying.

Students in their final year of undergraduate or other postgraduate studies who receive their final classification results after the closing date shall be allowed to submit a provisional application for the Scholarships.

Application Process

Complete applications are to be sent by email to dlt@um.edu.mt by not later than October 16th 2020 at Midnight (Central European Summer Time) and need to be accompanied by the following documents:

- (a) Detailed transcript of degree/s and any other tertiary level qualifications; &
- (b) A motivational letter highlighting the applicant's interest in Blockchain and DLT, and how the course and work involved is relevant to Blockchain and DLT; &
- (c) In the case of a research-based postgraduate degree programme, a research proposal;
- (d) Copy of passport/ID card; &
- (e) Two reference letters from former/current employers or academic tutors; &
- (f) Curriculum Vitae; &
- (g) Acceptance letter from the University of Malta indicating unconditional acceptance for the respective course or, in the case of current students, the unconditional letter of acceptance as well as an official transcript of the results already obtained; in the case of taught Masters, students who have applied but not yet received their unconditional letter of acceptance may provisionally apply for the scholarship; &
- (h) Terms and Conditions of the Scholarship (which will be uploaded shortly on um.edu.mt/dlt) duly signed by the applicant.

Incomplete or late applications will not be considered.

The Selection Process

All valid Scholarship applications shall be reviewed by the Selection Board to be composed of representatives of the University of Malta and MITA.

Short-listed applicants shall be called for an interview, which may be undertaken via the internet. It is the responsibility of the applicants to be available on the date and time communicated to them for the interview. No alternative arrangements shall be made to change the date and time of the interview unless there is some circumstance deemed to be exceptional at the discretion of the Selection Board that in such a case may require supporting documentation.

The University of Malta does not assume any responsibility if an interview undertaken via the internet fails to materialise properly due to any technical reason that is beyond the control of the University.

The Selection Criteria

The Selection Board will be guided by the following principles: Diversity across disciplines and academic excellence. To this end, the following criteria will be used to evaluate valid Scholarship applications:

- (a) Degree/s classification and other tertiary level qualifications; &
- (b) Motivational letter; &
- (c) Reference letters; &
- (d) The quality of the research proposal where required; &
- (e) The quantity of Blockchain and DLT related ECTS credits; &
- (f) Interview (if held); &
- (g) Explicit acceptance of the terms and conditions of the Scholarship, some of which are listed below.

However, a Scholarship shall not be awarded unless and until the relative Scholarship Agreement between the University of Malta and the prospective awardee is signed. If a prospective awardee fails or refuses to sign the Scholarship Agreement, the Scholarship may be awarded to another student according to the respective rankings following the selection.

The decision of the Selection Board is final.

Some Terms and Conditions of the Scholarship

- (a) Awardees may be asked to:
 - Deliver up to two (2) sessions / presentations on the research conducted by the awardees themselves; &
 - Focus their dissertation / projects on areas of interest to MITA.
- (b) The University of Malta reserves the right to review and revoke the award at any time if any information disclosed is later found to be untrue; &
- (c) Awardees who do not complete their studies or who fail the Course, apart from duly-justified cases such as serious illness or demise of the awardee, shall reimburse the funds awarded in full; &
- (d) In the event that an awardee changes units and no longer undertakes units directly related to DLTs, the awardee shall also reimburse the funds awarded in full; &
- (e) Awardees shall be bound to acknowledge MITA and the CDLT (University of Malta) in the respective dissertation.

Data Protection

The information provided in this section applies to the processing of personal data submitted by applicants ('Applicants') in furtherance of their application for a Scholarship for Students specializing in Distributed Ledger Technologies (the 'Scholarship').

For more information on the processing of personal data of applicants to the University, please visit <https://www.um.edu.mt/registrar/students/dataprivacystatement>.

The University shall process all personal information submitted voluntarily by Applicants throughout the application process in accordance with the provisions of the Data Protection Act (Chapter 586,

Laws of Malta) and the General Data Protection Regulation (Regulation (EU) 2016/679), to consider, review and possibly award a Scholarship.

The University shall retain this information in accordance with the provisions of the Processing of Personal Data (Education Sector) Regulations (Subsidiary Legislation 586.07) and in order to comply with its obligation under the Education Act (Chapter 327, Laws of Malta) of keeping a record of the academic activities of its students.

Personal data referred to above is accessible to the following persons (including their respective administrative staff where necessary): (1) Director of CDLT; (2) the Pro-Rector for Research and Knowledge Transfer as well as (3) the Pro-Rector for International Development and Quality Assurance. It will be shared with all members of the Selection Board which shall include the Dean or Director (or their representative) of the UM Faculty/Centre/Institute/School associated with the relative postgraduate degree programme and representative/s from MITA (including any administrative staff where necessary). Information regarding successful candidates, including the subject matter of their study, their study progress and status, and details on their dissertations, shall also be shared with MITA for the purpose of maintaining visibility on progress and take-up of the scholarship fund. MITA shall additionally be informed about any successful candidate who stops following a Course covered by the Scholarship. For more information regarding MITA's processing of personal data, students are encouraged to visit <https://mita.gov.mt/en/Documents/Policies/DataProtectionPolicy.pdf>

The sharing of information referred to above as well as the sharing of information following award of the Scholarships shall be regulated by the written agreement entered into between successful candidates and UM, and shall thus be effected for the performance of the said contract.

Applicants have the right to request access to their personal data held and processed by the University, to request its correction if it is inaccurate and where applicable, to object to the processing of their personal data, to request restriction of processing, to request erasure of their personal data and to request that their personal data is forwarded to a third party.

For queries or concerns regarding the University's processing of personal data, interested students/Applicants are invited to contact the CDLT or the University's Data Protection Officer on dpo@um.edu.mt.

For queries or concerns regarding MITA's processing of personal data, interested students/Applicants may contact MITA directly on dp.mita@gov.mt. To lodge an official complaint, interested students/Applicants may contact the Office for the Information and Data Protection Commissioner, Malta.