



## Cost of living scholarship scheme for Master students

# in the framework of EU4Belarus: Support for advanced learning and training (SALT III) programme

### **Questions and Answers**

#### **Question 1**

I do not yet have confirmation of admission to university — can I still apply for the SALT3 scholarship?

#### Answer 1

Yes, you can apply even if you do not yet have an official admission letter. Instead, you can submit correspondence with the university confirming that you have applied and are awaiting the decision. If selected, you will need to provide the admission confirmation at a later stage.

#### Question 2

#### I am already receiving another scholarship. Can I still apply for SALT3?

- Answer 2

If you are already awarded and receiving a scholarship under any of the SALT programme (SALT I or SALT II), you cannot receive SALT3 funding for the same purpose (a cost-of-living scholarship for master's studies). In such case, your application may be rejected. Note, that there is no provision for recalculating the difference between the SALT II and SALT III scholarship amounts.

- If you have received a scholarship for Bachelor studies under any of the SALT programmes (e.g. SALT I or SALT II), you can apply for SALT3 funding for a cost-of-living scholarship for master's studies.

#### Question 3

## I need the agreement number of my previous SALT scholarship. I need to write SALT - I or SALT - II?

Answer 3

- When filling in the application form under section "Information about receiving EU4Belarus scholarship earlier" you are requested to specify the study programme in the field "Other" (the education institution, study programme, study degree, academic year, number of the SALT scholarship agreement). If you do not know your SALT scholarship agreement number and do not provide it, it will not affect your application. You do not need to contact CPVA to obtain it, as it will be checked during the application evaluation.
- Indicate both SALT programmes, if you got scholarship from SALT I and SALT II.

#### **Question 4**

I am a participant in the SALT-II scholarship, and I am completing my bachelor's degree this year. I will be defending my diploma in September. I want to continue my master's degree studies. How do I fill out the Google form for SALT-III if I don't have some documents, including a diploma, etc.? Also, if I filled out the SALT-II extension form, can I receive this scholarship if I enrol in the master's program?

#### Answer 4

- 1. Yes, you can apply even if you do not yet have a bachelor diploma. Instead, you can indicate that you are completing your bachelor's degree and provide any evidence, such as correspondence from the university confirming that you are in the final year of your bachelor's degree, e.g., the date of your bachelor thesis defence or final exams, or a document proving your student status. If you are selected, you may be asked to provide a copy of your bachelor diploma later.
- 2. Yes, you can apply for SALT III Master scholarship, even if you already have applied for SALT II extension. However, please note, that the SALT III launched a competitive call for master's scholarships, while SALT II announced a non-competitive extension for SALT graduates, both for bachelor's and master's scholarship.

#### Question 5

Whether it would be eligible to apply for the scholarship, if a student is currently enrolled in a bachelor's program and will graduate in February 2026.

#### Answer 5

We recommend that you follow the EU4Belarus website <u>https://eu4belarus.info/</u>, where new scholarship calls will be announced.

#### Question 6

I am currently a participant in the SALT II program, which concluded this year. I have submitted an application to extend this scholarship for one more year, as I am continuing my studies within the same degree program. (I sent all the required documents to you last week.) Please note that in my field of study, there is no separate bachelor's degree – the program is a continuous five-year course that leads directly to a master's degree.

Recently, I received an email about the opportunity to apply for the SALT III program, which offers a higher scholarship amount. I meet all the eligibility criteria for SALT III, except for holding a bachelor's degree, as I am enrolled in a direct entry master's program.

Could you please advise me on what would be the best course of action in this situation? Should I proceed with the SALT II extension, or would it be better to apply for the SALT III program?

Answer 6

- 1. Yes, you can apply for SALT III Master scholarship, even if you already have applied for SALT II extension. However, please note, that the SALT III launched a competitive call for master's scholarships, while SALT II announced a non-competitive extension for SALT graduates, both for bachelor's and master's scholarship. The applicants must decide for themselves which SALT programme to apply to.
- 2. Yes, you can apply even if you do not have a bachelor's degree, as you are studying under a 5year study program and will obtain a master's degree upon graduation. However, please note

that scholarship support will only be available for the last years of your studies. Therefore, please provide a link to your study programme in the application form at "Additional information" to check in which semester the master's degree subjects start.

#### Question 7

I am graduating from my bachelor's degree this year, but due to the deadline for my defence, I simply cannot physically receive my graduation certificate or university diploma. Can you tell me if I can attach any other document confirming my bachelor's degree by June 30th and send it to you immediately after receiving my diploma?

#### Answer 7

The same answer as Answer 4.

Yes, you can apply even if you do not yet have a bachelor diploma. Instead, you can indicate that you are completing your bachelor's degree and provide any evidence, such as correspondence from the university confirming that you are in the final year of your bachelor's degree, e.g., the date of your bachelor thesis defence or final exams, or a document proving your student status. If you are selected, you may be asked to provide a copy of your bachelor diploma later.

#### **Question 8**

I'm planning to continue my studies in a master's program at the university where I'm currently finishing my bachelor's degree. However, I'm not sure I'll be able to receive the enrolment order by the end of this month.

#### Answer 8

The same answer as Answer 4.

Yes, you can apply even if you do not yet have a bachelor diploma. Instead, you can indicate that you are completing your bachelor's degree and provide any evidence, such as correspondence from the university confirming that you are in the final year of your bachelor's degree, e.g., the date of your bachelor thesis defence or final exams, or a document proving your student status. If you are selected, you may be asked to provide a copy of your bachelor diploma later.

#### **Question 9**

How can I provide evidence of persecution by the Belarusian authorities for political reasons; if I have no evidence, because although I faced pressure, I formally took the documents from the university myself. I know that such cases were widespread in many Belarusian universities.

#### Answer 9

If you do not have any evidence of repression or dismissal from the university, you should contact any Belarusian human rights or civil society organization to hear your story and issue a letter of confirmation. This letter should be enclosed to the application.

Please contact the SALT Clearing House formed of the Belarusian civil society organisation to advise you on this situation by <u>scholarship@eu4belarus.info</u>.

#### **Question 10**

1. **Regarding application deadlines:** Previously, I considered applying for the "EU4Belarus – SALT Scholarship Competition." The website stated (and still states) June 30th as the deadline, but that program is closed. Therefore, I would like to know the specific date by

which I should/can submit my application for the "Scholarship for Master's Students to Cover Daily Expenses During Studies" program?

- 2. Regarding selection criteria: The website states that for this program, "Commencement of studies or an application submitted for full-time doctoral (master's) programs at universities in the Czech Republic, Latvia, Lithuania, or Poland no earlier than the 2020/2021 academic year" is required. However, I plan to apply to a master's program at a Polish university this year. Registration in the university's recruitment system (IRK) is open until July 1st, exams will be in mid-July, and recruitment results will only be available at the end of July. On your website, under "To participate in the program, you need," it states: "A conditional or unconditional acceptance letter from a university in the Czech Republic, Latvia, Lithuania, or Poland for the 2025/2026 academic year. Or a certificate of student status from these universities, obtained no earlier than one month before submitting the application." Given this situation, can I still apply for the scholarship? Can I attach a receipt for the registration fee for submitting documents to the master's program in the IRK system as a "conditional acceptance letter from the university stated in a phone conversation that they cannot issue such a certificate of conditional student status until the results are known.
- 3. **Passport copy:** Your website also states that a copy of the passport is required. The validity of my Belarusian passport expired this month. As I have international protection (Ochrona uzupełniająca), it is impossible for me to extend its validity. In this case, should I still attach the expired passport, or is the decision regarding Ochrona uzupełniająca sufficient as proof of political persecution?
- 4. **Motivation letter:** Can I include a motivation letter with my application documents? I have a strong desire to pursue a doctoral degree in the future, for which I need to successfully complete my master's studies, and I have much to write about on this topic.
- 5. **Individual online interviews:** If I successfully submit my application and proceed to the next stages, I would like to know the language of the individual interview (Russian, Belarusian, English, or Polish)? This would help me better prepare and accurately describe my situation and motivation.

#### Answer 10

- 1. **Regarding application deadlines:** We have checked the application form on the website, and it is still working properly: <u>https://eu4belarus.info/scholarships-for-masters-ru/</u>. The deadline for submission is 30 June 2025.
- 2. **Regarding selection criteria:** Yes, you can submit your application even if you do not yet have an official admission letter. Instead, you may provide correspondence with the university confirming that you have submitted your application and are awaiting a decision. If selected, you will be required to provide official proof of admission at a later stage.
- 3. **Proof of citizenship.** Applicants, who lost or renounced their Belarusian citizenship after August 2020, or do not have valid Belarusian passport at the time of application submission, must present documental evidence of valid Belarusian citizenship at the time of August 2020 or later.
- 4. **Motivation letter:** In the application form, there is a dedicated section titled *"Motivation letter"*, where you can describe your commitment and enthusiasm for pursuing your studies.
- 5. Individual online interviews: The interviews will be conducted in English.

#### **Question 11**

I 'm writing on behalf of our Belarussian friend, born 2004, who has just been accepted to the School of Medicine, Charles University, Prague (speaking good Czech, he has applied in Czech so to avoid tuition). As you may know, the program is one of few that do not recognise BA/MA level. In other words, you are accepted for 6 yrs MA program right from the beginning. I was therefore wandering whether the kid is eligible to apply as he has no BA.

#### Answer 11

One of the requirements for SALT III scholarships is to have a completed bachelor's degree. At this time, your friend does not yet meet this requirement. The students that are studying under a 5 or 6-year study program offering a master's degree upon graduation can apply only if they are at the last years of the studies when the master's degree subjects start. We recommend that your friend follow the EU4Belarus website <u>https://eu4belarus.info/</u>, where new scholarship calls will be announced.

#### **Question 12**

I'm on the engineering studies, meaning they are 3,5 years, neither 3 nor 4. Therefore, I will have my transition from bachelor's to masters in the middle of 2025/2026 study year, in February. Can I still apply? In this case, I'm not quite sure how I should acquire the confirmation of me being accepted or some form of declaration of will on paper, because I still have one semester of bachelor's to be passed.

#### Answer 12

Only those who have completed their bachelor's studies and are starting a master's program in 2025 are eligible to participate in this scholarship call. We recommend keeping an eye on the EU4Belarus website <u>https://eu4belarus.info/</u>, where new scholarship calls will be announced.