



Funded by
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Central Project Management Agency

EDUCATION FOR BELARUSIANS

Cost-of-living Scholarship Scheme for Bachelor's, Master's or Integrated Studies Students in Lithuania and Czech Republic Guidelines for Applicants

Deadline for submission of applications:

5 August 2026 at 23:59 EET/UTC+ 3 (Vilnius time)

Reference: No. 70003539





1. How to apply

1. General information about the Programme	In response to the political crisis following the presidential elections in Belarus, the European Union adopted the special measure “EU4Belarus: Solidarity with the People of Belarus” in December 2020 (hereinafter – EU4Belarus). Its overall objective is to contribute towards reinforcing resilience to achieve civic empowerment and sustainable economic growth in Belarus. Since 2021, the Central Project Management Agency (hereinafter – CPVA) has been implementing EU supported mobility and people-to-people contacts for Belarusian students, academics, and professionals, enabling access to higher education and lifelong learning opportunities aligned with European Union standards and values. As a part of the Special Measure 2024: EU4People of Belarus: Strengthen Civic Forces, Human Rights and Education, the separate programme <i>Education for Belarusians</i> concerns the implementation of one of the special measure’s components targeting youth and education. <i>Education for Belarusians</i> continues the support provided by the previous three EU4Belarus programmes: SALT I, SALT II, and SALT III. Like the preceding three SALT programmes, <i>Education for Belarusians</i> provides support for a specifically designed scholarship scheme for Belarusian students who have been affected, persecuted or threatened by the political regime. The scholarship scheme under the <i>Education for Belarusians</i> programme is administered by CPVA, based in Vilnius, Lithuania, and implemented in collaboration with the Clearing House formed as a consortium of Belarusian Civil Society Organisations (hereinafter – CH) and contact points of the participating Member States (hereinafter – CP): - Czech Republic: Czech National Agency for International Education and Research: www.dzs.cz. - Lithuania: State Studies Foundation: https://vsf.lrv.lt.
2. Conditions and scope of the scholarship	Complementing the support offered by EU Member States, specifically Lithuania and Czech Republic, to cover tuition costs, the scholarship scheme provides Belarusian students with the following support: - A monthly cost-of-living scholarship of EUR 650 for bachelor's, master's or integrated degree students to contribute towards living expenses while studying full-time in Lithuania or Czech Republic. The scholarship will be paid for the <u>actual study period</u>



	during the academic year, in up to 10 monthly instalments per academic year. - For selected candidates, scholarships will be paid for up to 2 academic years, unless the student completes the degree programme before the end of the 2027/2028 academic year, terminates or suspends the studies. - The number of scholarship months may be reduced due to completion of the study programme, study breaks, or other interruptions to studies. Scholarship support may also be reduced in cases of double funding, where a student receives financial support from more than one European Union or other funding source (subject to the requirements established by the Member State) for the same purpose during the same academic year, such as through the EU Erasmus+ programme. - Scholarships for students with <u>active student status</u> will be paid monthly by the respective CP in Lithuania. For students studying in Czech Republic, scholarships will be paid by the respective universities in accordance with the agreements signed with the Czech Republic CP. - The scholarships will be paid to the students' bank account held with a financial institution located in the European Union.
3. Eligibility and selection criteria	Eligible for the scholarship are Belarusian students who: - Are current or former citizens of Belarus¹. - Have started <u>full-time</u> bachelor's, master's or integrated studies at a university in Lithuania or Czech Republic no earlier than the 2020/2021 academic year or hold a conditional or unconditional offer of admission to a <u>full-time</u> study programme at a university in Lithuania or Czech Republic for the 2026/2027 academic year. Students enrolled <u>in remote</u> study programmes are not eligible for the scholarship, in addition, scholarship recipients <u>must reside</u> in the country where they are studying. - Have been expelled from a university in Belarus or applicant or an immediate family member has been threatened or persecuted on political grounds. - Have demonstrated the motivation and capacity to start or continue their studies and successfully complete them.

¹ 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.



	Additional eligibility criteria for applicants who have previously received support under the SALT programme: - Have successfully completed the bachelor's study programme previously supported under the scholarship scheme and are applying for a higher academic degree level (e.g., applicants who received the scholarship for bachelor's studies may apply for master's studies, but not for the same degree level) or - are successfully continuing the same study programme previously supported under the scholarship scheme.
4. Application process	The application for the scholarship shall be submitted by filling in an online form published on the EU4Belarus website https://eu4belarus.info/ by 5 August 2026 at 23:59 EET/UTC+3 (Vilnius time). Applicants are required to submit documentary evidence demonstrating compliance with the eligibility criteria, including: - A document confirming citizenship or former citizenship of Belarus. - Evidence of persecution by the Belarusian authorities on political grounds. If such evidence is unavailable, a recommendation letter or other references confirming the act of persecution may be provided. This requirement does not apply to applicants who have previously participated in the SALT programme. - A document certifying a student status issued by the university in Lithuania or Czech Republic, dated no more than one month before the submission of the application or - A conditional or unconditional acceptance letter from a university in Lithuania or the Czech Republic. If neither is available, you may instead submit correspondence with your chosen university as evidence that your application or admission process is ongoing. - A motivation letter. - If the applicant has previously received scholarship support under the SALT programme and has graduated, a document certifying the completion of the bachelor's degree studies funded under that scholarship scheme must be provided.
5. Questions regarding the scholarship scheme	For questions and consultations related to the Guidelines for Applicants and scholarship scheme implementation, please contact by email: EU4Belarus@cpva.lt



6. Career guidance and consultations	For career consultations and guidance please, contact the HelpDesk by email: scholarship@eu4belarus.info
7. Transfer and processing of personal data (GDPR)²	Any personal data related to this support scheme, including its implementation, provided by the applicant shall be processed in accordance with Regulation (EU) 2016/679 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 27 April 2016 on the protection of natural persons with regard to the processing of personal data and on the free movement of such data, and repealing Directive 95/46/EC (General Data Protection Regulation), and other legal acts regulating the processing and protection of personal data . Such data shall be processed solely for the purposes of the assessing and processing of applications, management and monitoring of the scholarships, and collection of feedback about the cost-of-living scholarship scheme.

II. Assessment of applications

1. Decisions on assessment of applications	Applications for scholarships will be assessed based on the information provided in the application form and any supporting documentation submitted by the applicants. The Selection Committee, comprising representatives of the Clearing House, the CPVA, and/or independent external experts, may, where appropriate, verify the information provided in the applications with third parties. Decisions regarding the assessment and selection of applications will be made by the Selection Committee. Information on the selection results is expected to be published by 30 September 2026.
2. Selection of applications	The selection process for scholarship recipients is carried out in three stages: • Stage I: Assessment of applicants' eligibility (the required documents check; political vulnerability; previous participation in the SALT programme). • Stage II: Assessment of applicants' motivation and capacity to successfully pursue and complete their studies.

² General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) of the European Union [General Data Protection Regulation \(GDPR\) – Legal Text](#)



	• Stage III: Verification of compliance with formal eligibility requirements (admission to a university in Lithuania or Czech Republic; confirmation that the applicant is not subject to EU restrictive measures).		
2.1. Stage I	In Stage I the required documents check, and the political vulnerability assessment of the applicant will be carried out by the CH. The CH may request additional information or supporting documents from applicants, where necessary. Applicants who have previously participated in SALT programme are exempt from the vulnerability assessment. Applicants’ eligibility regarding participation or non-participation in the previous SALT programme will be verified by the CPVA. The Selection Committee will decide which applications advance to Stage II and which applications are rejected.		
2.2. Stage II	Stage II aims to assess the personal motivation and capacity of pre-selected applicants. The Selection Committee will assess the submitted motivation letters. If necessary, pre-selected applicants may also be invited to an online interview. Applicants shall submit a motivation letter that: • Is free form and does not exceed one and a half A4 pages (maximum 6,500 characters, including spaces). • Is written in English. • Demonstrates originality and personal reflection; unique and authentic submissions will be valued more highly than standardized or template-based submissions. • Addresses the questions set out in the Grid for Stage II. The grid for Stage II The motivation letter should be personal, honest, and reflective. Applicants are encouraged to provide specific examples from their academic, professional, or personal experience rather than writing in general terms. <table><tr><th>Questions</th></tr><tr><td>1. Strength of purpose: - Why did you choose this university and study programme, and how do they relate to your academic, professional, or personal goals? </td></tr></table>	Questions	1. Strength of purpose: - Why did you choose this university and study programme, and how do they relate to your academic, professional, or personal goals?
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	2. Capacity to deliver results: - What academic, professional, or personal achievements best demonstrate your ability to succeed in your studies? 3. Self-confidence and ability to overcome challenges: - Describe a significant challenge you have faced, how you addressed it, and what you learned from the experience. 4. Self-awareness and contribution to society: - How do you intend to contribute to the development of Belarusian society using the knowledge and skills gained through your studies? 5. Interpersonal skills and critical thinking: - Provide an example that demonstrates your ability to work with others, think critically, or take responsibility in a challenging situation. The Selection Committee will decide which applications advance to Stage III assessment. If the total funding required for applications that have passed Stage II exceeds the available budget under this call, a reserve list will be established based on the ranking of applicants according to the total score obtained during Stage II. Should additional funding become available, the Selection Committee may decide to pass applicant(s) from the reserve list to Stage III for further assessment.
2.3. Stage III	CPVA carries out the verification of applicants' compliance with formal eligibility requirements at Stage III. The assessment process includes the following steps: - CPVA verifies whether selected applicants are subject to EU restrictive measures, using the official EU sanctions map: www.sanctionsmap.eu. - CPVA submits the list of applicants approved by the Selection Committee to the CP in Lithuania and Czech Republic, requesting confirmation that the selected applicants are enrolled in universities. - Where applicants hold a conditional offer of admission, the CP maintains contact with the applicants and/or universities to obtain confirmation of final admission. - If the applicant is not admitted to the study programme in Lithuania or Czech Republic, CPVA will reject the application.



	- CPVA informs applicants of the assessment results by email.
2.4 Extension of scholarship	If additional funding becomes available, the Selection Committee may decide to award a scholarship for an additional academic year to applicants who have successfully passed Stage III.