

Act No. 392/2015 Act on Development Cooperation and amending certain acts

(as amended by Act No 281/2019)

Valid from 18/12/2015

Effective from 01/10/2019

Section 10

Government scholarship

(1) The Ministry of Education, Science, Research and Sport of the Slovak Republic (“Ministry of Education”) awards a government scholarship to a national of a partnering country to partially cover the costs associated with language training for study at a public university established in the Slovak Republic (“language training”) and study at a public university based in the Slovak Republic (“public university”). The Ministry of Education publishes the amount of a government scholarship on its website no later than 31 August of each year; a government scholarship is equal to at least the subsistence minimum for a single adult.

(2) Partnering countries whose nationals are eligible for a government scholarship in the coming academic year are identified in the focus area defined in Section 3(3). In the case of Slovaks living abroad,¹¹⁾ the Ministry of Foreign Affairs selects partnering countries based on a proposal of the Ministry of Education and publishes the list on its website no later than 28 February of each year. The Ministry of Education shall ensure that the conditions for awarding a government scholarship for the given academic year are communicated to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of each partnering country by 28 February of each year.

(3) A government scholarship may be granted to a citizen of partnering country under (2) who

a) has

1. temporary residence for the purpose of studies,¹⁰⁾
2. temporary residence as a third country national granted Slovak Living Abroad status,¹¹⁾ or
3. the right to reside in the territory of the Slovak Republic for a period longer than three months,¹²⁾

b) is

1. a full-time student in an academic programme at a public university located in the Slovak Republic in one of the fields of study under (2) who demonstrates a command of Slovak at the level required by the public university concerned, or
2. a participant in language training, and

c) as of 1 September of the year in which the application for a government scholarship is submitted,

1. is at least 18 years of age and not more than 26 years of age if the recipient will participate in language training for participation in a first level or second level academic programme or an academic programme combining the first and second levels, or study in such an academic programme or

2. is at least 23 years of age and not more than 35 years of age if the recipient will participate in language training for participation in a third level academic programme, or study in such an academic programme.

(4) A government scholarship is awarded

a) for the standard duration of studies in the academic programme concerned,

b) for ten months in the case of language training,

c) for the months between the completion of language training and enrolment for studies in the academic programme concerned or between the end of one academic programme and registration for studies in another academic programme if

1. the language training or studies are duly completed and

2. a letter of acceptance is submitted to the Ministry of Education for studies under (3)(b)(1) commencing in the academic year following the academic year in which language training or study was completed; if a course of study has been completed, the acceptance letter must be for a higher level of study.

(5) A government scholarship will not be awarded to

a) a student studying in an academic programme

1. at the first level of university education, if they have already completed first level university education at a university based in the Slovak Republic or

2. at the second level of university education, if they have already completed second level university education at a university based in the Slovak Republic or

3. combining the first and second level of university education, if they have already completed second level university education at a university based in the Slovak Republic,

b) a student who has completed third level university education at a university based in the Slovak Republic,

c) a student who has already been awarded a government scholarship for the given year of studies or a part thereof in an academic programme at the level concerned,

d) a student who has been studying in the academic programme concerned for longer than its standard length,

e) a student who studies as a part-time or external student or

f) a language training participant who has been in language training for over 10 months.

(6) There is no legal entitlement to a government scholarship.

(7) A person who is awarded a government scholarship (“scholarship recipient”) must notify the Ministry of Education without delay when they arrive in the Slovak Republic, which must be no later than the enrolment date for studies or the start date of language training, and present original versions of the documents attached to the government scholarship application.

(8) The Ministry of Education shall withdraw a government scholarship if the scholarship recipient

- a) does not satisfy the conditions laid down in (7),
- b) enrolls for language training or for study in the academic programme concerned more than 30 days after the date shown in the notice of award of a government scholarship,
- c) completes language training; this does not apply if the student is accepted for studies within the terms of (3)(b)(1) above in the following academic year,
- d) changes to a different academic programme without the prior written consent of the Ministry of Education,
- e) exceeds the standard length of study in the academic programme concerned and is a student an academic programme combining the first and second level, or an academic programme at the second or third level,
- f) completes studies in the academic programme concerned; this does not apply if the student is accepted for higher level studies within the terms of (3)(b)(1) above in the following academic year,
- g) is granted and takes on citizenship of the Slovak Republic or
- h) is granted and takes up permanent residence in the Slovak Republic; this does not apply in the case of EU nationals.

(9) The Ministry of Education shall suspend the payment of a government scholarship if a scholarship recipient

- a) for a period exceeding 15 days in a given month
 1. as a participant in language training, does not participate in such training,
 2. as a student is absent from the educational activities conducted as part of an academic programme, or
 3. leaves the territory of the Slovak Republic,
- b) as a student, interrupts the academic programme concerned, or
- c) as a first level student, exceeds the standard length of study for the academic programme concerned.

10) The payment of the government scholarship will resume in

- a) the month following the month in which a scholarship recipient whose scholarship was suspended under (9)(a) above demonstrates that they are again participating in language training or the educational activities conducted as part of an academic programme,

- b) the month in which a scholarship recipient whose studies in the academic programme concerned were suspended, demonstrates their enrolment in the academic programme concerned after suspension or
- c) the month in which a scholarship recipient whose government scholarship was suspended under (9)(c) above demonstrates their acceptance in a second level academic programme.

(11) A government scholarship is paid in full monthly instalments even if the payment conditions are only met for a part of the month.

(12) The Ministry of Education shall issue an act of general application setting out a template for applications for government scholarships and a list of documents to be attached, details of the deadline and the method of applying for a government scholarship, the payment method by which government scholarships and the details of the notice under (2) above.

(13) The general regulation on administrative procedure does not apply to procedures concerning government scholarships.

(14) To cover the staff and material expenses that a public university incurs in connection with a scholarship recipient's language training or studies, even after exceeding the standard length of study in the academic programme concerned, the Ministry of Education provides public universities with scholarship recipient allowances.

(15) The Ministry of Education will set the amount of the scholarship recipient allowance and publish it on its website no later than 31 August of each year.

(16) A scholarship recipient allowance is paid based on a contract between the Ministry of Education and the public university which includes the identification data of the parties and

- a) conditions for the use of the scholarship recipient allowance,
- b) the amount of the scholarship recipient allowance,
- c) the time and method of payment of the scholarship recipient allowance,
- d) the date by which the public university must submit a calculation of the scholarship recipient allowance to the Ministry of Education,
- e) other particulars for payment of the scholarship recipient allowance.

(17) The Ministry of Education shall terminate payment of a scholarship recipient allowance if a scholarship recipient's scholarship is withdrawn for reasons under (8)(a), (c), (d) or (f) to (h).

(18) The Ministry of Education shall suspend payment of a scholarship recipient allowance if a scholarship recipient's scholarship is suspended for reasons under (9)(a) or (b).

(19) A scholarship recipient allowance is paid to a public university in full monthly instalments even if the payment conditions are only met for a part of the month.