

Master Mind Scholarships Academic year 2023-2024

1. General description

The Flemish Ministry of Education awards scholarships to outstanding students for Master programmes in Flanders and Brussels. The programme aims to promote Flanders and Brussels as a top study destination.

Applications will be accepted from all Flemish universities, Schools of Arts and the Antwerp Maritime Academy.

The total budget available for the Master Mind Scholarships programme 2023-2024 is € 460.000. It is estimated that 30 international students can benefit from the Master Mind Scholarships.

2. General eligibility criteria

- The applicant applies to take up a Master degree programme at a higher education institution in Flanders (hereafter 'Host institution').
- The applicant should have a high standard of academic performance and/or potential:
 - The student has a Grade Point Average of 3.5 out of 4.0:
<https://www.scholaro.com/gpa-calculator/> (see annex 1 *How to calculate your American GPA*)
 - The student has a good knowledge of the English language:
 - an overall band score of minimum 7.0 on the IELTS test;
 - a minimum total score of 94 on a TOEFL test;
 - a C1 level of the Common European Framework of Reference;
 - or a similar result in another official language test (recognized by the host institution).
 - Online language tests of IELTS and TOEFL will also be accepted:
 - IELTS Indicator (<https://www.ieltsindicator.com/>)
 - TOEFL iBT Special Home Edition (<https://www.ets.org/s/cv/toefl/at-home/>)

Students who apply for a Master programme at a School of Arts have at least:

- an overall band score of minimum 6.5 on the IELTS test;
- a minimum total score of 90 on the TOEFL test;
- a B2 level of the Common European Framework of Reference;
- or a similar result in another official English language test (recognized by the Host institution).
- Online language tests of IELTS and TOEFL will also be accepted:
 - IELTS Indicator (<https://www.ieltsindicator.com/>)
 - TOEFL iBT Special Home Edition (<https://www.ets.org/s/cv/toefl/at-home/>)

- The Host institution also performs an academic check of the student's file. The student has to be accepted by the host institution to be able to receive the scholarship. Even if the Host institution's decision to accept the student is taken after the selection of the Master Mind Scholarships programme, this criterion applies.
- The applicant can be nominated by only one Flemish higher education institution. If the applicant is preselected by more than one Flemish higher education institution, he/she has to choose one Flemish higher education institution to submit his/her application into the Mobility Online tool.
- All nationalities¹ can apply. The previous degree obtained should be from a higher education institution located outside Flanders. International students who have been on credit mobility in a hosting Flemish higher education institution are still eligible for a Master Mind Scholarship.
- Students who are already enrolled in a Flemish higher education institution cannot apply. The only exception is made for international students who, at the moment of their application in Spring 2023, are already enrolled in a specific preparatory programme in order to start a master programme in September 2023.
- Students who enroll for the following types of programmes for the academic year 2023-2024 are not eligible for the Master Mind Scholarship:
 - preparatory programmes;
 - bridging programmes;
 - distance learning.
- Student mobility during the master programme is allowed. However, at least half of the credits of the master programme must be obtained at the Flemish host institution.

3. Modalities

- The duration of mobility is one academic year for a Master programme of 60 ECTS and two academic years for a master programme of 120 ECTS.
- The incoming student is awarded a maximum scholarship of € 9.600 per academic year according to the modalities mentioned in the appendix *Payment of the scholarship*.
- If a student completes a one-year Master programme, but does not obtain the Master degree at the end of the academic year in 2024 (July or September) the final installment of € 1.600 will not be awarded.
In case of a two-year Master Programme at least 54 ECTS must be obtained in the first academic year in 2024 (July or September) to be able to receive the final installment of € 1.600 of the first year and to be entitled to the scholarship for the second academic year. More information can be found in the annex 2 *Payment of the scholarship*.
Exceptions to this rule can only be granted by VLUHR in agreement with the host institution and the Department of Education and Training.
- The host institution can ask the applicant for a tuition fee that equals the lowest rate of the yearly tuition fee for a student who receives a study grant from the Flemish Government. The rate for the academic year 2023-2024 is € 128,80. This rate may increase slightly from year to year.
- If a student loses his/her scholarship, the student will have to pay the full tuition fee if he/she wants to continue the programme without the scholarship.
- There are a number of scholarships reserved for students from certain countries: Japan (3), Mexico (3), Palestine (2) and USA (5). These countries are priority countries for the Flemish

¹ All nationalities, except for Russian, can apply.

government. If these numbers of scholarships are not taken up, they will be awarded according to the ranking of the candidates as decided by the Flemish Selection committee.

- Students should not combine this scholarship with another scholarship from the Flemish Government or an Erasmus Mundus scholarship.
- Upon completion of the mobility all students are expected to submit an essay for which a format is provided and to fill in a short questionnaire about their mobility.
- A maximum of 20 applications can be submitted per Flemish higher education institution.

4. Application

Step 1: The applicant submits his/her application to the host institution. Internal deadlines set by the host institution may differ (see section 6. **Timing**)

Step 2: The host institution accepts the application of the candidate.

Step 3: The host institution starts the application procedure for the Master Mind scholarship by creating the candidate's application file in the Mobility-Online tool.

Step 4: The applicant receives an email generated by the Mobility-Online tool notifying him/her of being preselected for a Master Mind scholarship.

Step 5: The applicant registers in the Mobility-Online tool and completes his/her application file in the Mobility-Online tool before the deadline.

Documents to be uploaded:

- Passport photo
- International passport or national ID
- A Curriculum Vitae (including your American GPA out of 4.0 and if applicable your publications, academic awards, previous scholarships, etc.)
<https://www.scholaro.com/gpa-calculator/> (see annex: How to calculate your American GPA)
- Transcript of records; if written in another language than Dutch, French, German or English, a certified translation must be enclosed.
- English language test results or Letter of exemption provided by the Host university
- Letter of motivation written in English
- Two signed letters of recommendation from professors of your (previous) home university, University of Applied sciences, School of Arts or recent employer written in English.
- Copy of acquired diploma(s); if written in another language than Dutch, French, German or English, a certified translation must be enclosed.
- Three reasons of motivation for submission (at least 150 words) of the candidate's application formulated in English by the Host institution; format: text box in the application form or a separate document.

Step 6: The host institution validates and submits the completed application file in the Mobility-Online tool before the deadline of 28th April 2023 23h59 GMT+1. Applications validated submitted after 28th April 2023 23h59 GMT+1 will not be accepted.

5. Selection

In collaboration with the Flemish Ministry of Education, a Selection Committee will do the selection after the application deadline, based on the following criteria:

- the quality of the applicant's motivation (30 points);
- the applicant's previous study results in the Transcript of records (30 points);
- the reasons for recommending the applicant in Recommendation letter 1 (10 points);
- the reasons for recommending the applicant in Recommendation letter 2 (10 points);
- the motivation for submission by the host institution (10 points);

- the top talent profile of the applicant (10 points).

The selection committee consists of experts in the field of higher education and internationalisation. Each application will be read by two independent jury members. During the selection committee meeting every application will be discussed by the two jury members. In case of more than 10% of difference between the scores for the same application, the application file will be reopened and reevaluated. Benchmarks will be built into the selection process, in order to guarantee equal chances for each application. At the end of the selection committee meeting a final ranking will be made based on the consolidated scores of each application.

Exclusive scholarships will be reserved for students from certain countries: Japan (3), Mexico (3), Palestine (2) and USA (5). These countries are priority countries for the Flemish government. If these numbers of scholarships are not taken up, they will be awarded according to the ranking of the applicants as decided by the Selection committee.

6. Timing

- Launch of the call: December 2022
- Deadline for application at Flemish host institutions (will be published [on our website](#) as soon as they are confirmed)
- Start application procedure in Mobility-Online: from 31st January 2023 onwards
- Deadline for application: 28th April 2023 23h59 GMT+1
- Selection: May 2023
- Announcement of selection results: June 2023
- Start of mobility: September 2023

Should you have questions about the scholarship programme, please contact the Host institution or the VLUHR-secretariat: international@vluhr.be
