



Excellence Scholarships For graduate Studies

Princess Nourah bint Abdulrahman University

Deanship of Graduate Studies

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Regulations for Granting Excellence Scholarships For Graduate Students

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Deanship of Graduate Studies



Excellence Scholarships

For Graduate Students

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Introduction

Recognizing the national role of Princess Nourah bint Abdulrahman University as an educational institution and an active contributor to development and transformation, the University's Strategic Plan seeks to optimize the use of available capabilities and diverse resources to achieve its objectives and strengthen its contribution to fulfilling its national responsibilities.

In support of the University's first strategic objective—developing competencies capable of competing locally and internationally—and in line with its role in enhancing the University's competitiveness in education, employability, and job creation, the Deanship of Graduate Studies seeks to instil strong national values in graduate students and equip them with future-ready skills aligned with evolving economic needs.

This includes advancing high-impact educational practices, providing distinguished academic expertise, developing innovative academic programs aligned with labour-market requirements, strengthening digital education, and employing strategic foresight tools. Collectively, these efforts are intended to ensure that the University's graduates are fully prepared to compete effectively in local and international labour markets.

Within this framework, the Deanship of Graduate Studies offers the "Excellence Scholarship" Program for graduate students. The Program aims to attract outstanding university graduates and enable them to pursue graduate studies in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, thereby enriching their academic experience and supporting their continued educational excellence at Princess Nourah bint Abdulrahman University.

Following the approval of the Excellence Scholarship Regulations for Female Graduate Students by the Council of Princess Nourah bint Abdulrahman University on 11 Rajab 1444 AH, the Excellence Scholarship Program was implemented for graduate students beginning in the first semester of the 1445 AH academic year. To



further advance the Program's objectives, support its continued development, and enhance the quality of its outcomes, the Excellence Scholarship Regulations for Graduate Students were updated in 1447 AH.

Deanship of Graduate Studies

Definition of Excellence Scholarships

Excellence Scholarships are scholarships for graduate programs awarded to outstanding students in accordance with specified eligibility requirements. They include full and partial scholarships offered periodically each semester for tuition-based local programs. The scholarships are administered under the supervision of the Student Excellence Department within the Programs and Development Vice-Deanship at the Deanship of Graduate Studies.

Standing Committee for Excellence Scholarships

A specialized committee chaired by the Dean of Graduate Studies, responsible for reviewing and regulating all matters relating to Excellence Scholarships for the University's graduate students in accordance with the approved regulations, rules, and instructions. The Committee issues the necessary recommendations and submits them to the Standing Committee for Graduate Studies for approval.

Categories of Excellence Scholarships

Full Scholarship: A 100% waiver of the program's tuition fees.

Partial Scholarship: A reduction of 25%, 50%, or 75% in the program's tuition fees.





Excellence Scholarships

1. Excellence Scholarships for graduate students are offered periodically each semester for tuition-based local programs, during the application period specified by the Deanship of Graduate Studies. Applications for Excellence Scholarships open after admission notifications for graduate programs have been issued.
2. Applications for Excellence Scholarships are reviewed in accordance with the approved Excellence Scholarship Regulations for Graduate Students. Applicants must satisfy all the general eligibility requirements at the time of submitting their applications.
3. Applications that meet the eligibility requirements are presented to the Standing Committee for Excellence Scholarships to complete the necessary academic procedures for awarding the scholarship and determining its category, based on the relative weighting of the admission and selection criteria.
4. The Student Excellence Department monitors the progress of the academic procedures relating to Excellence Scholarships and implements them in accordance with the recommendations of the Standing Committee for Excellence Scholarships for Graduate Students.

First: General Eligibility Requirements

To be eligible for a Excellence Scholarship, the applicant must satisfy all of the following requirements:

1. The applicant must be a Saudi national or born to a Saudi mother.
2. The applicant must have received an admission notification for a graduate program at the University.
3. The applicant must have obtained an **Excellent** grade in their bachelor's degree and in any preceding degree below the level of the graduate program to which they have been admitted.
4. The applicant must have achieved an overall score of at least **6.0 in IELTS**, or an equivalent score in another recognised English-language proficiency test, where English-language proficiency is an admission requirement for the program.*
5. The applicant must have achieved a score of at least **85 in the General Aptitude Test for University Graduates (PGAT)** or a score of at least **155 in the Quantitative Reasoning measure of the GRE General Test**.*

* The results of the tests specified above must remain valid at the time of application through the admissions portal.



Second: Application Stages for Excellence Scholarships

Stage One: Obtain an admission notification for the academic program from the Deanship of Graduate Studies.

Stage Two: Submit an application for a Excellence Scholarship by uploading the required documents specified in the scholarship's general eligibility requirements, together with any supporting documents and additional evidence relevant to the scholarship selection criteria, where applicable.

Stage Three: Attend a personal interview with the designated committee.

Stage Four: Present the applications to the Standing Committee for Graduate Studies for approval of the Excellence Scholarship award decisions and issuance of the results.

Stage Five: Notify applicants of the Excellence Scholarship results.

Third: Selection Criteria and Process

The Standing Committee for Excellence Scholarships for Graduate Students is responsible for evaluating and ranking applicants based on the relative weightings assigned to the general eligibility requirements and the selection criteria, which are updated annually, as follows:

1. Cumulative grade point average (GPA).
2. English-language proficiency test score.
3. Standardised test scores.
4. Receipt of an award or medal, attainment of a leading position, or receipt of an excellence award in a national or international competition.*
5. Completion of outstanding work or achievements demonstrating creativity, skill, or innovation in fields or disciplines relevant to the graduate program for which the scholarship application is submitted.*
6. Receipt of a patent, attainment of a leading position, or receipt of an excellence award through participation with a scientific research paper or working paper at a forum, conference, or symposium organised by a recognised entity.*
7. Completion of voluntary work and service hours.

*Selection criteria 4, 5, and 6 must relate to fields or disciplines relevant to the graduate program to which the applicant has been admitted and must be verifiable and assessable.



Fourth: Scholarship Continuation Requirements

The following requirements shall govern the continued receipt of the Excellence Scholarship and ensure that students comply with the approved academic requirements:

1. The student must maintain a cumulative grade point average equivalent to Excellent throughout the entire period of study in the program.
2. The scholarship shall be suspended if the student's cumulative or semester grade point average falls below Excellent in any semester. The student shall bear the full tuition fees for the following semester, and the scholarship shall remain suspended until the required cumulative grade point average is restored. The scholarship shall resume in the semester following the semester in which the required average is restored.
3. The scholarship shall be permanently revoked if the student fails any course.
4. The scholarship shall be suspended if the student exceeds the Specified duration of the program specified in the admission notification.
5. Any semester from which the student withdraws, or for which the student submits an approved request for deferment after registering for courses, shall count towards the specified program duration for scholarship purposes and shall not be compensated for by an additional period.
6. The student shall forfeit their entitlement to the scholarship if they withdraw from, defer, or transfer from the program and subsequently return to it.
7. The scholarship shall be revoked if the student commits a breach of academic integrity at any stage of their studies; violates any applicable rules, regulations, or decisions; is found to have obtained the scholarship on the basis of information or documents that are wholly or partially inaccurate; becomes subject to a disciplinary decision; is convicted of an offence; or engages in conduct contrary to the public order of the Kingdom, whether within or outside the University.



General provisions

1. Applications that do not satisfy all the required conditions or include all the required supporting evidence shall be excluded, and the Deanship shall not be required to notify the applicant of such exclusion.
2. The scholarship does not cover programs offered in partnership with international universities. The designated committee may approve exceptions, provided that any tuition-fee waiver is limited to the University's allocated share of the fees.
3. The scholarship is available to self-funded students and does not apply to students sponsored by external entities.
4. Applications for the scholarship may not be submitted after the commencement of study in the program.
5. The scholarship does not cover the period during which any supplementary courses required for admission to the graduate program are undertaken.
6. The scholarship does not cover the summer semester, where applicable.
7. Satisfying the scholarship eligibility and nomination requirements does not guarantee the award of a scholarship. Awards are subject to competitive selection among eligible nominees and to the limited number of scholarship places available annually for each program.
8. Students applying for Excellence Scholarships from within the University shall not exceed 10% of the total number of students admitted to the programs. The designated committee may approve exceptions.
9. External entities may contribute to funding Excellence Scholarships, thereby allowing the number of available scholarship places to be increased.
10. The scholarship shall not be awarded if the minimum required conditions and criteria are not satisfied.
11. The allocation of scholarship places shall be subject to specific regulations based on the number of places available annually.
12. The designated committee's decision regarding scholarship eligibility and category shall be final.
13. The Deanship of Graduate Studies shall notify successful applicants of the approval of their scholarship applications before the commencement of the program.