Scholarship Procedure (From Announcement to Departure)

Announcement
The Deputy Ministry for Scholarship Affairs announces the date for the beginning of the registration for King Abdullah Scholarship Program in the local newspapers and on the Ministry's internet website immediately after the end of the school year in Saudi Arabia.

Application
The students apply for acceptance in the program only through the website designed for this purpose. The Internet registration form has been formatted to include basic and personal information about the applicant, means of contact, academic information and information regarding the specific level of the program for which he or she is applying.

After the applicant has entered all the required information, he or she will get an application number together with a password by which he or she can track his application through the Ministry's website.

Screening and Interviews
After the completion of the electronic application process, and after the exclusion of the applicants who do not fulfill the scholarship requirements, the administration of the scholarship program screens the identification and academic documents for the eligible applicants. Each applicant is also individually interviewed at one of the six interview centers across the Kingdom (Riyadh, Jeddah, Dammam, Madinah, Qasim and Abha). The program administration then electronically archives all the files presented by applicants who have successfully passed this stage.

Nomination
In this stage, the Ministry of Higher Education announces the names of all final nominees for King Abdullah Scholarship Program in the local newspapers as well as on the Ministry's website. The Ministry follows a policy of clarity and transparency in making its decisions, and so allows those who have not been nominated to report their written appeals (by person, mail or email) to the program administration. Each appeal is carefully studied, and then a final decision is made.

Forum for Scholarship Nominees
In line with the concern of the Ministry of Higher Education represented by the Deputy Ministry for Scholarship Affairs for the welfare of the scholarship nominees, an annual forum for them is organized in three cities in the Kingdom: Riyadh, Jeddah and Khobar. The forum seeks to provide the nominees with the knowledge and skills they will need when living in the countries in which they will pursue their education. This is accomplished through a series of lectures and seminars which usually deal with the following topics:

- The scholarship system and the scholarship recipient's rights and obligations.
- Regulations of the countries of the scholarships, including their legal systems, social customs, educational and academic systems, medical systems, and housing.
- Psychological and social development of the scholarship nominees together with different lectures on general awareness topics.

These lectures and seminars are delivered by a group of experts in the areas concerned, in addition to Saudis who have graduated from the countries in which the scholarship recipients will study, as well as representatives from the relevant foreign diplomatic missions in the Kingdom. Leading national personalities are also invited to participate in presenting their experience to the students.

Completion of Formalities and Departure
The nominee for King Abdullah Scholarship Program is required to present all necessary documentation to the program administration including a university admission and a student visa from the relevant country. At this stage, the program administration once again reviews the nominee's information and documents and, if everything is in order, the scholarship award will be granted.

After issuance of the scholarship award, the recipient receives a government transport order and air tickets from the Deputy Ministry for Scholarship Affairs.
Introduction
Knowledge is the foundation of the renaissance of nations. Therefore, the government of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia has given special attention to the education sector. Because of his concern for sustainable development of human resources in the Kingdom, the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Abdullah bin Abdulaziz Al-Saud launched his initiative to create King Abdullah Scholarship Program. The program has been designed as an important source of support which supplies Saudi universities as well as the public and private sectors in the kingdom with highly qualified Saudi citizens. The program plays an effective role in the development and preparation of human resources, so that its graduates would compete in the labor market and the various fields of scientific research. To achieve these aims, King Abdullah issued a royal decree on 17/4/1426H (25/5/2005) launching this five-year program. The program began by sending a group of male and female students to study in the United States of America. Its scope was then broadened to include a number of developed countries in diverse fields of study in order to meet the needs of the labor market in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. After the successful completion of the first five phases of the program in its objectives being fulfilled, the Ministry of Higher Education recommended its renewal for another five-year period, beginning in 1431H (2010). Based on this recommendation, King Abdullah made the renewal decision on 4/3/1431H (18/2/2010), a decision which would enable more young Saudis to fulfill their ambitions and dreams, and at the same time supply the government and private sectors with highly qualified individuals.

The administration in charge of the program evaluates all its phases and continuously works on improving the performance of each phase qualitatively and quantitatively.

Study Levels and Academic Disciplines
King Abdullah Scholarship Program provides opportunities for Saudi citizens to pursue their undergraduate and graduate university education abroad in many academic disciplines demanded by most government and private sectors.

On the graduate level (Master’s degree and Ph.D.), the program allows students to study a diversity of fields, including:
- Medicine, dentistry, and the medical fellowship
- Pharmacy
- Nursing
- Medical sciences: radiology, medical laboratories, medical technology, and physical therapy
- Engineering: civil, architectural, electric, mechanical, industrial, chemical, environmental and communications engineering, as well as heavy equipment and machinery
- Computer: computer engineering, computer science, networks, etc.
- Pure sciences: mathematics, physics, chemistry, biology
- Other disciplines: law, accounting, finance, insurance and marketing

On the undergraduate (Bachelor’s degree) level, students are only allowed to study medicine and health sciences.

Countries of Scholarships
The countries to which students are sent to study in the program have been selected on the basis of the excellence of their academic programs and are subject to periodic review. Students accepted in the program are currently sent to the following countries:

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<tr>
<th>United States of America</th>
<th>Italy</th>
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<tr>
<td>Canada</td>
<td>Australia</td>
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<td>United Kingdom</td>
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Scholarship Nomination Requirements
The Ministry of Higher Education had laid down both generic and specific requirements for acceptance in King Abdullah Scholarship Program. These requirements are subject to periodic review before each phase in accordance with changing circumstances and directives.

The following are the generic and specific requirements for acceptance in the seventh phase of King Abdullah Scholarship Program for the year 1432H (2011):

**Generic Requirements**
1. The applicant must be a Saudi citizen
2. The applicant must not be a government employee
3. The applicant must study full-time and reside in the country designated
4. The applicant’s age must fulfill the specific age requirements for each level of study
5. Nomination shall be according to the requirements of the different provinces and governorates Kingdom-wide, the academic disciplines targeted by the program, and the countries designated
6. The applicant’s degree must be validated by the relevant agency prior to application to the program
7. A female applicant must have a legally acceptable male companion, who will be required to travel with her and remain with her until the completion of her scholarship study

**Specific Requirements for the Master’s Degree**
1. The grade point average of the applicant at the Master’s degree level must not be less than 2.75 out of 4.00 or 3.75 out of 5.00 or 80 out of 100
2. The applicant must not be more than 30 years old
3. If the applicant was awarded an academic degree outside the Kingdom, it must be validated by the relevant agency prior to application to the program
4. The applicant must not be more than 30 years old

**Specific Requirements for the Bachelor’s Degree**
1. The applicant must have an admission from a prestigious institution recommended by the Ministry of Higher Education for the medical fellowship.
2. If the applicant was awarded an academic degree outside the Kingdom, it must be validated by the relevant agency prior to application to the program

**Specific Requirements for the Medical Fellowship**
1. The applicant must have an admission from a prestigious institution recommended by the Ministry of Higher Education for the medical fellowship.
2. If the applicant was awarded an academic degree outside the Kingdom, it must be validated by the relevant agency prior to application to the program

**Countries of Scholarships**
- United States of America
- Italy
- Austria
- Canada
- Australia
- Czech Republic
- United Kingdom
- Germany
- Singapore
- Ireland
- The Netherlands
- South Korea
- France
- Poland
- Japan
- Spain
- New Zealand
- People’s Republic of China

**Generic Requirements**
1. The grade point average of the applicant at the Bachelor’s degree level must not be less than 2.75 out of 4.00 or 3.75 out of 5.00 or 80 out of 100
2. The applicant must not be more than 27 years old
3. If the applicant was awarded an academic degree outside the Kingdom, it must be validated by the relevant agency prior to application to the program

**Specific Requirements for the Bachelor’s Degree (Application is restricted to medical specialties)**
1. The applicant’s secondary school grade must not be less than 80% in science major or its equivalent
2. The applicant must pass Qiyas general aptitude test with a score of 80% or more
3. The applicant must pass Qiyas achievement test with a score of 80% or more
4. The applicant must have earned his/her secondary school degree during the last three years
5. If the applicant was awarded an academic degree outside the Kingdom, the degree must be validated by the relevant agency prior to application to the program
6. The applicant must not be more than 22 years old

**Specific Requirements for the Doctoral Degree**
1. The grade point average of the applicant at the Master’s degree level must be at least very good
2. The applicant must have earned his/her Master’s degree during the last five years

**Generic Requirements**
1. The grade point average of the applicant at the Ph.D. degree must be at least very good
2. The applicant must have earned his/her Doctoral degree during the last five years

**Specific Requirements for the Doctoral Degree**
1. The applicant must have an admission from a prestigious institution recommended by the Ministry of Higher Education for the medical fellowship
2. If the applicant was awarded an academic degree outside the Kingdom, it must be validated by the relevant agency prior to application to the program
3. The applicant must not be more than 30 years old

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- Singapore
- Ireland
- The Netherlands
- South Korea
- France
- Poland
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- Spain
- New Zealand
- People’s Republic of China

**Specific Requirements for the Doctoral Degree**
1. The applicant must have an admission from a prestigious institution recommended by the Ministry of Higher Education for the medical fellowship
2. If the applicant was awarded an academic degree outside the Kingdom, it must be validated by the relevant agency prior to application to the program
3. The applicant must not be more than 30 years old

**Countries of Scholarships**
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