



Attachment The University of Turku Rector's decision Dno. 381/002/2019

Changes to the Scholarship Programme of the University of Turku

Background

According to Section 10 of the Universities Act, universities must collect a tuition fee of at least €1,500 from students accepted to other than Finnish and Swedish basic degree studies. The collection duty applies to students who started their studies on 1 August 2017 or after and are not citizens of EU/EEA countries, comparable to them, or their family members. In this context, the universities are also required to launch a scholarship programme for these students.

The primary aim of the scholarship programme of the University of Turku is to support student recruitment and recruiting talented students to the University of Turku. The Board of the University of Turku decided on the Scholarship Programme on 15 September 2016:

The University of Turku decides to launch a scholarship programme aimed at students subject to tuition fees with three categories:

- *A scholarship that covers the tuition fee for two academic years: In order to receive the scholarship for the second year, the student must complete the 45 credits included in the minimum degree during the first three study periods (or other equivalent time).*
- *A scholarship that covers 50 per cent of the tuition fee for two academic years: In order to receive the scholarship for the second year, the student must complete the 45 credits included in the minimum degree during the first three study periods (or other equivalent time).*
- *An incentive scholarship for the second academic year: This scholarship can be granted to particularly gifted students based on their first year's study success.*

Scholarships are granted to max. 30 per cent of the accepted students subject to tuition fees.

A joint scholarship committee for the international Master's degree programmes of the University is appointed and its task is to prepare a proposal of the scholarship recipients for the Vice Rector's decision.

The scholarships are paid from the tuition fee project to which the income from the tuition fees is collected to the extent of which the income is directed to the scholarship programme.

The details of the scholarship programme are decided by the Rector.

The primary aim of the scholarship programme of the University of Turku is to support student recruitment and recruiting talented students to the University of Turku. The University Board of the University of Turku approved the Scholarship Programme on 15 September 2016.



Granting scholarships

According to the current scholarship programme, scholarships are granted to max. 30 per cent of the students accepted to the University who are subject to tuition fees. In practice, scholarships have been previously granted programme specifically to 30 per cent of the elected students, so that applicants to different programmes have not been compared. It improves planning and makes it clearer for applicants that the practice is standardised and scholarships are granted programme specifically to 30 per cent of the accepted students subject to tuition fees. It is also agreed that the number of previously granted scholarships will be made visible to applicants, for example on the University's website, making it even easier for applicants to predict their possibilities.

Students studying in joint degree programmes, who are not applying directly to the University of Turku, should be taken into account equally when granting the scholarships. For incentive scholarships, this will be realised so that these students could apply for a scholarship for the second year based on their first year study success. In joint degree programmes, students can receive a scholarship for the second year based on predetermined criteria if the tuition fee is over €3,000 or if there are no other decisions on scholarships in the degree agreements. Scholarships are not meant for students who already receive a grant covering the tuition fee or whose tuition fee is less than €3,000.

In international degree programmes leading to a Bachelor's degree, a scholarship is needed for three years, which is why the number of earned credits is checked twice. In addition, students can apply for an incentive scholarship based on their first and second year study success. In these cases, a student can also receive a scholarship only for their last year, which is when their number of earned credits will be checked for the two previous years.

In case a student has been selected to a degree programme where they first complete a Bachelor's and then a Master's degree, the scholarship is granted for the Bachelor's degree first and the student applies for a scholarship for the Master's degree in the spring of their third year. In these cases, the scholarship is granted for the Master's degree if the student's studies have progressed and they are graduating in target time. For Master's degrees, the required progress of studies entitling to a scholarship is the same as for other scholarships granted to corresponding degrees.

In case a student cannot begin their studies during the first year due to a statutory reason, they can postpone their scholarship to the next year. Also other reasons, mainly related to the residence permit, will be considered and the scholarship can be postponed by a year on the student's notice. However, the scholarship can only be postponed once due to other than statutory reasons.

Follow-up of study progress and incentive scholarship

When considering continuing a scholarship or an incentive scholarship, the required amount of credits is 45 by the end of the third study period (or other equivalent time) or 55 credits by the end of June. For incentive scholarships, the average study grade limit is 3.0. Previously, incentive scholarships have been granted so that the student's study success has been compared with other students in the same degree programme, and if the student has been in the top third, they have been granted the scholarship. Predetermined average grade limit is more easily predictable than in the previous practice, making it easier for the student to



assess their possibilities to receive the scholarship. A clear average grade limit is more encouraging as it is based on the student's own study success instead of that of their peers. The average grade limit is not absolute, meaning that a student who almost reaches the limit can receive a scholarship according to discretion. In these cases, a statement and recommendation from the programme is required.

Graduation and delay in studies

It is in the best interest of both the University and the student that a student who started their studies also completes them. Therefore, it is purposeful for both parties to ensure that successfully started studies are not left unfinished due to e.g. illness or reasons related to the commissioner of a thesis. If studies are delayed due to reasons not dependent on the student, the student can receive a discretionary additional grant in order to finish their studies. The student must submit a statement from the programme and other possible documents explaining the delay as attachments to the application.

At the moment, students are granted a scholarship for two or three study years with the requirement that the student graduates by 31 July in order to avoid the tuition fee of the following academic year. From 1 January 2020 onwards, all studies (including thesis) must be completed by July 31 (or by 31 December for students who began their studies in the spring semester), but e.g. the evaluation of a thesis and the administrative work related to graduation can be completed during the next semester. In these cases, a student subject to tuition fees registers for the next semester and receives a scholarship for it. Joint instructions are drafted for the faculties so that all students subject to tuition fees are treated equally and have the same amount of active study time.