



GƏNCLƏR VƏ
İDMAN NAZİRLİYİ



MERGEN

SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

for the Master's degree studies at the Azerbaijan State Academy of Physical Education and Sport for citizens of the member-states (Türkiye, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan) and observer states (Hungary, Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus, Turkmenistan) of the Organization of Turkic States

General information

The Azerbaijan State Academy of Physical Education and Sport (Academy) announces the "Mergen" scholarship program as a contribution to cooperation in the field of education among Turkic-speaking countries. Named after Mergen, the diety/god of wisdom in ancient Turkic mythology the scholarship program is founded on the principle articulated by Ismail Gasprinsky, "Unity in language, thoughts, deeds," with the overarching goal of fostering a shared sense of identity among citizens across Turkic-speaking countries through education. It is to be implemented accordance with the provisions on science, education, sports, and youth policy outlined in the third section of the strategic document "Turkic World Vision - 2040", approved by the Heads of State at the 8th Summit of the Organization of Turkic States held on 12 November 2021.

The scholarship program extends over a three-year period, encompassing the academic years 2024/2025, 2025/2026, and 2026/2027. The scholarship duration is contingent upon the length of all master's programs offered in both Azerbaijani and English at the Academy, as specified in Appendix 3. A maximum of 15 individuals from the following member-states and observer states of the Organization of Turkic States are eligible to participate in the scholarship program, with no more than 5 (five) participants per academic year:

- Republic of Türkiye
- Republic of Kazakhstan
- Kyrgyz Republic
- Republic of Uzbekistan
- Republic of Turkmenistan
- Republic of Hungary
- Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus (TRNC)

Applications are received annually from February until the end of July. The competition takes place in the two months following the closure of application submissions, with results being promptly announced thereafter.

Scholarship eligibility and criteria

1. Candidates who meet the following criteria can apply for the scholarship:
2. Applicants must be citizens of the eligible states (specified above) and hold a completed Bachelor's degree.
3. Candidates applying for Master's programs should demonstrate a minimum GPA (2,50) of 75 (on a 100-point scale) for their previous education.
4. For admission to the Master's program in Sports Medicine and Rehabilitation, completion of the residency phase, in addition to a bachelor's degree in medicine, is required.
5. English proficiency requirements for candidates applying to English-taught master's programs are as follows:
 - a. (IELTS 6.5, TOEFL 79, Duolingo 105) for the Sports Medicine and Rehabilitation program.
 - b. (IELTS 6.0 or TOEFL 60, Duolingo 95) for the programs in Sports Management and Sports Journalism.
6. Candidates applying to Master's programs in Azerbaijani language will undergo a language proficiency examination conducted by the Scholarship Commission of the Academy to determine their linguistic capabilities.
7. Distinction in education with notable achievements, coupled with active involvement in the social and cultural aspects of the higher educational institution, will be considered.
8. The motivation letter should articulate clear and well-defined goals.
9. In cases where multiple candidates exhibit identical performance according to the selection criteria, the Scholarship Commission reserves the right to apply additional selection criteria for further evaluation.

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Required documents

1. Certificate (nostrification) on the recognition of the educational document(s) duly legalized (or apostilled), detailing the subjects completed at the prior education level and along with the corresponding grades.
2. A diploma must be submitted for residency in sports medicine and rehabilitation specialty.
3. Language certificate for applicants to English-language programs (IELTS, TOEFL, Duolingo, etc.).

Note: Candidates who have completed their bachelor's degree in English are exempt from this requirement.

4. Letter of recommendation (in English, stamped, signed and recently dated);
5. Motivation letter (min.300 - max.600 words)
6. Biography (CV).
7. A short summary outlining your goals and expectations regarding the program you will apply ("Microsoft Word (doc.)" format, in English). No restrictions have been set regarding the choice of topic.
8. Copies of awards, certificates, diplomas and other similar documents (if any).
9. A copy of the applicant's passport (passport with a validity period of at least 6 months).
10. Candidates under the age of 30, who have completed their bachelor's degree within the last 3 years, are eligible to apply for the scholarship.

Application guidelines

1. Prospective applicants are required to submit their applications through the electronic application system of the Ministry of Science and Education of the Republic of Azerbaijan: <https://portal.edu.az/>

Note: Candidates who successfully complete the electronic registration process and fulfill the general requirements outlined in this announcement, as well as the specific

criteria of the higher education institutions they apply to, will be invited to participate in an individual online interview.

2. The timeline for organizing the competition is regulated according to the table in the appendix. (Appendix 1).
3. Detailed information, including the exact time of the interview and the link will be communicated to the candidates via e-mail.
4. Applicants who are more than 15 minutes late for the online interview will not be admitted to the interview.
5. The interview with each candidate lasts for 10-15 minutes, the interview is audio-video recorded.
6. During the online interview stage, the applicant's general knowledge and motivation to win a scholarship are evaluated by the Scholarship Commission.
7. An exam is organized by the Scholarship Commission to assess the language skills of candidates applying for Master's programs in the Azerbaijani language. Successful candidates proceed to the next stage. (This requirement does not apply to Master's programs taught in English).
8. After the selection of suitable candidates, the scholarship offers will be sent to the candidates by e-mail.
9. Candidates who have not received the right to receive a scholarship, but who meet the admission criteria, are offered to enroll at the Academy on a self-funded basis.
10. If the candidate declines the scholarship offer, the next candidates on the list will be evaluated.
11. There is no provision for filing an appeal regarding the selection results.
12. The candidate who has received the right to receive a scholarship should confirm the acceptance of the offer by e-mail; after submitting a copy of the Bachelor's diploma certified by apostille, the candidate's admission order to the Academy is issued.

Funding details

1. The scholarship program is financially supported by the internal resources of the Academy.
2. The scholarship covers the initial year of study, and the determination of subsequent year scholarships is based on the final results of the preceding academic year.
3. Scholarship disbursements are made during the fall and spring semesters of the respective academic year, with the summer semester not being considered.
4. The scholarship encompasses the following expenses:
 - Tuition fee
 - Migration (permit for temporary residence) costs (once)
 - Medical insurance (annually)
 - Monthly living expenses
5. The awarded scholarship may be terminated in the following instances:
 - When the student incurs academic debts for the academic year.
 - When the student seriously violates the disciplinary rules of the Academy.

Detailed information regarding the expenses covered by the Scholarship Program is provided in Appendix 2.

Contact information

The coordination of the scholarship program is carried out by the International Relations Department of ASAPES.

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Apendix 3

List of programs

The list of specialties and specializations at the master's degree studies of Azerbaijan State Academy of Physical Education and Sports:

1. Physical education and sports:

- a) Specialization of theory and methodology of physical education (taught in Azerbaijani)
- b) Specialization of theory and methodology of sports training (taught in Azerbaijani)
- c) Biomedical provision in physical education and sports (taught in Azerbaijani)
- d) Sports medicine and rehabilitation specialization (taught in English)

2. Journalism:

- a) Specialization in sports journalism (taught in English)

3. Management (by fields):

- a) Sport management specialization (taught in English; double degree program with Coventry University, UK)