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مبادرة دعم تعلّم الفنون
AJYAL: An Initiative to
Support Art Education

First Edition

AJYAL: An Initiative to Support Arts Education First Edition General Questions

THIS PROJECT IS IMPLEMENTED UNDER THE GRANT SCHEME OF HOPES



HIGHER AND FURTHER EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES & PERSPECTIVES FOR SYRIANS

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Applying for Ajyal Scholarship

- **How do I apply for the Ajyal Scholarship?**

Applicants must fill out a form, which is available at www.ettijahat.org, and send it with the required attachments by email to ajyal@ettijahat.org.

- **When is the deadline for receiving applications?**

Applications will be received until 23:59 Beirut local time (GMT+2) on 31 January 2019. No applications submitted after this date and time will be considered.

- **How many applicants will be selected?**

8 scholarships will be awarded in the 2018/19 edition. A further three people will be selected as reserves and listed in order of preference.

- **Will I receive confirmation that my application has been submitted?**

Yes, your submission will be confirmed by an email notification. If you do not receive a confirmation email, please verify that the email address is correct or resubmit the application.

- **What does the Ajyal Scholarship cover?**

Ajyal Scholarships cover tuition fees, registration fees and other expenses which students incur as part of their programmes of study, including the purchase of learning materials. Scholarships also cover the expenses of travelling to study abroad, including transportation costs.

- **I do not have a Baccalaureate Certificate or evidence of my Equivalence Certificate from the Ministry of Education/Higher Education in my current country of residence. Can I apply for the scholarship without providing evidence that I have obtained this or an equivalent qualification?**

Yes, you can apply for the scholarship without providing your Baccalaureate Certificate or Equivalence Certificate. However, in the event that your application is successful, you will have to complete this procedure within one month of the recipients' names being announced.

Eligibility

- **Who is eligible to apply?**

- Syrians and Syrian-Palestinians aged 18-26 years old who reside in Syria or its neighbouring countries and wish to pursue undergraduate studies or study at intermediate-level arts institutes in Syria
- Syrians and Syrian-Palestinians under the age of 35 years old who reside in Europe or countries neighbouring Syria and wish to study for a master's degree. Applicants must have already obtained a bachelor's degree from a recognised and formidable university

- Syrians and Syrian-Palestinians under the age of 35 years old who reside in Europe or countries neighbouring Syria and wish to participate in educational activities hosted by universities over a period of no less than one month
- Applicants who reside outside Syria must have a valid residence permit for their current country of residence

- **I am already a beneficiary of one of the other programmes offered by Ettijahat – Independent Culture; can I apply to Ajyal?**

Ettijahat – Independent Culture is working to broaden the scope of its beneficiaries. However, it is possible for beneficiaries of other programmes to apply to Ajyal provided that they have completed their work under the other programmes before they commence their activities under Ajyal. Ettijahat will not support two projects being carried out by the same beneficiary simultaneously.

Application

- **Can the application be submitted in a language other than Arabic?**

No, the application must be completed in Arabic only. Similarly, the curriculum vitae, motivation letter and educational certificates must all be in Arabic. Any remaining or extra files may be attached in any language.

- **Can the same applicant submit more than one application?**

No, the Selection Committee will only examine one application per applicant.

- **What should I include in the motivation letter?**

Your motivation letter should be clear and concise. A good motivation letter will intrigue the Selection Committee and prompt them to choose you personally. Your motivation letter should highlight your reasons for pursuing your studies and demonstrate your seriousness. Your motivation letter should not exceed one page and it should address the following questions and points:

- Why are you applying for an Ajyal Scholarship?
- How are your strengths reflected in the Ajyal programme?
- Why should the Selection Committee consider your application for an award?
- Why have you decided to pursue your studies? What value will your studies add in this context?
- Avoid repeating the same information already stated in your resume.

- **How are applications selected?**

All applications which meet the stated requirements are considered. The application consists of a form, which is completed electronically, and a number of other file attachments. A Selection Committee will be formed to examine the applications. The committee will consist of a number of experts and academics.

- **What are the criteria for selection?**

The Selection Committee will choose programme participants on the basis of the following criteria:

- Motivation: the applicant must show a strong link between their background and their chosen field of specialisation and be motivated to enhance the contribution of the arts in the building of Syrian society
- Academic and personal achievement
- Financial need
- Commitment and a strong interest in continuing in your chosen field of artistic work
- You are currently enrolled in a programme at an intermediate-level or higher arts institute or you are undertaking a bachelor's or master's programme at a recognised university
- If you have not completed registration or you have not yet been granted admission at the time of your application, you may be awarded a scholarship on a conditional basis pending your registration/admission

- **What types of applications are not supported by Ajyal?**

- Special training workshops held by artistic institutions
- Short-term training workshops
- PhD funding
- High school funding

- **Does the Ajyal Scholarship programme provide doctoral funding?**

No, unfortunately the Ajyal Scholarship does not provide PhD funding.

Results

- **How will the results be announced?**

Only selected participants will be notified of their admission to the programme. The results will be published on [Ettijahat's official website](#) and [Ettijahat's Facebook page](#).

- **When will the results be announced?**

The selected applicants will be informed three to four weeks after the deadline for receiving applications.

- **What if I change my field of specialisation after I am awarded a scholarship?**

Unfortunately, you cannot change your field of specialisation after you have been awarded a scholarship. Scholarships are awarded on the basis of applicants' profiles at the time of submission, including their intended educational programmes.

- **Will the Ajyal Scholarship cover tuition fees for all years of university in the event of admission to and undergraduate programme?**

The Ajyal Scholarship will cover tuition fees for the academic year 2018-2019 only. However, funding for tuition fees in undergraduate courses may be renewable for additional years of study if a) Ettijahat has sufficient funds and b) the student completes the previous year of study with a grade of 60% or higher.

- **Under what circumstances can my scholarship be terminated?**

- The scholarship will terminate with the end of the contract between the student and Ettijahat – Independent Culture. Contracts usually last for one year.
- The scholarship may be terminated on the basis of low educational achievement in final examinations or submissions (whereby the student achieves a grade lower than 60%).
- The scholarship may be terminated in the event that the student violates of the rules and regulations of the higher education institutions in which they are studying.
- The scholarship may be terminated in the event that the student is repeatedly absent from classes without clear justification.

- **What is the Equivalence Certificate? How can I obtain it?**

The Equivalence Certificate is a document which confirms the state's recognition of the high school degree you obtained in Syria and endorses your degree in accordance with the attainment system used by your host country. The certificate can be obtained through the Ministry of Education or the Ministry of Higher Education. If you are interested in applying for the Ajyal Scholarship programme, we advise you to contact the Ministry of Education or the Ministry of Higher Education to learn more about the procedure of attaining a certificate.

- **Is proficiency in English or French a condition of acceptance to the scholarship?**

This depends on whether the programme of study will be taught in Arabic or English. Ettijahat – Independent Culture is interested in giving priority to educational programmes offered in Arabic. Proficiency in English or French may be a prerequisite for applications in which programmes are taught in those languages.

- **What if I have a question which has not been answered above or have had problems submitting my application?**

Please get in touch with Ettijahat – Independent Culture by email at ajyal@ettijahat.org.