6th March 2020: Deadline to apply for EDF - Oracle e-Accessibility Scholarship for Students with Disabilities

The Scholarship

- Will be awarded to a student with a disability.
- The recipient of the European Disability Forum - Oracle e-Accessibility Scholarship will receive a 6,500 € scholarship.
- The student should be currently enrolled in a high education programme in the area of Computer Science, Computer Engineering, User Experience, or related field. This includes Bachelors, Masters and PhD students.
- The Scholarship will be awarded primarily based on a project or thesis in which the needs of persons with disabilities in terms of accessibility to ICT (e-Accessibility) are taken into consideration, and/or an innovative solution to enhance their access is proposed.
- The project must be an integral component of the educational programme undertaken by the student, e.g. final year assignment, or part of their Masters or Ph.D. The project may already be underway, or be a proposal.
- The project/thesis will be judged according to the following criteria;
  - the student’s academic level;
  - the originality of the project;
  - scientific quality and respect to the state of the art;
  - how it considers the diverse needs of persons with disabilities;
  - its innovativeness and the contribution the project makes to advancing e-accessibility for persons with disabilities;
  - preference will be given to students studying for the whole of 2020.
- The recipient will be invited to attend an award ceremony. Reasonable travel and hotel costs will be covered by EDF.

Who can apply?

To be eligible to apply, applicants must:
- Be a European Union (EU) citizen and resident within the EU at the time of the deadline for applications.
- Be enrolled at a university in the EU for the 2019-2020 academic year, including online universities based in the EU. This includes universities in an EU member state at the time of the deadline for applications.
- Be studying in the field of Computer Science, Computer Engineering, User Experience, or related field.
- Maintain a strong academic record.
- Have a disability, (see FAQs for definition of disability)
- Have not benefited from the scholarship in the past.

Application Process
Applicants will be asked to submit via online form and in accessible formats:

- General background information (i.e. contact information and details about your current university for the 2019-2020 school year)
- Proof of disability.
- Executive summary of their project proposal in English from 2 to 5 pages
- Resume/CV.
- Academic transcripts reached so far from your current and prior institutions (if you have earned a prior degree).
- Recommendation and feedback letter from an academic supervisor.

Applications must be submitted before 6th March 2020 (23:59 CET), using this online form: https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/GWPFVCG.

Timeframe

- Application deadline: 6 March 2020 (23:59 CET)
- Jury decision: March 2020
- Successful applicant notified by 1 April 2020
- Award ceremony: May 2020 (exact date and location TBC)

Frequently Asked Questions

Eligibility:

1. **What characterizes a disability?** For the purpose of this scholarship, a person with a disability as recognised by the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities may include those “who have long-term physical, mental, intellectual or sensory impairments which in interaction with various barriers may hinder their full and effective participation in society on an equal basis with others". Applicants must also provide official proof by the University or the appropriate public agency.

2. **Can international students apply?** The scholarship is only open to students with EU citizenship and who are residing in the EU at the time of the deadline for applications.

3. **A bachelors or a masters' degree does not exist in my country. Can I apply?** Yes, similar educational schemes are also eligible.

4. **I do not have a Computer Science or Computer Engineering major. Can I apply?** No. This scholarship is focused on persons with disabilities intending to become an ICT professional.

5. **Does this scholarship allow for distance/online study?** Yes, as long as the online university is based in the EU and you are resident in the EU.

6. **What about UK citizens?** In the event that the UK leaves the EU prior to the deadline for applications, UK citizens will not be eligible, nor will EU citizens studying at UK universities.

7. **Are former scholarship holders eligible?** To ensure that the scholarship benefits as many recipients as possible, previous winners are unfortunately not eligible. Previous applicants that did not win are encouraged to re-apply.
Application process:

8. How do I apply? Through the dedicated online form: https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/GWPFVCG.
9. Can I send my application packet by regular mail or email? No.
10. Which format should I use to submit my documents in? Accessible .rtf, .doc or PDF files.
11. How will I know if my application has been received? You will receive a confirmation email.

Transcripts & CV:

12. Do I need to submit an official copy of transcripts? Yes. The official transcript should include an account of your grades and an explanation of the grading scale at your university. Please submit the most updated transcripts you have.
13. How can I provide an English translation of my transcripts when my university does not issue English transcripts? Send the non-English transcripts as well as your English translation of your transcripts. Please have your translation confirmed by your supervisor.
14. As a PhD student I do not have transcripts. What should I do? A reference letter from your PhD supervisor shall be provided, as well as your previous academic records.

Executive Summary:

15. How should it be? From 2 pages to 5 pages (max. 3,000 words) in English and in accessible format.

Terms and conditions

Eligibility:

1.1 Applicants must be university students studying Computer Science, Computer Engineering, User Experience, or related field at a University in the EU, with a recognized disability.
1.2 Applicants must be enrolled as full time or part time students for the 2019-2020 academic year.
1.3. The scholarship is not open to staff of Oracle or staff of the European Disability Forum (be they employees or contractors) or their immediate family members.

Application period:

2.1 The application process will open on 6th January 2020 and will close on 6th March 2020.
Selection process:

3.1 Each application will be evaluated and scored based on the following criteria, taking into account the level of study as well as the student’s academics record; (i) the originality of the project; (ii) scientific quality and respect to the state of the art; (iii) how it takes into account the diverse needs of persons with disabilities; and (iv) its innovativeness and the contribution the project makes to advancing e-accessibility for persons with disabilities.

3.2 Upon meeting the criteria listed in 3.1, the panel of expert judges will review each application and the best application (as assessed by the panel of judges in their sole discretion against the criteria) will be successful.

3.3 The notification of the successful applicant will take place by no later than 1st April 2020 by the email address provided at the time of application. Notification is subject to verification of eligibility and compliance with the terms and conditions set forth herein.

3.4 Acceptance of scholarship by the successful applicant. The successful applicant will be required to accept the scholarship terms within 30 days of notification by EDF. If the successful applicant fails to accept within 30 days, the scholarship payment will be forfeited and EDF may, in its sole discretion, select an alternative successful applicant.

3.5 No other correspondence will be entered into.

3.6 It is the recipient’s responsibility to determine any tax liability of any scholarship awarded.

Privacy:

4.1 The successful applicant agrees that EDF and Oracle may, from time to time, use their name and/or refer to their university in promotional materials relating to future scholarship programmes.

Prize:

5.1 The best application, as assessed in accordance with the criteria above shall be selected to receive the scholarship payment of €6,500 (issued in the form of bank transfer) to be spent on tuition, fees, books, supplies and equipment required for the applicants' further education.

5.1 The successful applicant will be invited to attend an award ceremony where reasonable travel and hotel costs will be covered.

Contact:

For any query about this scholarship, please contact: Mher Hakobyan, EDF Accessibility Officer (mher.hakobyan@edf-feph.org).