UNESCO-TWAS – COMSTECH Science in Exile PhD Fellowships Programme for displaced and refugee scientists.

APPLICATION GUIDELINES

PROGRAMME DETAILS

Conflicts, violence, human rights violations and climate change displace untold numbers of people from their homes and countries. Among them are scientists, doctors, engineers and others with technical training. The **Science in Exile initiative** aims to support displaced and refugee scientists to stay up-to-date in their field, maintain meaningful careers, and be in a position to help rebuild their countries, once conditions allow. Until then, these professionals can be valuable assets for the countries in which they arrive.

The World Academy of Sciences for the advancement of science in developing countries (UNESCO-TWAS) is partnering with the **Ministerial Standing Committee on Scientific and Technological Cooperation of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (COMSTECH)** for the **UNESCO-TWAS – COMSTECH Science in Exile Fellowship Programme for displaced and refugee scholars and scientists.** COMSTECH brings its unique experience and scientific infrastructure in Pakistan to implement this ambitious fellowships programme to the most vulnerable scholars.

The Programme aims to provide **displaced and refugee scholars and scientists** who have not yet found a safe and long-term host country to pursue **doctoral studies in Pakistan**, at institutions members of the **COMSTECH Consortium of Excellence** (CCoE), starting in 2022.

Applicants should be **displaced or refugee scholars and scientists**:

- **currently living in Pakistan and holding the right to live and study in the country.**

OR

- **able to travel to Pakistan**. Please note that the Programme is not suitable for scholars at risk who need specific assistance to leave their home country. Awardees are responsible for arranging the logistics and safety of their own relocation. Please note there is only a very small number of competitive travel bursaries available.

Fellowships will be **full-time** and tenable **in Pakistan** at one of the academic and science, technology and engineering research institutions members of the **COMSTECH Consortium of Excellence (CCoE).**

The fellowships cover the following fields of study:
- Agricultural Sciences
- Structural, Cell and Molecular Biology
- Biological Systems and Organisms
- Medical and Health Sciences incl. Neurosciences
- Chemical Sciences
- Engineering Sciences
- Astronomy, Space and Earth Sciences
- Mathematical Sciences
- Physics
- Computing and Information Technology

The Programme will award up to 10 PhD positions.

Please note that:
- Applicants may apply for only one of the two types of the UNESCO-TWAS – COMSTECH Science in Exile Fellowships Programme. To learn about the Postdoctoral fellowships, please visit: https://twas.org/opportunity/twas-comstech-postdoctoral-fellowship-programme-displaced-and-refugee-scientists
- Applicants may only submit one application at a time and for only one kind of grant. Applicants cannot apply for other TWAS programmes i.e. Postdoctoral, Visiting Scholar and Visiting Researcher programme within the same year.

<u>**Timeline of the fellowship Programme:**</u>
- **Deadline for receipt of applications: 28 January 2022, 11.59 p.m., Rome time – EXTENDED TO 4 FEBRUARY 2022, 11.59 p.m., Rome time**
- Communication of selection results: March 2022.
- Indicative start of the fellowship: May/June 2022.

DATA SECURITY FOR AT-RISK SCHOLARS:
Please note that this opportunity is not suitable for scholars who wish to keep their identity private (i.e., scholars who are currently at risk). Please note that the information and data provided by applications will be used by UNESCO-TWAS and COMSTECH to process your application (eligibility, evaluation), report to the donor, and for programme statistics. Some information you provide may also be shared with external reviewers for evaluation purposes under suitable confidentiality agreements.

FELLOWSHIPS DETAILS

Fellowships will be tenable for a **duration between 6 and 12 months**. The fellowships are to be considered a 'starter' as they do not cover the entire duration of many fellowships. As such, candidates are invited to apply for their own funding after the fellowships is finished.

The fellowship will provide:
- Monthly allowance based on the cost of living in Pakistan, to cover expenses such as accommodation, food and health insurance. The monthly stipend will not be convertible into foreign currency.
- Some travel costs to and from the current location of applicants *may* be eligible but will be allocated on a need by basis (see below).
- The fellowships programme is not suitable for scholars at risk who need specific assistance to leave their home country as such assistance is not provided. Awardees are responsible for arranging the logistics and safety of their own relocation where necessary.

The Host Institution will provide information and logistical support for all living arrangements (e.g., accommodation, transportation and any other issues related to the candidate's stay in the host country). UNESCO-TWAS and COMSTECH are not able to answer such queries.

COMSTECH may facilitate visa and other necessary clearance as per Pakistan government policies, if required.

All specific obligations, regulations, stipend, etc. will be thoroughly explained to successful candidates in the award letter/contract.

What the fellowships provide:

1. A monthly stipend to awardees of 350 USD per award, all inclusive. Limited discounted or free on-site accommodation may be available at student hostels at some of the host institutes.
2. A very limited number of Travel Bursaries of 1,000 USD each will be available.
3. A very limited number of Disability Allowance Bursaries of 1,000 USD each will be available.

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

Applicants should be **displaced or refugee scholars either currently living in Pakistan, have the right to live and study in the country or able to travel to Pakistan autonomously**.

Please note that the programme is not suitable for scholars at risk who need specific assistance to leave their home country. Awardees are responsible for arranging the logistics and safety of their own relocation.

N.B. Applicants who hold citizenship or permanent residency in Pakistan or in safe third countries are not eligible to apply.

To demonstrate their status, applicants should:
- Provide a copy of one or more of the following documents:
  - Passport
  - National identity card
  - Birth certificate
  - For applicants already in Pakistan, if available, evidence of current residence status, e.g. Pakistan National Alien Registration Authority (NARA) Card
  - Registration with the national authorities showing international protection status (refugee or asylum seeker).
  - UNHCR refugee identification document.
  - Other documentation that attests the applicant is holding or seeking international protection (e.g. UNHCR card/letter, email correspondence with NGOs, local government body, etc.).
- Complete the relevant question/section in the online application form.

Applicants must hold a Master's Degree as well as a Bachelors in the field of natural sciences, applied sciences, engineering and technology, health sciences, software engineering and computer.

Applicants should demonstrate proficiency in English.

Applicants must commit to:
- remain in Pakistan for the whole duration of the fellowship.
- not take up other assignments during the period of their fellowship.

The following applications will be deemed ineligible:
- Applications submitted after the deadline.
- Applications for part-time fellowships.
- Applications from applicants who hold citizenship or permanent residency in Pakistan.
- Incomplete online application forms and/or with no requested documents provided (see below).

TWAS/COMSTECH shall be entitled to a repayment of all or part of any funds paid to an applicant hereunder, in the event that the applicant intentionally or negligently fails to fulfil any or all of the present conditions. The applicant agrees to pay any reasonable legal and/or collection costs incurred by TWAS/COMSTECH to obtain the repayment.

SELECTION CRITERIA

The selection of the applications will be carried out according to priority criteria listed below.

Priority will be given to applicants who:
- demonstrate scientific excellence and high academic merit.
- demonstrate high humanitarian need.
- have experienced gender-based discrimination.
- demonstrate interest in rebuilding the scientific infrastructure of their home countries.
- are nationals of Afghanistan, Syria or Yemen.

Women scholars/scientists are particularly encouraged to apply.

DEADLINE FOR RECEIPT OF APPLICATIONS

The deadline for receipt of applications is **28 January 2022, 11.59 p.m., Rome time - EXTENDED TO 4 FEBRUARY 2022, 11.59 p.m., Rome time**

N.B. Please note that the deadlines for submitting queries on the Programme is 21 January 2022, 11.59 p.m., Rome time. Queries should be sent to both following email addresses: displacedscientists@twas.org and events@comstech.org (please keep both addresses in your correspondence).
Kindly note that UNESCO-TWAS offices are closed from 24 December 2021 to 7 January 2022, so there will be a delay in answers during that time.

Applicants are strongly suggested to **submit their application and ALL required documentation well before the deadline** in order to be able to provide any additional information/material required by the deadline. It is your responsibility to ensure that you send all required documentation.
No documents will be accepted after the deadline. Incomplete applications will not be eligible.

STEP BY STEP GUIDELINES ON HOW TO APPLY

In order to apply for a UNESCO-TWAS – COMSTECH Science in Exile PhD Fellowships Programme for displaced and refugee scholars and scientists, applicants must follow the following steps:

1. READ THE APPLICATION GUIDELINES AND CHECK ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA:

Applicants should verify that they are eligible and meet ALL the eligibility criteria specified in the section "Eligibility Criteria".

2. SUBMIT THE ONLINE APPLICATION FORM:

Applicants should complete in English and submit the online application form for PhD fellowships: **https://forms.office.com/r/QME5sXFhTh**

Please remember to will download and save your PDF application on your computer for future records.

3. SEND ALL REQUIRED DOCUMENTS BY EMAIL TO BOTH displacedscientists@twas.org and events@comstech.org

Applicants should send ALL required documents before the deadline to both displacedscientists@twas.org and events@comstech.org with subject line:

"Application UNESCO-TWAS – COMSTECH Science in Exile Fellowships_PhD"

N.B. Applications with no supporting documents will be deemed ineligible.
N.B. No documents will be accepted after the deadline. Incomplete applications will not be eligible.

Required documents:
- A copy of identification document(s). For a list of acceptable identification documents, please see above. If you do not possess any copy of an identification document, please explain why under the relevant question of the online application form.
- Description of the proposed PhD research plan – N.B. please use Annex 1 to the Application Guidelines.
- Curriculum Vitae (with list of publications, if applicable).
- University degree certificates and relevant university transcripts of advanced courses for all academic degrees, plus equivalency certificate, if required.
- If applying for a Disability Allowance Bursary: supporting documentation for you and/or your dependants.
- Optional: Certificate of proficiency in English if language of instruction was not English, plus letter from parent institution about language of education.

Please only submit the material requested as any other material not listed is not required (e.g. secondary education certificates, certificates of participation in conferences or training courses, papers, etc.).

Please note that the official acknowledgment of receipt of your application will be sent only after the receipt of the documents via email. Please note this will be only an acknowledgement of receipt and not a confirmation of the eligibility/quality of the documents provided.

DOCUMENTS TO BE SUBMITTED LATER ONLY IF YOU ARE AWARDED THE FELLOWSHIP:
- Certificate of good health from a qualified medical doctor. If you are applying for the Disability Bursary, you must provide suitable medical documentation.
- Identification document, if not provided at application stage (see above).
- Detailed/updated description of the proposed doctoral research plan, inclusive of a detailed budget with expenditure plan for the duration of the fellowship, and inclusive of any expenditure for bursaries if relevant.
- 2 Reference letters, on letter-headed paper and signed. The letters can be submitted either by the referee or by the applicant directly. There is no standard format for the letters, but each must include the following information on the referee: name, surname, address, telephone, email, relationship to candidate. N.B. Only signed reference letters can be accepted.
- Certificate of proficiency in English if language of instruction was not English, plus letter from parent institution about language of education.

CONTACT DETAILS
Email: displacedscientists@twas.org, events@comstech.org (please keep both email addresses in your correspondence)
Website: https://twas.org/opportunity/twas-comstech-phd-fellowship-programme-displaced-and-refugee-scientists
N.B. Please note that the deadlines for submitting queries on the Programme is 21 January 2022, 11.59 p.m., Rome time.
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About UNESCO-TWAS and COMSTECH

The World Academy of Sciences for the advancement of science in developing countries (UNESCO-TWAS) is an autonomous international organization founded in Trieste, Italy, in 1983. TWAS is a programme unit of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO). UNESCO-TWAS supports sustainable prosperity through research, education, policy and diplomacy. UNESCO-TWAS coordinates a wide range of programmes that focus on scientific capacity building largely through South-South cooperation. Today, UNESCO-TWAS has 1,296 elected fellows representing more than 100 countries; 11 of them are Nobel laureates. About 84 per cent come from developing nations.

The Ministerial Standing Committee on Scientific and Technological Cooperation of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (COMSTECH) was established by the Third Islamic Summit of OIC held in Saudi Arabia in 1981. The President of Pakistan is Chairman of COMSTECH. The core mandate of COMSTECH is to strengthen cooperation among OIC Member States in science and technology (S&T), enhance their capabilities through training in emerging areas, undertake follow-up-actions and implementation of the resolutions of the OIC, and to draw up programs and submit proposals designed to increase the capability of the Muslim countries in science and technology. The ultimate aim is to build and nourish a scientific culture in addition to using S&T as a major contributor to socio-economic development and rapid industrialization.