

Scholarship Programme

Report 2015

Introduction

In 2015 the Armenian Communities Department of the Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation continued with its scholarship programme, aiming to support the brightest young Armenians and to contribute to Armenian studies, trying to focus more on contemporary issues that are relevant to the development of Armenian cultural, academic and linguistic heritage globally. This document reports the results of the second year of the 2014-2018 scholarship programme, which covers the following eight scholarship categories:

- 1. Global Excellence Scholarship to Armenian Students*
- 2. Armenian Studies Scholarship*
 - 2.1 Short Term Grant for Armenian Studies*
- 3. Western Armenian Teacher Education Scholarship*
- 4. Short Term Conference and Travel Grants to Students in Armenia*
- 5. Undergraduate Studies Scholarship*
- 6. Support to Armenian Students in Portugal*
- 7. Emergency Scholarship*

Budget Implementation and Analysis

1. Global Excellence Scholarship to Armenian Students

Open during January and February, it is granted to exceptionally talented Armenian students pursuing their PhD in internationally recognized top-tier universities anywhere in the world. The subject area is open but humanities and social sciences are privileged; priority is given to innovative subjects of contemporary concern. Armenian studies is excluded as there is a separate category for this field.

In 2015 there were 49 applications submitted and six candidates selected studying in universities in Albany, Cambridge, Dijon, Los Angeles, Montpellier and Montreal. Study areas include Computer Science, Engineering, Food Science, Health and Psychology. The decision was made on the following criteria:

- ✓ Excellence of application (reference letters, grades, etc.)
- ✓ Originality and relevance of topic
- ✓ Gender, geographic and disciplinary balance
- ✓ Links with Armenian community
- ✓ While financial need is not part of the selection criteria, it was taken into account (including other sources of funding) in deciding the final sums. Finalists were interviewed by phone or skype.

The total amount spent on this scholarship category was € 101,306 and the amount of each scholarship ranged from € 7,000 to € 20,000 per year. Although the regulation provides a four year period, the six scholarships granted have a maximum period of three years. Four scholarships were renewed from last year.

The following table shows the total awards of the Global Excellence Scholarship in 2015:

GLOBAL EXCELLENCE SCHOLARSHIP	Expenditure (€)	Quantity
New scholarships	101,306	6
Renewals	72,000	4
TOTAL	173,306	10

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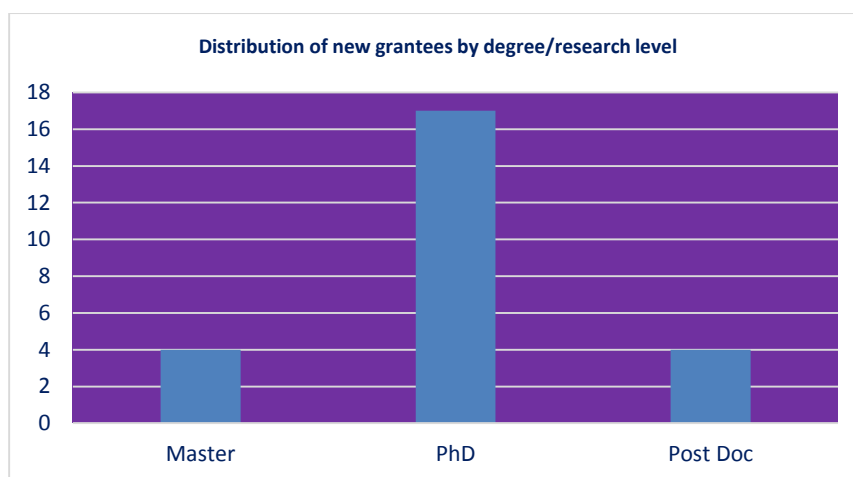
2. *Armenian Studies Scholarship*

This application process was open from 1 March until the 15 May. It aims to promote research in Armenian Studies by students/researchers of any nationality who pursue a Masters, PhD or Post Doc in recognized universities around the world. The disciplinary areas are open, but modern and contemporary periods, including current issues considered important to the survival and development of the Armenians, are privileged.

From a total of 114 applications in 2015, 13 scholarships were granted to students from Armenia, France, Italy, Lebanon, Turkey and USA (four for Masters, six for PhD and three for Post Doc).

Each scholarship's amount ranged from € 3,000 to € 22,000 per year. These scholarships are renewable for up to four years for the PhDs and two years for MAs and Post Doc but, as above, three years was the maximum granted in 2015. The selection was based on the same criteria as the Global Excellence Scholarship category, however being of Armenian origin is not a requirement.

11 scholarships for PhD and one for Post Doc were also renewed in 2015. The chart below shows the distribution, by research level, of the 13 new and 12 renewed awardees.



The following table shows the total amount spent for the Armenian Studies Scholarship in 2015:

ARMENIAN STUDIES SCHOLARSHIP	Expenditure (€)	Quantity
New scholarships	158,403	13
Renewals	225,520	12
TOTAL	383,923	25

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2.1. Short Term Grant for Armenian Studies

This category is open throughout the year to give the possibility to qualified students, academics and researchers in Armenian Studies (outside of Armenia) to participate in activities related to their field of studies, encouraging academic interaction and exchange of knowledge

and ideas. Applications are evaluated on a case by case basis, as are the amounts and the duration of the grants. Decisions are based on the relevance of the proposed event or research trip to the candidate's topic, his/her qualifications, the quality of his/her proposal, the international importance of the conference/seminar, and the letters of reference.

47 scholarships were granted during 2015, from the 95 applications. 18 grants were awarded to students and researchers to undertake research trip/field work, 13 grants allowed the participation in international conferences, one enabled the awardee to participate simultaneously in a conference and to pursue research, and 15 were assigned for participation in summer courses. Four of 47 the awardees did not use their grant. The total amount spent with this scholarship category was € 69,622.

SHORT TERM GRANTS FOR ARMENIAN STUDIES	Expenditure (€)	Quantity
grants	69,622	43

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3. Western Armenian Teacher Education Scholarship

The aim of this category of scholarship is to help prepare, or further train, educators teaching in Western Armenian anywhere in the world. Scholarships are given to (i) individuals who master Western Armenian language and wish to pursue a teaching career (at pre-university level) within Armenian schools (or teaching the Armenian language at other schools) and to (ii) individuals who already pursue a teaching career, or have their teaching degree, but wish to master Western Armenian language at a recognised university or language teaching centre. Three scholarships of varying sums are provided yearly for each category. For this application, open during March and April 2015, the Department received one application to which it awarded a scholarship.

WESTERM ARMENIAN TEACHER EDUCATION SCHOLARSHIP	Expenditure (€)	Quantity
New scholarships	4,000	1
TOTAL	4,000	1

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4. Short Term Conference and Travel Grants to Students in Armenia

The short term conference and travel grants to students and young academics in Armenia enables qualified students, early-career academics and researchers in Armenia to present their work at international conferences and workshops abroad, encouraging academic interaction and exchange of knowledge. While most travel grants are awarded to researchers in Armenia, a very limited number of travel grants to students and academics from abroad wishing to attend conferences and workshops in Armenia is also available. Applications are accepted at any time of the year and the selection is based on the contribution of the proposed conference to the candidate's research, on the importance of the conference, on the paper to be presented and the recommendation letters. In 2015, 88 scholarships were awarded for participation in conferences or research programmes outside Armenia, one of them at a conference in Portugal. The global expenditure for this series of scholarships was € 99,198 and the amount of each scholarship ranged from € 373 to € 2,076, depending mainly on the travel costs. Six grants in the total amount of € 6,902 were canceled due to inability of the awardees to participate in the events (canceled amounts are reassigned to other scholarships within each category).

SHORT TERM CONFERENCE AND TRAVEL GRANTS	Expenditure (€)	Quantity
grants	92,296	82

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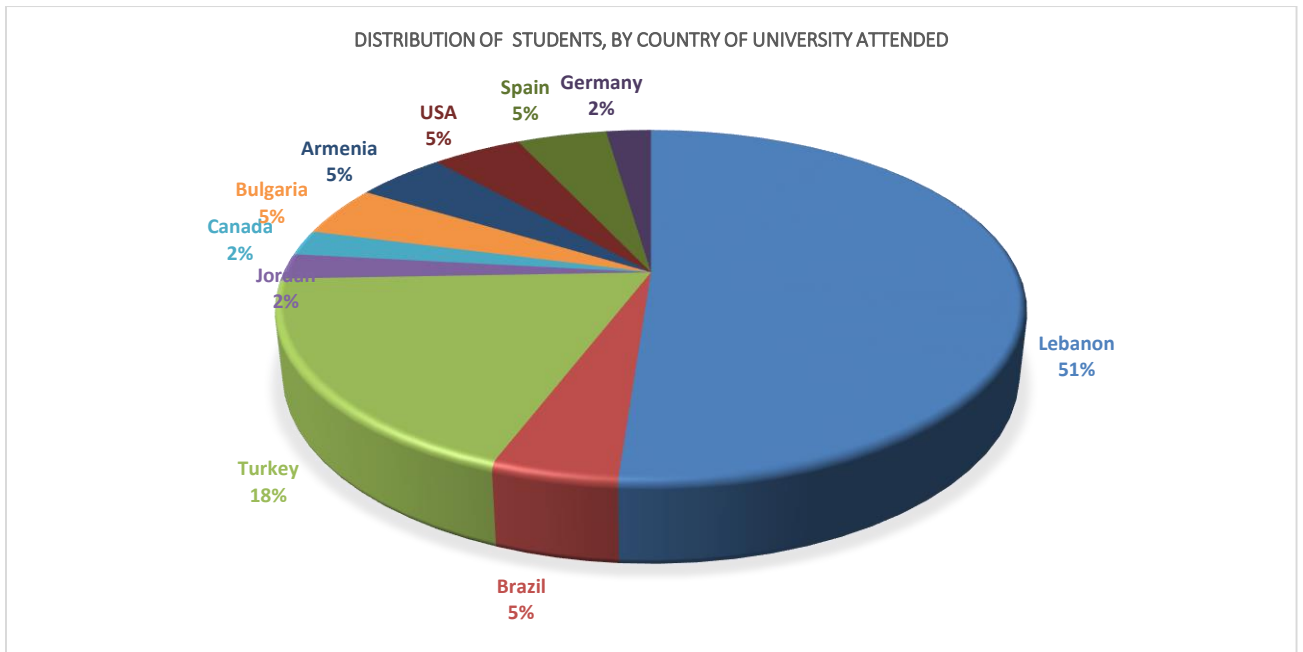
5. Undergraduate Studies Scholarship

With the purpose of providing young Armenian students from less developed countries the opportunity to undertake full-time undergraduate studies, this call for applications took place during February and March 2015. From the 224 applications received, the Department selected 43 based on merit. Among the successful candidates, 15 are studying in universities outside their country.

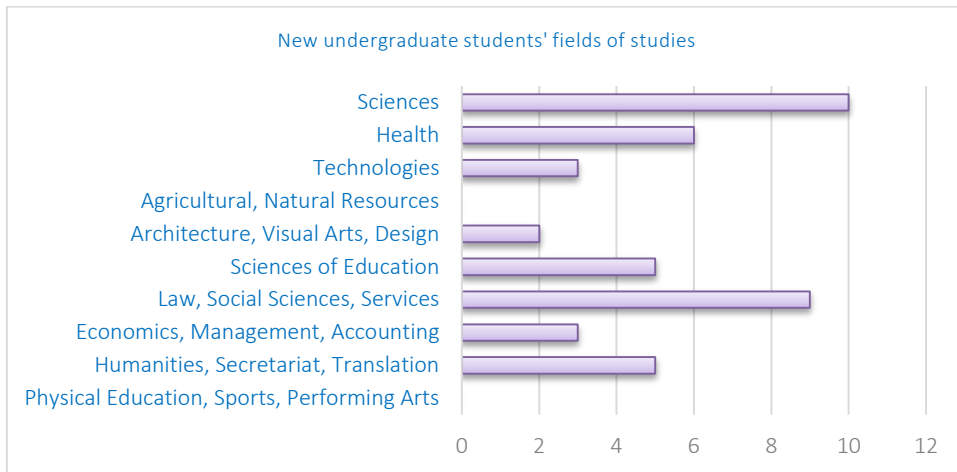
The amount of the scholarships ranged from € 1,000 to € 3,000/year. Study subjects included Architecture, Biology, Business & Economics, Education, Engineering, Health, Law, Languages & Literature, Mathematics, Physics, Public Relations, Sociology. The total amount granted in this scholarship category was € 101,000.

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The pie-chart below shows the distribution of these scholarship students, by country of university attended.



The chart below shows the distribution, by field of studies, of the new scholarship students, revealing students' prevalence in the fields of sciences, 70% of which undertaking studies in health sciences.



33 scholarships were renewed from the previous year, bringing the total to 76 awards.

The table below presents the amounts awarded in each granting process, as well as the total for the 76 awardees. 62% of the scholarship awardees are women (47) and 38% are men (29).

UNDERGRADUATE STUDIES SCHOLARSHIP	Expenditure (€)	Quantity
New scholarships	101,000	43
Renewals	90,750	33
TOTAL	191,750	76

6. Support to Armenian Students in Portugal

In 2015, 6 new students received support within our programme “Armenian Students in Portugal”. Evaluation is made on a case-by-case basis, at any point throughout the year.

The following table shows the amount spent within the “Armenian Students in Portugal”.

SUPPORT TO ARMENIAN STUDENTS IN PORTUGAL	Expenditure (€)	Quantity
2. Armenian Studies (PhD and Post Doc) - new	0	0
2. Armenian Studies (PhD and Post Doc) - renewals	14,000	1
5. Undergraduate Studies – new	11,300	6
5. Undergraduate Studies - renewals	18,500	5
TOTAL	43,800	12

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7. *Emergency Scholarship*

This scholarship category responds to emergency situations whereby Armenian students face severe crisis. It is meant to enable them to continue with their education as much as possible. The parameters of such scholarships are defined as per need, based on an analysis of the crisis the students are facing. In 2013 the Department joined the Global Platform for Syrian Students (GPSS), a multi-stakeholder initiative, launched by the former President of Portugal and UN High Representative for the Alliance of Civilizations (2007-2013), Jorge Sampaio, and provided 27 scholarships, for a three year complete cycle of studies, to young Syrian Armenian students. Between 2013 and 2016, we are providing € 192,500 for this initiative. In addition, during the same period, we are making € 404,100 available to Syrian Armenian students studying in universities in Armenia by covering part of their tuition fees. This initiative is implemented in partnership with the Armenian General Benevolent Union (AGBU) and the Government of Armenia. These special programmes benefited 447 Syrian-Armenian students, mostly in Armenia.

EMERGENCY SCHOLARSHIPS	Expenditure (€)	Quantity
GPSS (2013-2016)	192,500	27
AGBU (2013-2016)	404,100	420
TOTAL	596,600	447

Concluding Remarks

During 2015, 259 scholarships, including renewals, were awarded, with a total amount of € 965,599*. The total amount spent in 2015 does not differ much from 2014 — € 985,957 —, but 53 more new scholarships were given, due to an increase in the number of short grants awarded. Among these, we have enabled 12 new students to embark on a PhD, six on a Master degree and 45 to pursue undergraduate studies — in addition to many short term grants.

The gender distribution was 66% women - 34% men, the same as in 2014.

SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAMME 2015	Expenditure (€)	Quantity	M	W
1. Global Excellence Scholarship	173,306	10	3	7
2. Armenian Studies Scholarship	383,923	25	7	18
2.1. Short Term Grant for Armenian Studies	69,622	47	17	30
3. Western Armenian Teacher Education Scholarship	4,000	1	0	1
4. Short Term Conference and Travel Grants	99,198	88	25	63
5. Undergraduate Studies Scholarship	191,750	76	29	47
6. Support to Armenian Students in Portugal	43,800	12	7	5
7. Emergency Scholarships	See note below	0	0	0
TOTAL	965,599	259*	88	171

* Excluding 447 Syrian-Armenian students receiving aid from the humanitarian scholarship envelope administered by AGBU and GPSS. The total amount spent for these in 2015 is 130,000 USD.

Between 2014 and 2015 the number of applications received almost doubled, from 392 to 748, making the Department's Scholarship programme even more competitive.

