

What is an ICP Connect study programme?

ICP Connect study programmes are accredited international study programmes organized at one or more Flemish universities that focus on subjects in line with the Agenda 2030 and SDG principles, and that VLIR-UOS supports to integrate global perspectives and strengthen the global south and network dimension into the existing programmes. VLIR-UOS supports 15 ICP Connect study programmes and provide 10 scholarships per ICP study programme per year.

Disclaimer

VLIR-UOS promotes diversity and is committed to creating an inclusive environment where all qualified applicants, regardless of gender, disability, sexual orientation, cultural, religious or socio-economic backgrounds, feel encouraged to apply.

VLIR-UOS respects and seeks to empower each individual and support the diverse cultures, perspectives, skills and experiences by creating conducive, inclusive environments for students, staff and alumni to act as critical global citizens.

Who can receive an ICP Connect scholarship (eligibility criteria)?

- **Nationality and country of residence:** A candidate should be a national and resident of one of the [29 eligible countries](#) (nationality and country of residence not necessarily the same) at the time of the application.
- **Age:** The maximum age is 35 for an initial master and 45 for an advanced master candidate. The candidate cannot exceed this age on the first of January of the intake year.
- **Professional background and experience:** Candidates should preferably be employed in higher education, government or civil society, or should aim at a career in one of these sectors. However, candidates employed in the private sector or newly graduated candidates without any work experience can also be eligible depending on their motivation and profile.
- **VLIR-UOS scholarship applications:** A candidate can only submit one ICP Connect scholarship application per year.
- **Previously awarded scholarships:** The candidate has never received a scholarship from the Belgian government to attend a study programme and/or was never enrolled in a Belgian higher education institution to attend a study programme before the first of January of the intake year.

What are the scholarship selection criteria?

- **Motivation:** it is essential that the motivation and professional goals of the candidate demonstrate the possibility and probability of transferring knowledge/skills or creating extension activities and highlight themes relevant to sustainable development, which are also pertinent to the study programme. Not only academic results are important, but also and especially the potential and the commitment of the candidate to become an “agent of change” after completing the study.
- **Professional experience:** preference will be given to candidates who can demonstrate a greater chance of implementing and/or transferring newly gained knowledge/skills upon completion in a sustainable development context, such as the sector of higher education, government, civil society or the private sector, thereby contributing to positive societal change.

- **Gender balance:** A relative balance between the number of male and female candidates that are awarded an ICP Connect scholarship is aimed at. VLIR-UOS strongly encourages female candidates to apply. You can read more on [our gender policy here](#).
- **Regional balance :** The aim is a reasonable spread of scholars over different countries and regions provided that there are sufficient qualitative candidates.
- **Leave No One Behind (LNOB):** In case of equally qualified candidates, preference will be given to candidates of vulnerable groups.
- **Previously awarded scholarship:** Preference will be given to candidates who have never received a scholarship to study in a higher income country (bachelor or master).

Which costs are covered by the scholarship?

Costs covered by the scholarship: VLIR-UOS scholarships cover tuition fee, travel costs, insurance and livelihood (board and lodging). We only provide scholarships for the full duration of the master programme (12/24months). It is not possible to apply for a partial scholarship.

Scholarship amounts can change in line with decisions of the funding government. The detailed amounts for academic year 2022-2023 are not yet available. Keep an eye on our website for updates.