



Expression of Interest for S-FSRP Scholarship Application

Introduction

The **Puntland State of Somalia**, through the **Somalia Food Systems Resilience Project (S-FSRP)**, financed by the **International Development Association (IDA)** of the World Bank, invites eligible candidates to apply for long-term scholarships at **PhD, Master's (MSc/MBA), and Bachelor's degree levels**.

The scholarship program is funded through **S-FSRP** to support **human capital development** in priority technical and policy areas relevant to strengthening food systems resilience in the **Puntland State** of Somalia.

Project Development Objective

The Project Development Objective (PDO) of **S-FSRP** is to increase preparedness against food insecurity and improve the resilience of food systems in the targeted project areas of Somalia.

This objective will be achieved through increased farm productivity and resilience, including the development and dissemination of climate-smart agriculture (CSA) technologies, climate-resilient seed systems, and gender-responsive innovations.

The project is implemented through the following components: -

1. Rebuilding Resilient Agricultural Production Capacity
2. Supporting the Sustainable Development of Natural Resources for Resilient Agricultural Landscapes
3. Getting to Markets for Food Security
4. Promoting a Greater Focus on Food Systems Resilience in National and Regional Policymaking
5. Contingency Emergency Response Component (CERC)
6. Project Coordination and Management

Purpose of the Scholarship Programme

The purpose of the **S-FSRP Scholarship Programme** is to build long-term **human capacity** to support increased preparedness against food insecurity and improved resilience of food systems in Puntland State of Somalia.

Areas of Focus: The programme aims to strengthen the capacity of field practitioners and government staff from:

- Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation – Puntland
- Ministry of Livestock and Animal Husbandry – Puntland
- Ministry of Environment, Rangeland and Climate Change – Puntland
- Other relevant public and private sector practitioners

Training will focus on technical, research, and policy areas aligned with **S-FSRP** objectives.

Fields of Study and Eligible Institutions:

PhD		
#	Faculty/Study Field	Institution
1	Agricultural And Environmental Plant Science	Accredited international and regional universities are eligible.
2	Agricultural Economics	
3	Plant Breeding	
4	Biological And Agricultural Engineering	
5	Bio Agricultural Sciences - Entomology	
6	Plant Protection - Plant Protection Systemic Technology	
7	Veterinary Medicine and Science	
8	Animal, Dairy, and Food Chain Sciences	
9	Animal Medicine and Health	
10	Animal Breeding Sciences	
Master`s Degree		
1	Land and Water Resource Management	Accredited international, regional, and national institutions/universities recognized by the relevant education authorities are eligible.
2	Agricultural Engineering	
3	Crop Production and Food Sciences	
4	Food Security	
5	Agricultural Economics	
6	Geospatial Science	
7	Plant Pathology	
8	Animal Production	
9	Animal Laboratory Sciences	
10	Renewable & Sustainable Energy	
11	Natural Resource Management	
12	Environmental Science and Climate Change	
13	Range Management	
14	Animal Production	
15	Animal Breeding Sciences	
16	Bio Agricultural Sciences	

17	Meat And Milk Sciences and Inspection	
18	Veterinary Surgery and Clinical Practices	
19	Animal Ecology - Environmental Change	
20	Environmental Law	
21	Animal Nutrition and Fodder Production Sciences	
Bachelor`s Degree		
1	Faculty of Agricultural Sciences	Only accredited universities operating within the Puntland State of Somalia are eligible.
2	Faculty of Veterinary Sciences	
3	Environmental and Natural Resource Management	

Eligibility Criteria

1. **Citizenship:** Applicants must be Somali citizens to ensure the scholarship supports local talent and expertise (He /she should be a Puntlander and resident in Puntland).
2. **Age Limits:** The upper age limit is 25 years for those applying to undergraduate and 37 years for Master's Degree programs, and over 35 years for PhD programs. This policy aims to encourage younger professionals while allowing experienced individuals to enhance their qualifications.
3. **Application Process:** Candidates must complete the Scholarship Application Form and fulfil the minimum requirements set by the respective universities. This ensures that applicants are not only interested but also qualified for the programs they wish to pursue.
4. **Research Commitment:** Applicants should demonstrate a willingness to conduct research that aligns with the focus areas of the Somalia's-Food Systems and related areas. This commitment must be evidenced by a developed concept note or an approved research proposal that highlights their intention to contribute to the program's goals.
5. **Recommendation Letter:** A recommendation letter from the affiliated institution, employer, or supervisor is required. This letter should attest to the candidate's qualifications and potential, reinforcing their suitability for the scholarship.
6. **Meet the university admission requirements** for the respective program and obtain a provisional admission letter clearly outlining the tuition fee structure.

Terms And Conditions

1. Recipients must sign the relevant Training Bond
2. A recipient applies for only one category of the scholarship
3. A recipient cannot be a beneficiary of any other scholarship for the same training program
4. Recipients must provide certified copies of relevant academic certificates, Diploma, Degree/master's
5. Recipients must commit to attend the course or program for which he/she applied for a scholarship
6. Recipients must commit to completing the course or program for which the scholarship is granted within the stipulated scholarship period
7. Individuals who have previously been awarded a World Bank scholarship and declined it, or have a previous history of receiving scholarships and did not graduate, are not eligible for this scholarship
8. Demonstrate willingness to commit to a minimum of two years of service contributing to the program's thematic focus areas upon graduation.

Scholarship Categories: The scholarships are offered under two categories—new and continuing—and are available for Bachelor's, Master's, and Doctoral level studies, as outlined below.

1. New PhD Applicant Category

This category refers to a scholarship offered to students who are eligible for admission to a PhD programme at an accredited university. Applicants must hold a Master's degree (MSc or equivalent) in a relevant discipline from an accredited institution of higher learning. The scholarship will cover tuition fees and research-related costs for a duration of 3 years.

2. New Master's Applicant Category

This category refers to a scholarship offered to students who are eligible for admission to an MSc or MBA programme at an accredited university in the region. To qualify, applicants must hold a Bachelor's degree with at least a Second-Class Upper division (or equivalent), or a Second-Class Lower division with a minimum of two years of relevant work experience. The scholarship will provide support for tuition and research-related costs for 2 years.

3. New Bachelor's Degree Applicant Category

This scholarship is designed for needy students who have completed high school and are qualified for admission to universities in Puntland State of Somalia. To be eligible, applicants must have attained a minimum grade of C in their high school certification. The scholarship will cover tuition fees and university thesis costs for 4 academic years.

4. Continuing PhD Applicant Category

This category refers to a scholarship offered to students who are already admitted to a PhD programme at an accredited university and have completed their coursework. To qualify, applicants must be willing to undertake research aligned with the S-FSRP thematic areas of focus. The scholarship will provide support for research-related activities.

5. Continuing Bachelor's Applicant Category

This scholarship category is designed for needy students who have completed a Higher Diploma from an accredited Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) institution and have been formally admitted to a recognized university within Puntland State of Somalia to pursue a Bachelor's degree.

To qualify under this category, applicants must:

- Have completed a Higher Diploma (TVET) from an accredited institution;
- Hold a formal admission letter from a Puntland-based university to complete the remaining years of a Bachelor's degree programme.

The scholarship will cover tuition fees only for the remaining academic years of the Bachelor's degree at the time of award, for a maximum duration of three (3) academic years.

Required Application Documents: Applicants must submit:

1. Completed Scholarship Application Form
2. Concept Note (for **MSc/PhD** applicants)
3. Training Bond Form (for awarded candidates only)
4. Passport or Puntland Civil Service/State ID

Qualified female candidates are strongly encouraged to apply.

Only shortlisted candidates will be contacted.

Application forms and concept note instructions are **downloadable** from the website of the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation, www.moai.pl.so, www.fsrp.gov.so, www.molah.pl.so, www.moehe.pl.so

Submission of Applications:

Applicants for undergraduate programs (**BSc**) are required to submit their applications either electronically or in hard copy no later than **Monday, 16 February 2026, at 5:00 PM.**

Applicants for graduate programs (**MSc/MBA and PhD**) are required to submit their applications not later than **2nd Mar 2026, at 5:00 PM**

Electronic submissions should be sent to procurement.fsrp@moai.pl.so.

Hard copy applications should be delivered to the following address:

S-FSRP Puntland Project Coordination Unit, behind Rugsan Square Hotel, Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation, 2nd Floor, Garowe, Puntland State of Somalia.

Annex 1: Scholarship Application Form

Annex 2: Concept Note Form