



DAFI Scholarship Programme Slovakia

Call for Applications for the academic year 2024/2025

Application deadline: 31 August 2024

I - What is the DAFI scholarship programme?

The Albert Einstein German Academic Refugee Initiative, known as the DAFI scholarship programme, offers refugee students the possibility to earn an **undergraduate degree** (Bachelor's degree or equivalent) **in their first country of asylum**. Through the support of the German Government and private donors, the DAFI programme has supported over 26,500 young refugees to undertake tertiary studies since 1992.

Main objectives of the DAFI programme:

- promote **self-reliance** among young refugee women and men by providing opportunities to earn a higher education qualification, paving the way for future employment, entrepreneurship, other livelihoods or postgraduate studies;
- develop the **civic, social and leadership skills** of DAFI students to promote human rights, gender equality, peace and non-violence and community development in the societies and economies where they live and work;
- contribute to **sustainable development, peace and stability** in regions affected by conflict and displacement and to enable refugees to **access solutions**.

Scholarships awarded under the DAFI programme contribute to a **wide range of costs**, depending on the local cost of living and the needs of the specific country programme. DAFI scholars in Slovakia receive a **subsistence allowance** to cover costs such as accommodation, food, local transportation and study materials.

Studies at Master's level are **not** supported under the DAFI programme.

II - What are the terms and conditions of the scholarship?

The DAFI scholarship may be **renewed each year to cover the whole period of the undergraduate degree (usually three years; in some cases, a maximum of four years)**, based on regular class attendance, successful completion of each semester and academic year, progress towards the degree within the regular study time foreseen by the higher education institution, and participation in DAFI programme activities such as the DAFI club and community engagement activities.

After being awarded the scholarship, DAFI scholars sign a **Scholarship Agreement form**. DAFI scholars are expected to work diligently towards the successful completion of the programme of study and to inform UNHCR if they are experiencing challenges. In cases of fraud or misconduct, the scholarship will be discontinued immediately. In case of repeated absenteeism, underperformance or academic failure, continuation or discontinuation of the scholarship will be determined taking into account specific circumstances and reasons provided. While benefiting from a DAFI scholarship, students should not be receiving scholarship funds from other sources.

Participation in the DAFI programme includes a **variety of student activities** (meetings, trainings, educational events, etc.). Scholars are also strongly encouraged to **get involved in volunteering activities and participate in community-focused and youth-led activities**.

III - What are the criteria to be eligible for a DAFI scholarship?

To be **eligible for a DAFI scholarship in Slovakia**, you must meet the following criteria:

- You have been granted **refugee status** (or have **applied for asylum**) or have been granted **Temporary Protection (TP)** in Slovakia (*please note that applicants who have **Temporary residence in Slovakia** are **not eligible** for a DAFI scholarship*);
- You are **under 28 years old** at the start of your studies¹;
- You have **completed high/secondary school** and can present **documents attesting to your achievements**²;
- You achieved **at least 60% marks** at the end of high/secondary school examinations;
- You have been admitted to an **undergraduate study programme in an accredited university or higher education institution in Slovakia** (either you have just been admitted, or you **are currently studying** in an undergraduate study programme and **have more than two years of study left**);
- You are **proficient in the language of instruction** of the study programme in which you enrolled;
- You are **in need of financial assistance** to pursue your studies;
- You have a **strong motivation to contribute to your community** through leadership, volunteering, community service, mentoring, community development or similar;
- You are **not currently receiving a scholarship from another source** (e.g. private scholarship, scholarship from the Slovak government, Erasmus scholarship, etc.).

Qualified female candidates and persons with disabilities are encouraged to apply.

Are **not eligible** for a DAFI scholarship:

- Applicants with advanced resettlement or complementary pathways/sponsorship cases (departure expected within one year);
- Applicants who do not intend to finish their undergraduate studies in Slovakia because of planned repatriation or other reasons;
- Students who already hold a tertiary or higher education level degree.

¹ Exceptions to the age limitation may apply if you started your bachelor studies in your home country but had to interrupt your studies due to flight, or if you faced particular challenges to access higher education programmes (e.g. childcare responsibilities, disabilities, etc.)

² In case you do not possess the relevant documents, please get in touch with UNHCR prior to the submission of your application and indicate the reason why you are not able to submit the certificate.

IV – How to apply for a DAFI scholarship for the academic year 2024/2025?

Applications for a DAFI scholarship for the academic year 2024/2025 have to be **submitted online**, through UNHCR's global tertiary programme platform:

<https://unhcr-dafi-tertiary.scholarshipsplatform.com/>

You will need to first **register an account**, before being able to start your online application.

Please make sure “**Slovakia**” is indicated as the “**Country of Study (Country of Asylum)**”. All the information requested in the different **online tabs** needs to be provided (unless indicated as optional). You will be able to save your information in-progress.

You will be asked to **upload the following documents** as part of your online application:

- Proof of legal status: refugee status (or asylum application) or Temporary Protection (TP) status in Slovakia** [tab “*Eligibility criteria*”];
- Copy of your **high/secondary school transcripts and diploma or certification of completion** (if issued in another country, transcripts should be validated by the Ministry of Education certifying recognition of the diploma) [tab “*Academic background*”];
- (optional) Copy of your **language certificate** validating your skills in the language of instruction of the study programme in which you enrolled [tab “*Academic background*”];
- Proof of enrolment in an accredited university or higher education institution in Slovakia** (admission/acceptance letter, Bonafide letter) [tab “*Your study plan for this scholarship*”];
- If you are currently studying in an undergraduate study programme (with more than two years left of study), a copy of a **transcript of prior learning or credits completed** [tab “*Your study plan for this scholarship*”].

Your application has to be submitted through the online portal **latest on 31 August 2024 (23:59, Central European Time)**. Applications submitted after the deadline will not be considered.

V – What are the different steps of the selection process?

Following the submission of your online application:

- Suitable candidates will be **shortlisted and invited to an interview**;
- Interviews will be conducted **online by a Selection Committee** (*interviews will be conducted in Slovak or English, depending on the language of instruction of the degree programme in which you enrolled*);
- Based on the interview performance and application, the Selection Committee will identify **scholarship recipients** according to the number of DAFI scholarships available in Slovakia;
- Both successful and unsuccessful applicants will receive a **notification** from UNHCR about the outcome of their application.

UNHCR does not charge any fee at any stage of the selection process.

Any questions?

Please contact the UNHCR Slovakia DAFI Focal Point:

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