



## **UAB Program for the Inclusion of Asylum Seekers**

**Specialized training program in prevention of violent extremism**

Call for Applications for the PVE Scholarship

**16th June 2020**

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***Bellaterra Campus UAB (Cerdanyola del Vallès)***

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## 1 Introduction

The Syrian crisis has created more than five and a half million refugees and has displaced more than six million people inside its own country.<sup>1</sup> Lebanon, Jordan, Turkey and Iraq have been recipients of these movements of people, often without the material capacity to accommodate them or the time to prepare the response. Nine years after the start of the Syrian civil war, the severity and complexity of the situation continues to exacerbate an unparalleled humanitarian crisis. The extension of the conflict over time is a challenge for the governments involved and tests the social cohesion between refugees and host communities.

Within the framework of the program “*Promotion of the role of Syrian, Jordanian, Kurdish and Catalan civil society in the transformation of the causes of the Syrian conflict through comprehensive strategies for the Prevention of Violent Extremism with a gender focus*”, Fundació Autònoma Solidària (FAS) opens this call for scholarships, intended to fund four positions of specialized university studies. The positions are aimed at generating knowledge in the field of prevention of violent extremism and peace building, and will cover the full costs of studying and living to four selected women from the refugee and displaced communities during their stay at the Autonomous University of Barcelona (UAB). The four beneficiaries will be identified as key actors in the field of prevention of violent extremism (PVE) for their personal and professional careers, and will be provided with comprehensive academic support.

This program falls within the *UAB Program for the Inclusion of asylum-seekers*, managed by the FAS. Through the training of skilled professionals, the University acts as a transforming actor, and can contribute to the development of factors directly related to scientific and social progress, among others, the consolidation of quality institutions, the improvement of specialized services and boosting democratic and cultural life. The University, therefore, plays an essential role in exposing new perspectives, and contributes to a more critical and informed civil society.

The scholarship is funded by the Catalan Agency for Development Cooperation and the Autonomous University of Barcelona. FAS will be in charge of managing the scholarship, and supporting the selected persons during their time at the UAB.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.unocha.org/syrian-arab-republic/about-ocha-syria>

## 2 Objectives

Recent research consistently stressed the key role of women in the prevention and resolution of violent conflicts, as well as in building a cohesive society in both origin and host communities. For this reason, strengthening the capacities of women from displaced communities is identified as a priority goal.

On the other hand, this program aims to produce a direct impact on the academic community of the UAB and, more generally, on the Catalan host community. Through their research projects and academic itinerary, the selected persons will contribute to generate knowledge on the prevention of violent extremism, with a gender focus. In particular, we aim at the promotion of academic collaboration between the universities of origin -and/or university centres from host countries- and the UAB, with an eye to sharing experiences and good practices in the field of prevention of violent extremism. In addition, the selected persons will be directly involved in the UAB community and will take part in awareness-raising, training and mobilization activities within the framework of the UAB Program for the Inclusion of asylum-seekers.

## 3 Purpose of the call

The call is open to:

### 3.1 Line 1: Applicants for master's degree programs

Three (3) master's positions for members of the refugee or displaced student community. Applications will be considered for official master's degrees of the UAB in any field directly applicable to PVE, peace building and/or gender studies.

For more information on official master's degrees currently offered at the UAB, you can visit: <https://www.uab.cat/web/study/graduate/official-master-s-degrees/by-areas-of-knowledge-1345666814830.html>

### 3.2 Line 2: Applicants for research projects

One (1) research position for a refugee or displaced person belonging to the academic and research community, with experience in areas of knowledge directly applicable to PVE, peace building and/or gender studies.

For more information on research options existing at the UAB, you can consult: <https://www.uab.cat/web/research-1345666325304.html>

In accordance with the purpose of the scholarships, the evaluation committee, by means of a motivated resolution, may agree to adapt the approved aid modalities to better fit the applications received.

## **4 Funding**

The scholarships will cover the following items:

1. Full cost of the tuition fees for the 2020-2021 academic year;
2. Exemption from any other academic fee related to the program followed at the UAB;
3. Monthly allowance for accommodation expenses (preferably at Vila Universitaria de la UAB) during the academic stay at the UAB;
4. Yearly allowance for other study-related expenses (transport, teaching materials, technology, other goods and services related to the development of academic work);
5. Monthly allowance for living expenses (food, clothing and footwear, household goods, communication and other goods and services) during the academic stay at the UAB.

The sum of sections 3, 4 and 5 will not exceed the amount of 950 euros per month per student.

## **5 Eligibility**

### **5.1 Line 1: Applicants for master's degree programs**

#### **5.1.1 Student profile**

1. Women belonging to the refugee or displaced community from Syria, Iraq or Iraqi Kurdistan.
2. With experience and/or knowledge in peace building, gender and prevention of violent extremism (academic, professional, activist or others).
3. Involved in civil society, for example through social or political activism, volunteering or participation in awareness-raising activities.
4. Interested in pursuing a master's degree in a discipline related to the prevention of violent extremism.
5. Interested in actively taking part in the UAB community and, particularly, in those activities of the Program related to the promotion of critical knowledge on asylum-seeking, gender and peace building from a human rights perspective.

#### **5.1.2 Essential requirements**

Interested students must meet the following requirements in order to be eligible:

1. Women belonging to the refugee or displaced community from Syria, Iraq or Iraqi Kurdistan (and/or with demonstrable relevant links with displaced and/or refugee communities in Syria, Iraq, Iraqi Kurdistan or Jordan);

2. Provide evidence of completed university degree studies;
3. Meet the minimum access requirements to the requested master's program, including the language requirement.

## **5.2 Line 2: Applicants for research projects**

### **5.2.1 Researcher profile**

6. Women belonging to the refugee or displaced community from Syria, Iraq or Iraqi Kurdistan.
7. Researcher, PhD student, PostDoc or lecturer.
8. With experience and/or knowledge in peace building, gender and prevention of violent extremism (academic, professional, activist or others).
9. Involved in civil society, for example through social or political activism, volunteering or participation in awareness-raising actions.
10. Interested in participating in the generation of synergies between the UAB and the University of origin or transit.
11. Interested in actively taking part in the UAB community and, particularly, in those activities of the Reception Program related to the promotion of critical knowledge on asylum-seeking, gender and peace building from a human rights perspective.

### **5.2.2 Essential requirements**

Interested researchers must meet the following requirements to process the application:

1. Women belonging to the displaced or refugee community from Syria, Iraq or Kurdistan (and/or with demonstrable relevant links with displaced and / or refugee communities in Syria, Iraq, Iraqi Kurdistan or Jordan)
2. With her own project that contributes, from any branch of knowledge, to the debate on the prevention of violent extremism, peace building or gender studies.  
Alternatively, with an interest in collaborating in one of the UAB's research programs and contributing to an existing project in the abovementioned field.
3. Meet the minimum access requirements to the requested program, including the language requirement.

## 6 Conditions of award

The award of the scholarship is conditional upon the beneficiaries' agreement to:

### Line 1:

- A minimum of academic production (to be agreed with the selected person) in the field of prevention of violent extremism. In particular, in relation to the causes and factors that contribute to the PVE; securitization and development; building an inclusive society; and combating structural violence (gender-based violence, marginalization, institutional racism, etc.).
- Collaborate with the activities of the Program to the extent of her availability, including, among others, awareness-raising actions in the university context.

### Line 2:

- Develop a specialized research project in the field of prevention of violent extremism. In particular, in relation to the causes and factors that contribute to the PVE; securitization and development; building an inclusive society; and combating structural violence (gender-based violence, marginalization, institutional racism, etc.).
- Collaborate with the activities of the Program to the extent of her availability, including, among others, awareness-raising actions in the university context.

## 7 How to apply

The period for submitting applications will be open **from June 16 to July 17 2020**, at 00.00, both dates included.

To be eligible for the scholarship, the interested persons must provide the following documentation in full within the abovementioned timeframe:

1. Photocopy of personal identification document (NIE or Passport).
2. Application form duly completed ([available at the FAS website](#)). The form can be submitted in English or Spanish or Catalan.
3. Short CV in English or Spanish or Catalan.
4. Supporting documents of the status of refugee or displaced person.\*
5. Supporting documents of previous studies.\*
6. Exclusively for applicants of research programs: Brief description of research/ PhD proposal in maximum 3 pages.
7. Additional information relevant for the evaluation of the application.

*\* Note: in the first phase of the procedure, supporting documents will be accepted in an unofficial format and in the original language. Official documents will have to be submitted if the applicant is shortlisted.*

Within the given timeframe, the above-listed documentation must be delivered only **in digital format, via e-mail** to the address: [fas.acollida@uab.cat](mailto:fas.acollida@uab.cat)

The subject of the e-mail must be:

PVE Scholarship – Master (applications for line 1)

*or*

PVE Scholarship – Research (applications for line 2)

By submitting an application, the candidate authorizes the UAB and the FAS to verify with other institutions the necessary data to resolve the call.

## **8 Selection process**

### **A. Submission of applications and prior advice**

The period for filing applications will be open from June 16 to July 17 2020. During this time, the FAS may provide additional information and answer any questions that may arise during the preparation of applications.

The call for applications will be published at the FAS webpage (<http://www.uab.cat/fas>).

**IMPORTANT:** The application must not be followed by an independent enrolment in the program of interest. Enrolment and place reservation will be processed through this call.

### **B. Application deadline**

Before 00.00 on July 17, inclusive, interested parties must submit their complete application.

The Evaluation Committee will verify that the applicants meet the minimum requirements and that the documentation provided is sufficient to resolve the application. Otherwise, additional documents may be requested.

### **C. Linking**

Within the week following the receipt of the application, the FAS will carry out the necessary verifications and will study the adequacy and relevance of the proposal within the program of preference. At this stage, the FAS can contact short-listed candidates to open a conversation in order to assess alternative programs, if they are considered more suitable.

### **C. Interview**

During the week following the closing date for applications, shortlisted candidates will be invited to an interview with members of the Evaluation Committee. The applicant will



have the opportunity to better elaborate their candidacy and motivation in relation to the prevention of violent extremism.

#### **D. Resolution:**

Proposals will be evaluated in accordance with points 5 and 7 of this call. The Evaluation Committee will nominate the candidates before September 1, 2020.

The resolution of the call will be final and will be published on the website of the FAS.

### **9 Evaluation criteria**

The evaluation of the applications will be carried out by an Evaluation Commission constituted for this purpose, composed of:

- Office of the Vice-Rector for Students and Employability of the UAB;
- Office of the Vice-Manager of Academic Organization of the UAB;
- Fundació Autònoma Solidària - UAB Program for the Inclusion of asylum seekers;
- NOVACT – team responsible for the program *“Promotion of the role of Syrian, Jordanian, Kurdish and Catalan civil society in the transformation of the causes of the Syrian conflict through comprehensive strategies for the Prevention of Violent Extremism with a gender focus”*.

### **10 Incompatibilities and commitment**

The scholarship is not compatible with any other scholarship covering totally or partially tuition fees, whether from private or public entities. In the application form, the applicant must indicate other benefits or allowances that she is receiving or planning to receive in order to assess the compatibility. The scholarship may be revoked if an incompatibility is identified, with the obligation to refund any component of the aid already paid out.

The provision of false information or the partial or total non-compliance with the requirements and obligations established in this call will result in the opening of the corresponding revocation procedure, with the obligation to refund any component of the aid already paid out.

By signing a document of responsibility, the beneficiaries undertake the commitment to fulfil the academic itinerary for which the funding is granted. Failure to comply with this agreement may result in the same penalty as in the previous two scenarios.

## **11 Privacy and data protection**

All the data provided by applicants of this scholarship will be treated in accordance with the principles of data protection laid down in Regulation (EU) 2016/679 of the European Parliament and of the Council, of 27 April of 2016, on the protection of natural persons with regard to the processing of personal data and on the free movement of such data, assuming the liabilities arising from the breach of this obligation.

## **12 More information**

For more information, you can contact the FAS at: [fas.acollida@uab.cat](mailto:fas.acollida@uab.cat)