



Call for Applications - Young Cell Scheme Round XVI

Post-Graduate EU Scholarship Programme

The European Union Office in Kosovo and the Office of the Prime Minister of the Government of Kosovo announce the opening of the Round XVI of Applications to the Young Cell Scheme, the EU post-graduate scholarship programme for Kosovo citizens, which is currently implemented by the Consortium of the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, Greece, and the Institut National du Service Public, France. Applications are open from **Monday 9 February 2026 until Monday 9 March 2026 at 17:00**. The Scholarship Programme's **working language is in English**, and will offer **37** full grants (the actual number of scholarships awarded may change depending on suitability of candidates and availability of funding). This call is open to general public and to civil servants who are graduates with degrees specified in the **Rules of Procedures available on the official website of the programme at <https://ycskosovo.org>** in line with the following sectors:

This call is open to the general public and to civil servants in the following areas:

- ◊ European Integration and Policy Planning - up to **14 scholarships available**
- ◊ Law – up to **8 scholarships available**
- ◊ Economy – up to **7 scholarships available**
- ◊ Digitalisation – up to **4 scholarships available**
- ◊ Engineering – up to **4 scholarships available**

Eligible applicants are:

- ◊ Kosovo citizens with a valid Kosovo passport or ID card issued by Kosovo institutions or with valid birth certificate and citizenship certificate are required where any form of Kosovo ID cannot be provided).
- ◊ University graduates holding a bachelor degree in one of the areas of study pertaining to the sectors
- ◊ Fluent in English and Albanian or Serbian.
- ◊ Born on 1st January 1991 or later.

Scholarships will cover the following costs:

- ◊ application costs and tuition fees
- ◊ living allowances
- ◊ visa costs & health insurance
- ◊ one return flight ticket
- ◊ English preparatory language training for- and cost of IELTS English test (in case the studies are to be under in another EU language, other required language tests could also be reimbursed)

Selected participants will commit to:

- ◊ Be available to undergo training/internship from April 2026 onwards and to move abroad from August-October 2026 until the end of the estimated completion of studies.
- ◊ Work for the Kosovo Public Administration as an intern for up to four (4) months prior to departure, except for civil servants already employed in the Kosovo Public Administration and candidates who can demonstrate at least four (4) months of relevant prior professional experience.
- ◊ Follow the YCS language training programme (where needed).
- ◊ Attend and complete their chosen post-graduate studies at stay.
- ◊ Complete three (3) consecutive years of employment or re-employment (if civil servants) in the public administration of Kosovo upon their return.

Selections will be carried out in three stages and they include:

- ◊ Pre-selection based on the administrative and eligibility criteria.
- ◊ Written tests (English knowledge, EU General Knowledge and Verbal & Numerical Reasoning).
- ◊ Interviews by a panel composed of academics from selected EU universities.





EUO and GoK representatives, might attend the interviews as observers.

The whole selection procedure will be implemented in accordance with the new Regulation (MIA) No. 04/2024 on the Beneficiaries of Scholarship Schemes in Civil Service (<https://gzk.rks-gov.net/ActDetail.aspx?ActID=97669>).

Representatives of non-majority or diverse communities and women are strongly encouraged to apply. Application forms, Rules of Procedure and the full set of accompanying documents will be sent by email to all interested applicants upon registration at the following website: <https://yckosovo.org> until **Monday, 9 March 2026 at 17:00**.

YCS Round XVI Scholarships' Rules of procedure, including Code of Conduct, selections criteria and related procedures must be carefully read and understood before submitting an application. Round XVI Rules of Procedure are available at <https://yckosovo.org> .

Successful applicants will study in a Master's programme at EU universities in EU Member States. Eligible universities and programmes must be legally established and accredited in an EU Member State and award degrees officially recognized as part of the national higher education system of the country where the studies are completed. Programmes delivered by non-EU institutions, including branch campuses, joint or transnational programmes, and distance-learning arrangements primarily managed outside the EU, are not eligible. Eligibility under the Young Cell Scheme does not automatically guarantee recognition or notification of the degree in the Republic of Kosovo, which remains subject to the procedures of the competent authorities.

Applicants must complete in **English** the **Europass CV format**, the **YCS RXVI Application Form** and they must accompany their application with a signed and dated **Letter of Motivation** (explaining why they wish to take part in the scheme) **and Self-declaration** to prove that all documents submitted are valid. All applicants must also enclose with their application **copies of diplomas or degrees** and **original (or certified copies of) transcripts** and copies of **valid Passport/ID card issued by Kosovo authorities or other proofs of birth and citizenship in Kosovo**.

In case of **undergraduate applicants**, they must enclose with their applications up to date **original (or certified copy of) transcripts with the exams** and a self-declaration regarding the expected date of graduation.

Make sure to include a **VALID e-mail address and phone number** both in the **YCS RXVI Application Form** and in the **Europass CV** of your application. **All communications to applicants will be sent only through emails**. The **Europass CV format**, the **YCS RXVI Application Form** and the **YCS RXVI Rules of Procedure** will be received by email by registering on the YCS official website and filling the application form.

NOTE: Missing documents, incomplete applications (such as missing the CV, the application form, the letter of motivation), applications not in English, and applications including CVs not in the Europass format will not be reviewed and will be automatically excluded from the selection procedure.

Applications deadline: Monday, 9 March 2026 at 17:00

Applications received after this deadline will not be considered under any circumstance.

DELIVER OF APPLICATIONS SHOULD BE SUBMITTED ONLINE in compressed folder (all documents in PDF format in zip folder), through this link:
<https://yckosovo.org/index.php/en/apply>

or in case of technical difficulties, applications can be submitted also in hard copies in a sealed envelope at the following address:

**Young Cell Scheme – Round XVI Application, Str. Behije Dashi, No.14, 6th floor, Aktash, Prishtina 10000
Kosovo, Tel. +38349444357**

Please do not make direct inquiries regarding your application.





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Applicants who have not been contacted by Saturday, 14 March 2026 have not passed the pre-selection phase and have not been short-listed to sit written exams.

For further information you can consult <https://ycskosovo.org> or write at info@ycskosovo.org

Connect with YCS on Social Media:



Young Cell Scheme
Scholarship Programme



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"Young Cell Scheme" is a scholarship project, co-funded by the European Union and Government of Kosovo, implemented by the Consortium of Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, Greece, and the Institut national du service public, France.



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UNIVERSITY
OF THESSALONIKI

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