



Madrid, 9 July 2020

Subject: PhD scholarships

Dear Member representatives and assessors,

As part of its technical cooperation and training programme for 2020, the International Olive Council (IOC) plans to award four (4) scholarships for PhD students from IOC member countries.

The objective of these scholarships is to encourage the transfer of technology and the sharing of information, experience and research among member countries in the fields of olive growing and olive oil technology, and standardisation and research.

The maximum duration of the PhD is four (4) years.

The subject of the doctoral thesis must be related to the objectives of the International Agreement on Olive Oil and Table Olives 2015 that the IOC is charged with administering (<https://www.internationaloliveoil.org/about-ioc/mission-basic-text/>). The thesis may cover the following topics:

1. Standardisation and research:
 - Nutritional properties of olive oils and table olives
 - Standardisation of olive oils and table olives
 - New methods related to physico-chemical and organoleptic characteristics
2. Olive growing, olive oil technology and technical cooperation:
 - Identification, preservation and utilisation of the genetic resources of the olive tree
 - Interaction between olive growing and the environment
 - Olive growing and climate change
3. The promotion of olive products, the dissemination of information and the olive economy:
 - Analysis of international trade in olive oil
 - Economic study on olive oil and table olives
 - Analysis of indicators for monitoring olive product markets



Priority will be given to candidates who conduct research on the olive sector and/or leaders of projects related to the objectives of the International Agreement on Olive Oil and Table Olives 2015.

Applicants must have been accepted for a PhD in a university with a department dedicated to olive cultivation or olive oil technology or offering olive studies and/or specific studies on the olive sector.

Research conducted in collaboration with various institutions, including those based in the applicant's country of origin, is strongly encouraged.

As mentioned above, the thesis must entail research on subjects related to the olive sector and the thesis supervisor must be a specialist in the olive sector.

Applicants must hold a degree preferably in one of the following fields: chemistry, chemical engineering, food science and technology, biology, agronomy or olive studies, economics or equivalent, and have a Master's degree with honours, preferably in the field of olive cultivation.

Priority will be given to candidates under 40 years of age.

Candidates must also have a good knowledge of English, since candidates will be required to write scientific articles in English over the course of their studies. The minimum level required is B1, which must be supported by a certificate.

The IOC will cover the students' registration fees and will pay a monthly stipend (board and lodging) adjusted to the cost of living in the country concerned. The IOC will also pay travel expenses, if any, at the beginning and end of the PhD.

The deadline for nominations to reach the Executive Secretariat is **2 September 2020**. Applications should be sent to iooc@internationaloliveoil.org.

Applications must be accompanied by the duly completed PhD pre-registration form completed in one of the two working languages of the IOC (English or French), an official document giving details of the PhD programme (bibliography, objectives, research plan and method) and a CV with at least the following information:

1. Full name (first and last name)



2. Full address including city, postcode and country of residence
3. Telephone number (preferably mobile and landline)
4. Email (personal and professional)
5. Tax identification number and passport number
6. Date of birth
7. Nationality
8. Area of specialty
9. Current post: research centre: company/institution, position, responsibilities, etc.
10. Previous post: research experience: company/institution, positions, responsibilities, etc.
11. Qualifications: diploma/training, university/institute, date, etc.
12. Language skills

Candidates must enclose a photocopy of their passport and proof of diplomas and Master's qualifications.

Participants must devote themselves exclusively to the PhD and may not engage in any other professional activity during the period of study.

The Executive Secretariat may request additional information on candidates.

This invitation does not imply any obligation on the part of the IOC to select nominated candidates.

In principle, the programme will start in October 2020, unless restrictions due to the pandemic require a postponement.

Yours sincerely,

Abdellatif Ghedira
Executive Director