

CALL FOR SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS

Programme AlBan

European Union Programme of High Level Scholarships for Latin America

1. Publication reference

AlBan/CA/2007

2. Programme and financing source

Programme AlBan – European Union Programme of High Level Scholarships for Latin America.

Grant contract no. ALR/AIDCO/2002/0380 signed between the European Commission and the Asociación Grupo Santander.

3. Nature of activities

The Programme AlBan aims at the reinforcement of the European Union – Latin America co-operation in the area of Higher Education and covers studies for postgraduates (Master and Doctorate) as well as Higher Training for Latin American experienced professionals and/or future decision-makers, in Institutions or Centres in the European Union.

The present Call is issued with a view to the award of:

- AlBan post-graduate level scholarships:

Scholarships to be awarded to the best of Latin American young graduates willing to undertake post-graduate studies at Master and Doctorate level in eligible Higher Education Institutions in any of the twenty-five European Union Member States.

- AlBan specialisation scholarships:

Scholarships to be awarded to Latin American experienced professionals or senior managers, for their specialised training or skill upgrading in any eligible organisation (including enterprises), recognised for Higher Training, in any of the twenty-five European Union Member States.

4. Geographical area

European Union twenty-five Member States:

Austria, Belgium, Czech Republic, Cyprus, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, The Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, United Kingdom.

Latin American eighteen countries:

Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, El Salvador, Ecuador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Uruguay, Venezuela.

Eligible institutions located in any of the twenty-five European Union Member States may host AlBan selected scholarship holders.

Eligible Latin American countries are the home countries of potential AlBan scholarship holders.

5. Scholarship duration:

Scholarships may last from a minimum of 6 months of actual education/training work done in the European Union to a maximum that depends on the type of studies:

- (a) AlBan post-graduate scholarships at Master level may last from a minimum of 6 months to a maximum of 24 months of actual work in the European Union;
- (b) AlBan post-graduate scholarships at Doctorate level may last from a minimum of 6 months to a maximum of 36 months of actual work in the European Union;
- (c) AlBan specialisation scholarships may last from a minimum of 6 months to a maximum of 18 months of actual higher level training work in the European Union;
- (d) Independently from the type of the education/formation project, all the scholarships given in the context of the current call must finish before July 31st, 2010.

For details, see the Programme AlBan Guidelines for Applicants 2007 referred to in item 13.

6. Eligibility criteria

Applicants to AlBan scholarships must fulfil the following eligibility criteria:

(Please note that (b) and (c) are mutually excluding criteria)

- (a) Be citizens of one of the eighteen Latin American countries indicated in item 4 and be permanent residents of one of those countries, at least, since 1st September 2005.
- (b) Have completed minimum university qualifications to be accepted for post-graduate studies at Master or Doctorate levels by Higher Education Institutions of the European Union, when applying to an AlBan scholarship in the context of a Master or a Doctorate degree.

Have the support for their education project of a Higher Education Institution from the home country.

Applicants holding a Doctorate degree are not eligible for the Programme AlBan.

Applicants to AlBan post-graduate scholarships at Master and Doctorate level should not be older than 45 years of age. That means that they must have been born on or after 01 September 1961.

- (c) Be experienced professionals or senior managers, having been working for at least 7 years in the profession (they must have been awarded their university graduation prior to 01 September 1999) at any recognised organisation in one of the eligible Latin America countries, wishing to obtain a Higher training or skill upgrading in any of the twenty-five Member States of the European Union, when applying to an AlBan specialisation scholarship.

Count on the support of their own home country organisation for their training project.

Experienced professionals or senior managers holding a Doctorate degree are not eligible for an AlBan scholarship.

Applicants to AlBan specialisation scholarships should be between 30 and 50 years of age: they must have been born on or after 01 September 1956 and before 01 September 1976.

- (d) Prepare a clear and well-structured project work plan that must be integral part of the application to be submitted by means of the relevant official Programme AlBan Application Form 2007/2008 (Cf. item 10 below).
- (e) Have taken contact and must have been accepted by one Higher Education Institution or Higher Level Training Centre located in one of the twenty-five Member States of the European Union. Applications that identify alternative host eligible higher education/training institution/organisation of the European Union Member States will not be accepted. As indicated under section 2.1.3 (g) of the Guidelines for Applicants 2007, the identification of more than one host institution/organisation is possible in the context of education/training programmes whose structure has been officially accredited/established as such. In such cases, eligible education/training is to be undertaken in eligible institutions/organisations of the European Union Member States.
- (f) Have to explain how they will be reintegrated, as active members of an institution or organisation in their home country, once the education/training period in the European Union is over.

For specific details, see section 2.1. of the Programme AlBan Guidelines for Applicants 2007 referred to in item 13.

7. Eligible subject areas

Applicants to AlBan scholarships for the academic year 2007/2008 may submit an application to carry out an education or training project in eligible institutions/organisations of any of the twenty-five member states of the European Union for all areas of study (cf. codes as in Annex 2 of the Programme AlBan Guidelines for Applicants 2007 referred to in item 13) with the exception of language learning be it 'Modern EC Languages' (9.1), 'Non-EC Languages' (9.6) or 'Less Widely Taught Languages' (9.8).

8. Provisional notification date of results of the award process

June 2007

9. Award criteria

See details in section 3 of the Programme AlBan Guidelines for Applicants 2007 referred to in item 13.

10. Application formats and proof of evidence

(a) Three different official AlBan Application Forms 2007/2008 are available in line with the three types of scholarships for education/training projects in the context of, respectively:

- a Master degree
- a Doctorate degree
- Specialisation training

(b) The applications to the AlBan scholarships should be submitted preferably using the relevant electronic application form available from the Portal AlBan:

<http://www.programalban.org>

(c) Applications may also be sent on paper, by mail (though the Programme AlBan privileges the submission of applications on-line, Cf. (b) above). The official relevant Programme AlBan Application Form 2007/2008 is available for downloading and printing from the European Commission, DG EuropeAid

Programme AlBan EC website:

<http://europa.eu.int/comm/europeaid/projects/alban>

and from the Portal AlBan:

<http://www.programalban.org>

(d) Only applications making use of the relevant official Programme AlBan Application Form 2007/2008 will be considered.

(e) Application Forms are available in English, French, Portuguese and Spanish.

(f) Application forms must be completed in one of the above mentioned four languages, which are the official languages of the Programme AlBan. However, specific sections of the application form call for the use of two of the official languages. While filling in such sections, once applicants have chosen one pair of the (4) official languages must keep such a choice (of pair of languages) throughout the application.

(g) When an application is received in both electronic and paper format, only the electronic copy will be considered as valid.

(h) When more than one application of whatever type (master, doctorate, specialisation) is received from one same applicant, only the last one received is considered valid.

- (i) Applications to AlBan scholarships received by fax, digital copy, e-mail or hand-written will be considered non eligible, without further.
- (j) The original of an application submitted on paper, must be submitted by mail, preferably by certified or registered post or by courier carrier, respecting the deadline of submission (Cf. item 11 below) and should reach the postal address as indicated under item 13 below.
- (k) All data supplied by the applicant will have to be confirmed. Failing to present the required written and official hard-copy proofs of any of the information items related to the eligibility requirements and/or having an important/relevant role in the evaluation/ranking process will lead to immediate cancellation of the application. Similarly, in the case of any false declarations (Cf. item 12 below).
- (l) The Programme AlBan Guidelines for Applicants 2007 referred to in item 13 clearly indicates what information needs to be confirmed by means of hard-copy evidence and how to submit it.

11. Deadline for scholarship applications submission

The deadline for applications is as follows:

On-line submission by Internet:

- **22nd DECEMBER 2006, 24h00 CET (Central European Time).**

Paper submission by mail/courier carrier/hand delivery:

- **11th DECEMBER 2006;**
- applications sent by mail/courier carrier bearing a postmark later than 11th DECEMBER 2006 will not be considered;
- applications sent by hand delivery must be received in the AlBan Office (address indicated in item 13) by 11th DECEMBER 2006, 17h00 CET (Central European Time).
- deadline for receiving applications on paper sent by mail to the AlBan Office is **1st FEBRUARY 2007**; the applications received after this date will be automatically considered non-eligible.

12. Deadline for the submission of proof of evidence

Original documents or certified copies confirming the statements made in applications for the Programme AlBan scholarships for the academic year 2007/2008 must be sent by mail, courier carrier or delivered by hand to the AlBan Office. The selected applicants will be notified, by e-mail, in due course. Such notification will clearly state the deadline for the submission of the proofing documents (date and time). The deadline must be respected, in line with the stipulated under section 2.3.5 of the Programme AlBan Guidelines for Applicants 2007.

13. Detailed information

Further information in relation to the object of the present Call for AlBan Scholarships, the Programme AlBan Application Forms 2007/2008 and the Guidelines for Applicants 2007, is available from the following addresses:

Internet: <http://www.programalban.org>
<http://europa.eu.int/comm/europeaid/projects/alban>

E-mail: info@programalban.org
europeaid-infoalban@cec.eu.int

Post: AlBan Office
Asociación Grupo Santander
Universidade do Porto
Rua de Ceuta, 118 - 5º - s/35
4050-190 PORTO
Portugal

All questions regarding the present Call for AlBan Scholarships 2007 should be sent by email to: info@programalban.org or europeaid-infoalban@cec.eu.int

All applicants are encouraged to regularly consult the above Internet pages before the deadline for Scholarship applications since the most frequently asked questions ("FAQ") and the corresponding replies will be published there.