GRADUATE SCHOLARSHIPS for Southeast Asians

Southeast Asian Regional Center for Graduate Study and Research in Agriculture

SCIENCE AND EDUCATION FOR AGRICULTURE AND DEVELOPMENT
THE SEARCA GRADUATE SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

SEARCA's Graduate Study Program was initiated in School Year 1968/1969. Years later, it was renamed the "Graduate Scholarship Program." For over four decades, SEARCA has awarded more than 1,400 scholarships to nationals of SEAMEO member countries, namely: Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Timor-Leste, and Vietnam to pursue advanced studies leading to master's and doctoral degrees in agriculture, forestry, and related sciences. SEARCA has helped develop leaders in the science and practice of agriculture and rural development in Southeast Asia.

The Southeast Asian Regional Center for Graduate Study and Research in Agriculture (SEARCA) is one of the 20 regional centers of excellence of the Southeast Asian Ministers of Education Organization (SEAMEO). An intergovernmental organization founded in 1965, SEAMEO promotes cooperation among Southeast Asian nations through activities in education, science, and culture.

Now implementing its Ninth Five-Year Plan (2009/2010-2013/2014), SEARCA strengthens its resolve to be the lead enabler in the science and practice of agriculture and rural development in Southeast Asia. As the Center does this in many ways, capacity building has always been at the heart of its reason for existence.

Within its Ninth Five-Year Plan, SEARCA reaffirms its emphasis on:

1. Natural Resource Management
2. Agricultural Competitiveness
PRIORITY AREAS OF SPECIALIZATION

Areas of specialization of SEARCA Master’s and PhD degree scholarships are agriculture and related sciences, which include but are not limited to those that fall under the following program clusters:

- Agricultural/Biological sciences
- Social Sciences
- Economics and Statistics
- Forestry and Fisheries
- Environmental Sciences
- Agro-industrial Technology and Engineering
- Biochemistry
CONDITIONS OF THE SEARCA GRADUATE SCHOLARSHIPS

Regular Scholarship for Master’s and PhD Programs

>> Open to nationals of SEAMEO member countries who are regular employees of academic or research institutions or government agencies. Applicants must not be more than 35 years old at the time of application. Proposed thesis/research of applicants should focus on SEARCA’s priority themes.

>> Is granted either on a yearly or semestral basis without prejudice to extension but not to exceed the maximum overall duration of four semesters for a master’s degree program and six semesters for a doctoral degree program.

>> Covers tuition and other school fees; travel allowance (roundtrip air ticket from home country to study post and local transportation); thesis/dissertation support; book and supplies allowance; health insurance; and a monthly stipend for food, and lodging.

>> Has no provision for any member of the scholar’s family.

>> Requires that the scholar undertake the degree program on a full time basis and should not engage in any work for pay or accept any other scholarship/assistantship/special detail, local and abroad throughout the period of his/her scholarship award. Scholars may seek additional support from other sources if the financial support for thesis/dissertation work provided by the SEARCA scholarship is not sufficient to cover all of the necessary expenses for the research.
Any one of the following universities, as well as those universities that have institutional agreements with SEARCA, may serve as study posts of SEARCA Master’s and PhD scholars:

**Institut Pertanian Bogor (IPB)**  
Bogor, Indonesia

**Kasetsart University (KU)**  
Bangkok, Thailand

**Universitas Gadjah Mada (UGM)**  
Yogyakarta, Indonesia

**Universiti Putra Malaysia (UPM)**  
Serdang, Selangor, Malaysia

**University of the Philippines Los Baños (UPLB)**  
Los Baños, Laguna, Philippines

SEARCA reserves the right to make the final decision on the choice of the scholars’ study post. Therefore, applicants for scholarship should fill out admission forms of at least three universities.
PhD Research Scholarship

The SEARCA PhD Research Scholarship provides financial support to qualified Southeast Asian PhD students whose researches are relevant to the priority themes of SEARCA. The scholarship also provides the grantees the opportunity to use SEARCA facilities, take advantage of SEARCA's network of universities for the conduct of their researches; enable them to produce quality research papers for publication; and to work with SEARCA's R&D personnel on mutually identified areas of concerns/interests in agriculture and rural development.

>> Open to any Southeast Asian graduate student pursuing a PhD in agriculture or related sciences from any reputable university in Southeast Asia and elsewhere. Due to the limited amount of grant per scholarship, preference shall be given to researches that are not laboratory-based.

>> Requires the PhD scholar to spend two months of internship at SEARCA in the Philippines, produce a research report and article about the research results for possible publication in SEARCA's journal or other knowledge products, and present a seminar on his/her research at SEARCA.

>> Provides financial support for a one-time economy round-trip travel of the awardee for the most direct route from his/her study post to SEARCA for the two-month residency requirement; research funds not to exceed US$4,000; accident insurance; and a monthly stipend to cover living expenses during the two-month stay at SEARCA.

>> Provides office space during the period of residency at SEARCA as well as access to the email and Internet facilities of SEARCA.
APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS

For applicants to the Master’s or PhD degree Scholarships

- Accomplished SEARCA Scholarship Application Form (2 copies). The application form may be downloaded from the SEARCA website (www.searca.org)
- Accomplished application forms for admission to the Graduate School of at least three universities in the list of study posts; All admission forms may be downloaded from the SEARCA website (http://beta.searca.org/searca/index.php/application-forms)
- Official transcript of academic records of each degree completed
- Certification of employment
- A two-page write-up on agricultural competitiveness or natural resource management
- A brief description of the research the applicant plans to conduct for thesis/dissertation, which must be in line with the priority thrusts of SEARCA
- Two copies of passport-size pictures of the applicant
- Curriculum vitae
- Certification from a medical doctor that the applicant is physically and mentally fit to undertake graduate studies
- IELTS score of 6.0 or TOEFL score of 550 for paper-based, 213 for computer based, and 80 for Internet-based test
- Official endorsements from the employer and the Ministry of Education/Higher Education of the applicant’s country

All applicants are requested to check from their respective Ministries of Education for the deadline of receiving applications set by the Ministry in their respective countries.

Deadline for the Ministries to send endorsements to SEARCA is every 30 July.

For applicants to the PhD Research Scholarship

- Accomplished SEARCA Scholarship Application Form (2 copies). The application form may be downloaded from the SEARCA website (www.searca.org)
- Letter of application for the research scholarship
- A recommendation letter from the Dean of Graduate School of the university where the student is pursuing his/her degree program
- Certified transcript of record of all courses taken at the PhD level
- Curriculum vitae
- Copy of the dissertation research outline/proposal approved by the Advisory Committee and Dean of the Graduate School
- Budgetary requirement for the entire research duly attested and recommended by the PhD Dissertation Supervisor
- Letter from the student certifying that he/she is not receiving any other research grant from any other institution. If partial funding has been obtained from other sources, a certification from the funding agency indicating the amount of grant and the items in the research that are covered by the grant
- Research timetable indicating the activities involved in the research, the expected date of defense and expected date of seminar paper presentation

Applications must be submitted directly to SEARCA.

Deadline for filing of application is every 1 April and 1 September.
Please send inquiries and applications to:

THE MANAGER
GRADUATE SCHOLARSHIP DEPARTMENT
SEARCA
College, Los Baños Laguna 4031, PHL
Telefax: (63-49) 536-7164
E-mail: ecc@agri.searca.org
gsd@agri.searca.org

If you need more information on the SEARCA Graduate Scholarship Program, visit our website at:

www.searca.org