31 March 2021: Deadline to apply for European Disability Forum - Oracle e-Accessibility Scholarship 2021

# The Scholarship

* Will be awarded to a student with a disability.
* The recipient of the European Disability Forum - Oracle e-Accessibility Scholarship 2021 will receive a **6.500 €** scholarship.
* The student should be currently enrolled in a higher education programme in Computer Science, Computer Engineering, User Experience, or related field. This includes Bachelors, Masters and PhD students.
* The Scholarship will be awarded primarily based on a project or thesis in which the needs of persons with disabilities in terms of accessibility to information and communication technologies (e-Accessibility) are taken into consideration, and/or an innovative solution to enhance their access is proposed.
* The project must be an integral component of the educational programme undertaken by the student, for example, final year assignment, or part of their Masters or Ph.D. The project may already be underway, or be a proposal.
* preference will be given to students studying for the whole of 2021.
* In case of possibility to host a physical event, the recipient will be invited to attend an award ceremony. Reasonable travel and hotel costs will be covered by EDF. In case this is not possible, an online ceremony will take place.

# Who can apply?

To be eligible to apply, applicants must:

* Be a European Union (EU) citizen and resident within the EU.
* Be enrolled at a university in the EU for the 2020-2021 academic year, including online universities based in the EU.
* Be studying in the field of Computer Science, Computer Engineering, User Experience, or related field.
* Maintain a strong academic record.
* Have a disability, (see FAQs for definition of disability)
* Have not benefited from the scholarship in the past.

# Application Process

Applicants will be asked to submit via online form and in accessible formats:

* General background information (i.e. contact information and details about your current university for the 2020-2021 school year)
* Proof of disability. An official confirmation of having a disability by the University or the appropriate public agency is sufficient, without the need to disclose type of disability or any other sensitive private information in relation to candidate’s disability.
* Executive summary of their project proposal in English from 2 to 5 pages
* Resume/CV.
* Academic transcripts reached so far from your current and prior institutions (if you have earned a prior degree).
* Recommendation and feedback letter from an academic supervisor.

**Applications must be submitted before 31 March 2021, using this** [**online application form**](https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/EDF-Oracle-Scholarship-20-21)**.**

# Timeframe

* Application deadline: 31 March 2021
* Jury decision: 1 April – 30 April 2021
* Successful applicant notified: 1st week of May 2021.
* Award ceremony: May - June 2021 (exact date and format TBC)

# Terms and conditions

## Eligibility:

1.1 Applicants must be university students studying Computer Science, Computer Engineering, User Experience, or related field at a University in the EU, with a recognized disability.

1.2 Applicants must be enrolled as full time or part time students for the 2020-2021 academic year.

1.3. The scholarship is not open to staff of Oracle or staff of the European Disability Forum (be they employees or contractors) or their immediate family members.

## Application period:

2.1 The application process will open on 1 February 2021 and will close on 31 March 2021.

## Selection process:

* 1. Each application will be evaluated and scored based on the following criteria, taking into account the level of study as well as the student’s academics record; (i) the originality of the project; (ii) scientific quality and respect to the state of the art; (iii) how it takes into account the diverse needs of persons with disabilities; and (iv) its innovativeness and the contribution the project makes to advancing e-accessibility for persons with disabilities.
	2. Upon meeting the criteria listed in 3.1, the panel of expert judges will review each application and the best application (as assessed by the panel of judges in their sole discretion against the criteria) will be successful.
	3. The notification of the successful applicant will take place by no later than 31 May 2021 by the email address provided at the time of application. Notification is subject to verification of eligibility and compliance with the terms and conditions set forth herein.
	4. Acceptance of scholarship by the successful applicant. The successful applicant will be required to accept the scholarship terms within 14 days of notification by EDF. If the successful applicant fails to accept within 14 days, the scholarship payment will be forfeited and EDF may, in its sole discretion, select an alternative successful applicant.
	5. No other correspondence will be entered into.
	6. It is the recipients responsibility to determine any tax liability of any scholarship awarded.

## Privacy:

4.1 The successful applicant agrees that EDF and Oracle may, from time to time, use their name and/or refer to their university in promotional materials relating to future scholarship programmes.

## Prize:

5.1 The best application, as assessed in accordance with the criteria above shall be selected to receive the scholarship payment of €6,500 (issued in the form of bank transfer) to be spent on tuition, fees, books, supplies and equipment required for the applicants' further education.

5.1 The successful applicant will be invited to attend an award ceremony where reasonable travel and hotel costs will be covered.

# Frequently Asked Questions

## Eligibility:

1. **What characterizes a disability?** For the purpose of this scholarship, a person with a disability as recognised by the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities may include those “who have long-term physical, mental, intellectual or sensory impairments which in interaction with various barriers may hinder their full and effective participation in society on an equal basis with others”. Applicants must also provide official confirmation by the University or the appropriate public agency. Only confirmation of having a disability by the appropriate entirety is sufficient. There is no need to disclose type of disability or any other sensitive private information in relation to candidate’s disability.
2. **Can international students apply?** The scholarship is only open to students with EU citizenship and who are residing in the EU.
3. **A bachelors or a masters’ degree does not exist in my country. Can I apply?** Yes, similar educational schemes are also eligible.
4. **I do not have a Computer Science or Computer Engineering major. Can I apply**? This scholarship is mainly focused on persons with disabilities intending to become an ICT professional. In addition to projects aiming to advance accessibility of information and communication technologies for persons with disabilities, projects involving persons with disabilities to develop innovative solutions to accessibility may also be considered. Strong digital aspect is required for the project to be eligible.
5. **Does this scholarship allow for distance/online study?** Yes, as long as the online university is based in the EU and you are resident in the EU.
6. **Are former scholarship holders eligible?** To ensure that the scholarship benefits as many recipients as possible, previous winners are unfortunately not eligible. Previous applicants that did not win are encouraged to re-apply.

## Application process:

1. **How do I apply?** Through the dedicated [online application form](https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/EDF-Oracle-Scholarship-20-21).
2. **Can I send my application packet by regular mail or email?** No.
3. **Which format should I use to submit my documents in?** **Accessible** .rtf, .doc or PDF files.
4. **How will I know if my application has been received?** You will receive a confirmation email.

## Transcripts & CV:

1. **Do I need to submit an official copy of transcripts?** Yes. The official transcript should include an account of your grades and an explanation of the grading scale at your university. Please submit the most updated transcripts you have.
2. **How can I provide an English translation of my transcripts when my university does not issue English transcripts?** Send the non-English transcripts as well as your English translation of your transcripts. Please have your translation confirmed by your supervisor.
3. **As a PhD student I do not have transcripts. What should I do?** A reference letter from your PhD supervisor shall be provided, as well as your previous academic records.

## Executive Summary:

1. **How should it be?** From 2 pages to 5 pages (max. 3,000 words) in English and in accessible format.

# Contact:

For any query about this scholarship, please contact: Mher Hakobyan, EDF Accessibility Officer (mher.hakobyan@edf-feph.org).