

PATHFINDER

MDIA DIGITAL SCHOLARSHIP

INNOVATIVE TECHNOLOGY

PATHFINDER MDIA DIGITAL SCHOLARSHIP 2026

PHD Application Form

*F-TEC-002-05
30th June 2026*

Pathfinder

The MDIA Scholarship Fund

Call 2026

The **Pathfinder MDIA Digital Scholarship** is intended to support postgraduate education in the fields of **Artificial Intelligence** and/or **Digital Trust** and/or **Knowledge and Data Representation and Analysis** and/or **Technology for Peace Sustainability and Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG)** and/or **Quantum Computing** and/or **High Performance Computing (HPC)** and/or **Other Emerging Technologies** and/or **Regulatory Compliance and Governance** and/or **Cultural and Linguistic Technologies** to ensure that the Maltese labour market is supplied with individuals having the necessary skills and to guarantee that it is in a better position to compete at an international level. The scheme is aimed to support those pursuing this path to succeed both at the level of education attainment as well as contributing effectively towards the economy.

Instruction for completion:

- The completed application form and the required attachments must reach the Malta Digital Innovation Authority (MDIA) by sending them to pathfinder.mdia@mdia.gov.mt by **Friday 14th August 2026**.
- All answers must be completed in **English**. Documents provided in other languages must have an English translation attached thereto. The translation should be dated, signed and certified by an independent person of proven competence, confirming the integrity of the translation.
- Use **N/A** in response to any question which is not applicable.
- **Kindly read through the guidelines before proceeding with applying for the scholarship fund.**

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Schedule B - Pathfinder *PhD Application Form* To be filled in **CAPITALS**

Personal Information

Date of Application

Name and Surname

Date of Birth

Place of Birth

<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
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Tick as applicable;

Male	<input type="checkbox"/>
Female	<input type="checkbox"/>
Non-Binary	<input type="checkbox"/>

Maltese Residential Address

Locality

Country

Postcode

<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
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Contact Number

ID Card Number/Passport Number

<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
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Maltese Residence Permit (Kindly tick one of the below)

Applicable	Not Applicable
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

If Applicable:

I declare that I, the applicant, have a residence permit in the Maltese Territory, and with this Application I shall provide a copy of this permit – kindly tick:

YES
<input type="checkbox"/>

Email address

Name of Bank*

IBAN

I confirm that the Bank details are from a European Union Bank - kindly tick:

YES
<input type="checkbox"/>

* The bank details **MUST** be from a European Union Bank.

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Please list your academic degrees and diplomas, stating the University/Institution and the year of conferment. Kindly complete in chronological order.

MQF Level	Title of Qualification/ Training including area of specialisation	University / Recognized institution	Year of Conferment

Please list the MQF Level 8 course/programme you have applied for stating the University/Recognized Institution.

NO	MQF Level	Title of Course/Programme	University/ Recognised Institution	Full-time (FT) Part-time (PT) Basis	Duration of course ¹	Start date (DD/MM/YY) ²	End date (MM/YY)	For Office Use Only
1								<input type="checkbox"/>

For the applied course/programme above, list the tuition fees and bench fees required that correspond to the **full course/programme duration**. Any changes to these fees will not be acceptable after the submission of the application.

NO	Tuition Fees (€) ³	Administration / Bench Fees (€) ⁴	For Office Use Only
1			<input type="checkbox"/>

¹ Duration of course cannot be changed. If changed after application deadline the application is considered to have been withdrawn.

² In case that the exact start date is unknown at the time of application, candidate shall define MM/YY.

³ The exact amount of Tuition fees must be inserted. Failure to provide the correct amount may result in the disqualification of the application.

⁴ The exact amount of Administration and/or Bench fees must be inserted. Failure to provide the correct amount may result in the disqualification of the application.

Additional Documentation

In addition to the application form please provide the following documentation. Mark the applicable boxes ensuring that the documentation has been attached.

Part 1 documents of the Application Form shall be submitted by **Friday 14th August 2026** together with the following documents.

Documentation Required	Attached	For Office Use Only
DOC 1 - Identification Card or Passport	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
DOC 2 - Curriculum Vitae	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
DOC 3 - Appendix I ⁵	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
DOC 4 - Appendix III ⁶ & IV ⁷	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>
DOC 5 - Applicant's HEI and/or Further Higher Education Institution (including University) detailed and official transcripts. <i>(If already available)</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
DOC 8 – Permanent Residence permit <i>(If applicable)</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

⁵ Appendix I:

Applicants applying to read for an MQF Level 7 or 8 qualification shall submit a clear overview of the relevance of how the programme of studies/course/research is to Artificial Intelligence and/or Digital Trust and/or Knowledge and Data Representation and Analysis and/or Technology for Sustainability and Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) and Other Emerging Technologies, how this study/research can impact the development of Malta and what future plans will the applicant prepare prior to successful completion, in not more than three hundred (300) words. The word count does not include references, bibliographies, or footnotes.

⁶ Appendix III:

Applicants applying for the scholarship shall submit a letter from the course coordinator/studies' supervisor providing identification and confirmation of the topic of the research.

⁷ Appendix IV:

PhD applicants must submit a PhD proposal detailing their research project in relation to the Pathfinder Digital Scholarship applicable research fields.

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DOC 10 - Evidence of commencement of programme of studies (<i>If applicable</i>)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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Part 2 documents of the Application Form **shall be submitted by Friday 16th October 2026** which include the following:

Documentation Required	For Office Use Only
DOC 5 - Applicant's HEI and/or Further Higher Education Institution (including University) detailed and official transcripts ⁸	<input type="checkbox"/>
DOC 6 - Unconditional Letter of Acceptance from the Recognised Educational Institution applied for	<input type="checkbox"/>
DOC 7 - MQRIC evaluation report/receipt of application as per Clause 5.2 (<i>if required</i>)	<input type="checkbox"/>
DOC 9 - Visa Approval (<i>if applicable</i>)	<input type="checkbox"/>
DOC 11 - Proof of employment status showing no current full-time employment (<i>if applicable</i>)	<input type="checkbox"/>

⁸ The Applicant's HEI and/or Further Higher Education Institution (including University) **detailed and official transcripts** are required in Part 2 documents, only if they have not been submitted with the Part 1 documents.

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Schedule C - Declaration form

I, the applicant declare that the final research project/thesis shall be related to Artificial Intelligence and/or Digital Trust and/or Knowledge and Data Representation and Analysis and/or Technology for Peace Sustainability and Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) and/or Quantum Computing and/or High Performance Computing (HPC) and/or Other Emerging Technologies and/or Regulatory Compliance and Governance and/or Cultural and Linguistic Technologies.

YES

I, the applicant, declare that I have read and agreed to the conditions stipulated in the Guidelines.

I, the applicant declare that the following documents required for this application are the scanned version of the original form.

YES

I, hereby acknowledge and declare that I have read and fully understood the instructions and requirements for submitting my application. I am aware that it is my sole responsibility to ensure that all the necessary and accurate documents are uploaded before the stipulated deadline.

I understand that failure to submit all the correct and required documents before the deadline may result in the rejection of my application. I further declare that the information provided in my application is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

YES

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To Pathfinder MDIA Digital Scholarship Board:

I, _____ undertake that the duration of my programme of studies applied for under the Pathfinder MDIA Digital Scholarship Board will be according to Clauses 4.1.2 and 6.2 of the Pathfinder MDIA Digital Scholarship guidelines.

YES

The signatory of this application confirms that any personal data included in this application form is covered by the appropriate data subject consent as required by the prevalent Data Protection laws and regulations. The consent includes the sharing of data with other government entities where strictly necessary and required by law but also defines the purpose(s) for the processing of data of the data subject/s in line with Article 5, Principles relating to processing of personal data and Article 7 Conditions of Consent of regulation (EU) 2016/679 dated 27 April 2016 on the protection of natural persons with regard to the processing of personal data and on the free movement of such data (General Data Protection Regulation). Should the data subject withdraw his/ her consent to processing, the MDIA shall be informed immediately. Consequently, MDIA may proceed with processing this data, verifying it with other agencies, and retain such data for the duration required by the applicable national and EU laws and regulations.

By signing this section, I the undersigned hereby expressly consent and authorise MDIA to process the data contained in this form for the purposes stated therein and for the purposes as stated in the MDIA Digital Pathfinder Scholarship Guidelines.

Applicant Signature: _____

Applicant ID Card No: _____

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End of Application

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REVISION HISTORY

Revision No.	Issue Date	Description
1	24/06/2021	First issue.
2	28/06/2023	Second issue.
3	24/06/2024	Third issue.
4	28/04/2025	Fourth issue.
5	30/06/2026	Fifth Issue – Amended to ensure alignment with the updated Pathfinder MDIA Digital Scholarship Guidelines.

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