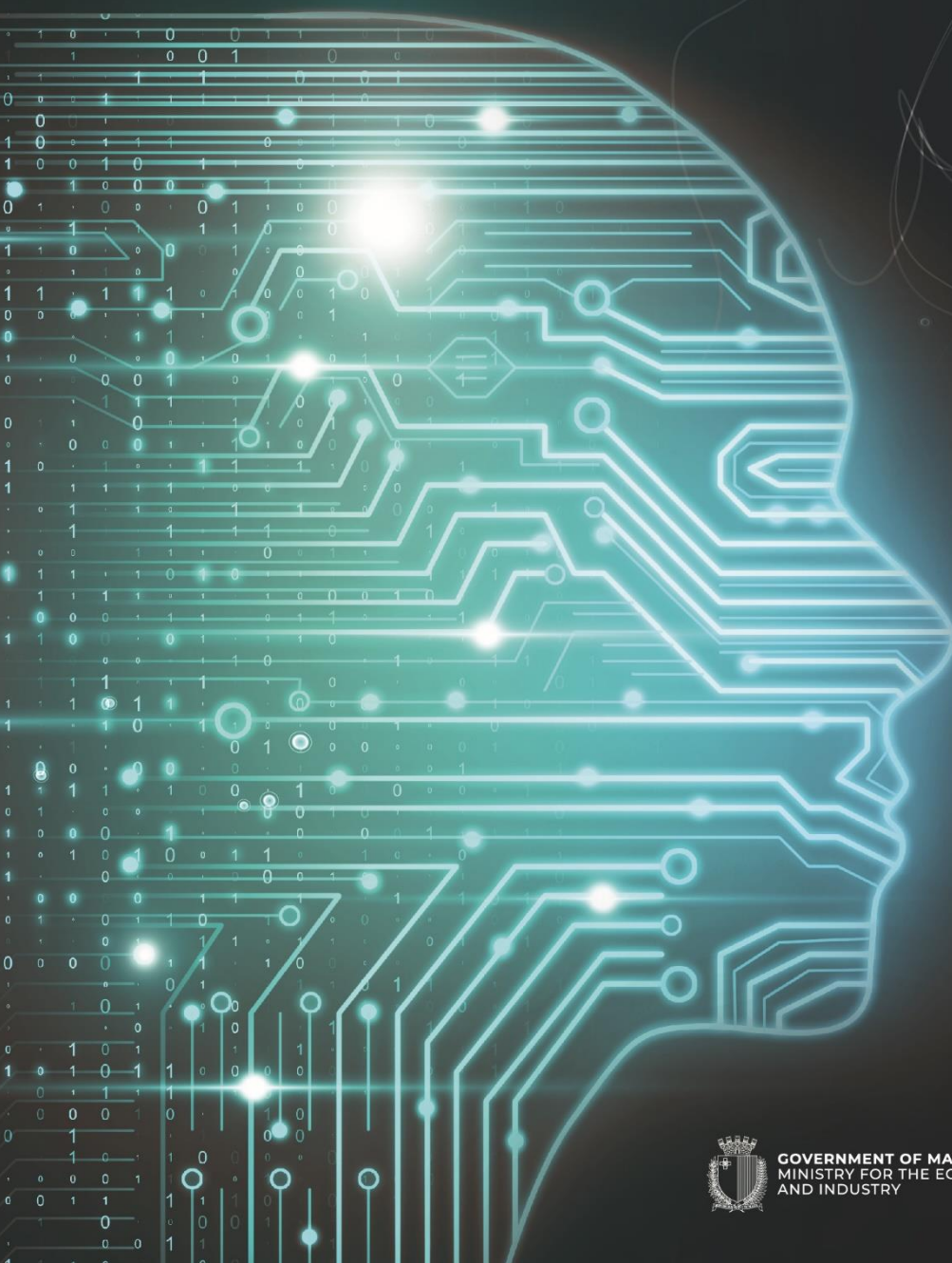


SCHOLARSHIP GUIDELINES

PATHFINDER

MDIA DIGITAL SCHOLARSHIP



GOVERNMENT OF MALTA
MINISTRY FOR THE ECONOMY
AND INDUSTRY



MDIA
Malta Digital Innovation Authority

1. Introduction

- 1.1. The **Pathfinder MDIA Digital Scholarship** is intended to support postgraduate education in the field of Artificial Intelligence and to ensure that the Maltese labour market is supplied with the right individuals 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.
- 1.2. Postgraduate education forms an increasingly important part of any country's economic and social agenda. It supplies a key element of many people's continuing professional development, and the Scheme is intended to contribute to this agenda through its support of this important sector of education.

General Regulations

2. Aims and Objectives

- 2.1. The key objectives of the **Pathfinder MDIA Digital Scholarship** are to:
 - assist people to pursue further levels of academic research in Artificial Intelligence;
 - reduce skills mismatches particularly within the technological economic sectors that includes Artificial Intelligence;
 - support further research in science and technology; and
 - increase the capacity and level of research, innovation, and development activity in Malta.

3. Explanatory Notes

- 3.1. **Academic Record** shall mean an official document issued by a Recognised Educational Institution. The document shall show the marks/grades obtained by the Applicant and where it is the norm, the final grade/classification.
- 3.2. **Agreement** shall mean a legally binding document to be signed by the Scholarship Awardee as beneficiary of the Scholarship and the **Pathfinder MDIA Digital Scholarship** Project Leader. These Regulations shall be construed as forming part of the Agreement.
- 3.3. **Applicant** shall mean a person who submits a scholarship application.
- 3.4. **Awardee** shall mean a person who is awarded a scholarship under this scheme.
- 3.5. **Awarding Body** refers to an organisation recognised by the National Regulatory Authorities whose purpose is awarding accredited qualifications.

- 3.6. Commencement Date** of scholarship shall mean the date as specified on the ULA being the start date of the programme/course from when the payment to Awardee will be calculated.
- 3.7. Completion Date** shall mean the date when the programme/course is completed, and the final result is published.
- 3.8. Course Duration** is to be established by the Recognised Educational Institution. For courses of more or less than 12 months, the allowances shall be calculated pro rata over the number of months.
- 3.9. ECTS** shall mean European Credit Transfer System.
- 3.10. End Date** shall mean the date as specified on the ULA and on which payments of allowances are calculated. Payments of the grant are calculated on the number of ECTSs achieved.
- 3.11. Pathfinder MDIA Digital Scholarship** shall mean, for the purposes of these Regulations, and the Grant Agreement, a Scholarship administered by the Malta Digital Innovation Authority and financed through the National AI Strategy.
- 3.12. Pathfinder MDIA Digital Scholarship Board** shall mean a Board appointed by the Malta Digital Innovation Authority (MDIA). This Board shall be entrusted with the evaluation and ranking of Applicants for the awarding of Scholarships and overseeing of the scheme.
- 3.13. Full-time studies** shall mean studying full-time at a Recognised Educational Institution.
- 3.14. Part-time studies** shall mean studying part-time at a Recognised Educational Institution.
- 3.15. ISCED** shall mean International Standard Classification of Education.
- 3.16. HEI** shall mean Higher Education Institutions.
- 3.17. Joint Degree** shall mean a single degree issued by at least two Educational Institutions offering an integrated programme and recognised officially in the countries where the degree-awarding institutions are located. For the purpose of these Regulations, when an Applicant applies for a Joint Degree, a leading Institution has to be identified. The **Pathfinder MDIA Digital Scholarship Board** shall only recognise one Recognised Institution.
- 3.18. Master's Programme** shall mean a second cycle higher educational programme that:
- a) Leads to a Master level qualification offered by a HEI (including a University) with a minimum of 60 ECTS credits (based on the Bologna Process), and

- 3.19.** PhD Programme shall mean a second cycle higher educational programme that:
- a) Leads to a PhD level qualification offered by a HEI (including a University) and
 - b) Leads to a full MQF Level 8 qualification on an academic level.
- 3.20. MQF - Malta Qualifications Framework** shall act as a translation device to make national qualifications more readable across Europe, promoting workers' and learners' mobility between countries and facilitating their lifelong learning.
- 3.21. MQF Level 7 Qualification** shall mean any qualification referenced at Level 7 of the Malta Qualifications Framework.
- 3.22. MQF Level 8 Qualification** shall mean any qualification referenced at Level 8 of the Malta Qualifications Framework.
- 3.23. MQRIC** shall mean Malta Qualifications Recognition Information Centre within the Malta Further and Higher Education Authority.
- 3.24. MFHEA** shall mean Malta Further and Higher Education Authority
- 3.25. Per Annum** shall mean twelve (12) calendar months.
- 3.26. Project Leader (PL)** shall mean the person who is entrusted with the overall financial and legal responsibility for the implementation of the project.
- 3.27. Recognised Educational Institution** shall mean a Higher Educational Institution, or an Awarding Body recognised by the competent authorities in the country where the institution is registered and mutually recognised by MFHEA (in the case of foreign institutions) or locally registered Educational Institution accredited by MFHEA.
- 3.28. Study Allowance** shall mean an additional allowance to cover additional expenses incurred during the duration of the programme of studies.
- 3.29. Transcript** shall mean the same as Academic Record.
- 3.30. Unconditional Letter of Acceptance (ULA)** shall mean a letter issued to the Applicant by the Registrar (or a delegated high authority) of the Recognised Educational Institution which shall have the following details:
- A clear statement by the Recognised Educational Institution that it is unconditionally accepting the Applicant to follow a programme of study.
 - The Commencement Date of studies (Indicating the exact day, month, and year).
 - The End Date of studies (Indicating the exact day, month and year).
 - The Modality of study (that is whether it is part-time or full-time studies);

- The Number of ECTS credits pertaining to the programme of study (if applicable)

Any other information required by the Project Leader.

Applicant shall note that the Agreement to be signed at a later stage (should the applicant be awarded a Scholarship) shall include only the information printed on the ULA provided by the deadline of **Friday 16th July 2021** by not later than **13:00 (CET)**.

ALL APPLICANTS shall be obliged to submit the Unconditional Letter of Acceptance by, **Friday 8th October 2021** by not later than **13:00 (CET)**.

It is the duty of the Applicants to ensure that when they choose a Recognised Educational Institution, this institution is in a position to issue such a ULA with all the above details. This has to be in the form of an original letter, signed by the Registrar of the University (or delegated high authority). Scanned, PDF copies or other electronically transmitted formats shall be accepted in terms of [Clause 6.2](#) unless the **Pathfinder MDIA Digital Scholarship** office receives them directly from the Recognised Educational Institution.

4. Eligibility

4.1. In order to apply for a **Pathfinder MDIA Digital Scholarship**:

4.1.1. an Applicant shall by the closing date of the **Pathfinder MDIA Digital Scholarship** application:

- a) Be a Maltese citizen who has been residing in Malta for the past five (5) years. Provided that a Maltese citizen who has been residing outside Malta for study, health or work purposes or any other purpose which the **Pathfinder MDIA Digital Scholarship Board** may consider, will still be eligible to apply and this period of time during which the citizen was abroad will not be taken into consideration for the purpose of calculating the five (5) year requirement; or
- b) Be a Maltese Citizen who is a worker or self-employed person in Malta; or
- c) Be a national of an EU/EEA state or a family member of such EU/EEA national (as defined in [SL460.17](#) and in [SL217.04](#) (Subsidiary Legislation) respectively for EU and EEA nationals), provided that such person has obtained permanent residence in Malta in accordance with [SL460.17](#) and in [SL217.04](#) respectively for EU and EEA nationals; or

- d) Be a national of an EU/EEA state who is in Malta exercising his/her Treaty rights as a worker, self-employed person or person retaining such status in accordance with [SL460.17](#); or
 - e) Be a third country national that has been granted long-term residence status under [SL217.04](#).
- 4.1.2. Be applying to follow programme of study at MQF level 7 or 8 that has a minimum of 30 ECTS related to Artificial Intelligence and the research project is related to the same field.
- 4.2. Applicants who are already in possession of a Level 7 Masters degree or Level 8 Doctorate degree may also apply to read for another Masters degree, **BUT** they are not allowed to apply under this scheme to read for programmes of studies below Masters degree or Doctorate degree, such as Post Graduate Diploma.
- 4.3. Applicants shall start their course leading to a Qualification at MQF Level 7 or 8 between **31st July 2021** and **31st December 2021**.
- 4.4. Applicants who have already started an MQF level 7 or 8 programme of study before **31st July 2021** are not eligible to apply.
- 4.5. Applicants who by closing date of application are still undergoing another programme of study may still apply, provided that such programme is to be concluded and results published by **December 2021**, that is, before entering into agreement, if awarded the **Pathfinder MDIA Digital Scholarship** .
- 4.6. The complete online Application Form shall be submitted by **Friday 16th July 2021** at **13:00 (CET)** together with the following documents.
- Transcript, Unconditional Letter of Acceptance and MQRIC report or copy of receipt (where applicable) shall be submitted by **Friday 8th October 2021** at **13:00 (CET)**.
- 4.7. An Applicant who is starting a programme of study leading to MQF Level 7, but part of the programme/course is referenced to MQF Level 6 shall NOT be eligible to apply under this scheme but shall be eligible to apply under the Malta Government Undergraduate Scheme (MGUS) / Students' Maintenance Grants'.
- 4.8. Applicants shall become ineligible for a Scholarship if they are in breach of any part of the Regulations.

5. Tenure and Placement

- 5.1. Awards are tenable at any local or international Recognised Educational Institution for a specific programme of study or research. Only those Recognised Educational Institutions recognised by the MFHEA shall be taken into consideration by the **Pathfinder MDIA Digital Scholarship Board**.
- 5.2. It is the responsibility of the Applicants, applying for qualifications awarded by foreign or local Recognised Educational Institutions not featuring in the “List of Accredited Courses offered by Licensed Institutions” (excluding University of Malta (UM), Malta College of Arts Science and Technology (MCAST) and the Institute for Tourism Studies (ITS) to produce an evaluation report on comparability of qualifications issued by the Malta Qualifications Recognition Information Centre (MQRIC) within the Malta Further and Higher Education Authority (MFHEA). Applicants not in possession of this report / receipt of an MQRIC application may still apply, provided that they submit a copy of the report or receipt to the **Pathfinder MDIA Digital Scholarship** office by not later than **Friday 8th October 2021 at 13:00 (CET)**.
- 5.3. The MQRIC may be contacted as follows:

Malta Qualifications Recognition Information Centre (MQRIC) / Malta Further and Higher Education Authority (MFHEA)
J.Abela Sclaro Street,
Hamrun HMR1304

Tel. no. 153

E-mail: mqric@mfhea.mt

Website: www.mfhea.mt

6. Choice of Institution

- 6.1. Applicants are expected to identify not more than five (5) Recognised Educational Institutions and programmes/courses that they consider most appropriate on the Application Form. No changes to the list of Recognised Educational Institutions are accepted after the closing date of application **Friday 16th July 2021 at 13:00 (CET)**.
- 6.2. Applicants shall submit at least one Unconditional Letter of Acceptance (ULA) from a Recognised Educational Institution listed on their Application Form. The last day of submission of ULA shall be **Friday 8th October 2021 at 13:00 (CET)**.
 - 6.2.1. The Unconditional Letter of Acceptance must be accompanied by a declaration from the Applicants that they are intending to complete their programme of study, and presentation of thesis and/or project, early enough to ensure that by the end of course the HEI/University shall be in a position to confirm that the awardee will be awarded the degree. (Refer to [Schedule I](#)).

- 6.3.** Many courses have strict admission deadline and Applicants must take the necessary steps to secure admission to their preferred institutions in advance of any Scholarship's application to the **Pathfinder MDIA Digital Scholarship Board**. Applicants should note that a number of educational institutions / university departments require an Applicant to demonstrate a valid Graduate Management Admission Test (GMAT) or Graduate Record Examination (GRE) score before an offer of admission can be made. The fees for these tests shall not be covered by the funds provided by **Pathfinder MDIA Digital Scholarship**. Applicants should check admission requirements carefully at the time of application.

7. Administration of Pathfinder MDIA Digital Scholarship Board

- 7.1.** The **Pathfinder MDIA Digital Scholarship Board** is administered by the Malta Digital Innovation Authority. The **Pathfinder MDIA Digital Scholarship Board** is responsible for the selection and ranking process and for overseeing the scheme.

All correspondence is to be addressed to:

MDIA
Twenty20 Business Centre
Triq I-Intornjatur, Zone 3
Central Business District, Birkirkara
CBD 3050, Malta

Tel. No.: 21828800
E-mail: pathfinder@mdia.gov.mt
Website: www.mdia.gov.mt

8. Application Form

- 8.1.** Applicants are invited to apply by sending the application form and accompanying documents to pathfinder@mdia.gov.mt. It is the responsibility of the Applicants to ensure that their Application is successfully submitted on time, to keep a printed copy of the Application Form and to have a copy of the acknowledgement email. This shall be the Applicants' proof that an Application is submitted successfully and on time.

The below supporting documents must be submitted with the application form:

- Identification Card or Passport
- Curriculum Vitae
- The two (2) Appendices: i.e. Appendix I, Appendix II
- Applicant's HEI (including University) transcripts (if already available);

- Unconditional Letter of Acceptance from the Recognised Educational Institution applied for (if already available);
- MQRIC evaluation report / receipt of application (if already available) as per Clauses 5.2 (if required);
- Permanent Residence permit (where applicable);

The **Pathfinder MDIA Digital Scholarship Board** shall give considerable weight to the contents of these Sections in the application form:

- Appendix I: The relevance of the course / research to the Artificial Intelligence and for the development of Malta.
- Appendix II: Details about the course or research.

Thus, the Pathfinder MDIA Digital Scholarship Board may penalise Applicants who fail to submit the required Appendices with the Application Form.

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 related to Artificial Intelligence and how this study/research can impact the development of Malta, in not more than three hundred (300) words. The word count does not include references, bibliographies, or footnotes.

Appendix II: Applicants applying for the scholarship should submit the list of units in their course or research, clearly identifying the unit/s in their course or research that are related to Artificial Intelligence. The latter should amount to minimum of 30 ECTS. Additional to this, students are to focus their research/thesis on Artificial Intelligence and shall submit a letter from the course coordinator/ studies' supervisor providing identification and confirmation of the topic of the research.

- 8.2.** The Applications' deadline is **Friday 16th July 2021 at 13:00 (CET)**. Only in the case of the MQRIC statement/receipt, Transcript/Academic Records, Unconditional Letter of Acceptance, the date of submission is extended to **Friday 8th October 2021 at 13:00 (CET)**.
- 8.3.** Late and incomplete applications shall not be considered by the **Pathfinder MDIA Digital Scholarship Board**. Applicants are strongly advised not to wait until the last day to submit their application. MDIA cannot be held responsible for any delay due to technical difficulties, or otherwise, that may hinder applicants' submission.
- 8.4.** Applicants are to ensure that they apply by sending an email to pathfinder@mdia.gov.mt by the stipulated deadline. No written (hard copy) applications will be accepted. The **Pathfinder MDIA Digital Scholarship Board** shall not consider any petitions stating that the Application Form was submitted without tangible proof as evidence.

9. Eligibility, Selection Process and Procedure

- 9.1. The Malta Digital Innovation Authority has set up the **Pathfinder MDIA Digital Scholarship Board** to operate the process of selection. This Board shall be responsible for all matters concerning selection according to pre-established criteria identified in [Clause 10.1](#) and determination of appropriate awards according to the Regulations.
- 9.2. Eligible Applicants shall be called for an interview. It is the responsibility of the Applicant to make sure to be available on the date and time communicated to him/her for the interview. No alternative arrangements shall be made to change the date and time of the interview unless there are exceptional circumstances (supported by written proof) that warrant the change of such date and time. The aforementioned exceptional circumstances shall be examined, and such alternative date and time may be agreed to by the Board, at the Board's discretion. Interviews are expected to be scheduled **in August during weekdays from Monday to Friday from 09:30 to 16:00**. Applicants who do not turn up for their interview will be considered as no longer having an interest in the scholarship and thus they will be considered ineligible by the **Pathfinder MDIA Digital Scholarship Board**.
- 9.3. In the case of applicants who are unable to attend on the given date and time for the interview due to being abroad, such interviews shall take place via video call at the given date and time. In exceptional cases, an alternative date for interview may be given by the **Pathfinder MDIA Digital Scholarship Board** depending on the circumstances which led to the failure of such an interview.

10. Selection Criteria

- 10.1. Applications are considered on the basis of the following selection criteria:
 - a) Academic merit of the Applicant (25%) – Only qualifications at MQF Level 5 or higher will be taken into consideration;
 - b) How study / research is related to the AI and development of Malta and details about the courses/programme applied for – Appendix I and II (25%);
 - c) The outcome of the interview (50%)
- 10.2. Applicants and applications shall be deemed to be ineligible for a scholarship by the Pathfinder Scholarships Scheme Board if they do not achieve at least a pass mark of fifty percent (50%) in each of the selection criteria listed in 10.1.

The applicants will be ranked according to the marks obtained from the criteria found in clause 10.1. Funding will be made available to the applicants according to the relative rank they have achieved. Therefore, the fund will first be made available to

the highest ranked applicant, and funds will subsequently continue to be made available to the other applicants according to their rank until the fund is exhausted.

11. Types of Scholarships

- 11.1.** Applicants must be applying to read for a programme of study leading to a qualification at MQF Level 7 or 8.
- 11.2.** Applicants awarded a scholarship shall be available to commence their programme/course leading to a qualification at MQF Level 7 or 8 between **31st July 2021 and 31st December 2021**.
- 11.3.** Programmes / courses eligible under this scheme and value of awards are included in the table below for ease of reference:

Table 1: Scholarship Grant

<i>Level of Programme</i>	<i>Max Duration of Programme</i>	<i>Value of Scholarship Grant</i>
MQF Level 7	Up to and not more than three (3) years (thirty-six (36) months)	<p>Full-time Basis:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 80% of the tuition fees • 100% of bench fees • Study allowance amounting to €3,600 per annum • Total of grant must not exceed €10,000 over the duration of the course. <p>Part-time basis:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 80% of the tuition fees • 100% bench fees • Total of grant must not exceed €10,000 over the duration of the course.
MQF Level 8	Up to and not more than six (6) years (seventy-two (72) months)	

12. Value of Awards and Payments

12.1. Programmes / Courses at MQF Level 7 and 8:

For programmes/courses provided by a Recognised Educational Institution through full-time/part-time, the value of the scholarship grant is up to €10,000 over the

duration of the course. This amount shall cover 80% of the tuition fees and 100% bench fees and a study allowance for students reading for a programme/course on a full-time basis is to be provided amounting to €3,600 per annum.

12.2. The **Pathfinder MDIA Digital Scholarship Board** may consider extension for completion of studies. ONLY one Extension beyond the completion date indicated on the Scholarship Grant Agreement may be considered by **Pathfinder MDIA Digital Scholarship Board**. Any request for extensions is to be addressed to the **Pathfinder MDIA Digital Scholarship Board** supported by the approval of the Recognised Educational Institution. Any request for extension is at the discretion of the **Pathfinder MDIA Digital Scholarship Board** to approve or otherwise. No funds will be allocated or paid for this extension if approved by the Board.

12.3. Payments of Scholarships grant are affected as follows:

Programmes / Courses at MQF Level 7 and 8:

Tuition fees and/or bench fees are to be paid by the Scholarships' Awardees directly to the Recognised Educational Institution. The fees paid by the student shall then be reimbursed to the awardee on presentation of invoice/s and the original official receipt/s of payment/s or equivalent (i.e., receipted invoice where applicable) issued by the receiving Recognised Educational Institution. Payments of Scholarships grant are affected as follows:

For full-time and part-time programmes, the payment for tuition fees and/or bench fees are affected to the Awardee's Bank Account upon presentation of invoice/s and fiscal receipts by the **15th November 2021** and thereafter the **14th March 2022**.

The payment of study allowance is split in two instalments, pro rata to the duration of the studies: half of the study allowance for that year in November 2021 and the other half at the end of an academic year after the submission of the results from the study units obtained or submission of progress report ([Clause 13.12](#))

13. General Conditions of Award

13.1. The general conditions in this section apply to all Applicants under the scheme and to all Scholarship Awardees.

APPLICATION STAGE

13.2. Applicants shall be expected to seek prior visa approval (where applicable) for any proposed studies abroad.

13.3. Supplementary Scholarship awards or supplementary grants for the same course of programme of studies from the chosen recognized institution must be declared at the point of interview or before formally accepting the other awards. All declarations require approval from the **Pathfinder MDIA Digital Scholarship Board**. The Board

may ask for additional documentation before taking any decision. Any unapproved supplementary Scholarship awards or supplementary grants additional to **Pathfinder MDIA Digital Scholarship** for the same course or programme shall be deemed to be in breach of the agreement. As a result, cancellation of award and refund of all funds granted to Awardee by then shall be required by the **Pathfinder MDIA Digital Scholarship Board**. The Board considers this as fraud and may proceed with a criminal liability suit against such Awardees. Please refer also to [Clause 4.8](#).

PROVISIONAL AWARD STAGE

- 13.4.** Applicants will be notified of their acceptance by the **Pathfinder MDIA Digital Scholarship Board**.
- 13.5.** The Awardee shall be given a draft Agreement that stipulates the terms and conditions of such Award. The **Pathfinder MDIA Digital Scholarship Board** reserves the right to review and cancel the provisional award if new information reveals any change in information or conditions which renders the provisional Awardee ineligible for the Scholarship Award.
- 13.6.** The Awardee shall conclude and sign the Agreement by not later than one (1) week from receipt of awardee notice, whichever comes last unless otherwise justified. Failure to present signed Agreement by the prescribed date shall lead to the award being awarded to others according to their respective ranking. As part of the signing of Agreement, the Awardee shall be required to fill in a number of forms, including, Financial I.D. Form and other forms that may be communicated by the Project Leader at MDIA.
- 13.7.** Should any conflict arise between the interpretation of clauses in the Regulations and the Agreement, the Regulations shall prevail.
- 13.8.** The Awardee shall be expected to take up the Scholarship award from the date stated by the **Pathfinder MDIA Digital Scholarship Board** on the Grant Agreement. If for any reason, Applicants cannot commence their studies on the date inserted in the Scholarship Grant Agreement or requires a different start date they are duty bound to inform the **Pathfinder MDIA Digital Scholarship Board** as soon as possible. The **Pathfinder MDIA Digital Scholarship Board** reserves the right, on notification of such intention, to review the start date or else to cancel the Scholarship should the changes imply postponing the start date in breach of [Clause 11.2](#).

CONTRACTED AWARD STAGE

- 13.9.** Scholarships cannot be extended to enable the Awardee to complete an additional or higher qualification other than that for which the selection was made.
- 13.10.** On award of a Scholarship, the Project Leader at MDIA of the **Pathfinder MDIA Digital Scholarship** shall make information obtained available to public authorities for accountability purposes.

- 13.11.** Awardees who are found to have given false information or who have in any manner withheld information that would have influenced the awarding of the Scholarship and/or any grants in accordance with these Regulations, shall be immediately disqualified and shall be asked to reimburse any expenses and money granted to them or on their behalf. The Board may proceed with a criminal liability suit, without prejudice to any civil action for damages, against such Awardees.

PROGRESS AND COMPLETION

- 13.12.** For Masters (MQF Level 7) applicants, with the completion of a study unit the Awardee must submit the official result achieved by that study unit within two (2) weeks of receipt of result.

For PhD (MQF Level 8) applicants, the Awardee must submit a progress report signed by the awardee's supervisor every 6 months from the start of the course till the end.

- 13.13.** On completion of the studies, the below documentation shall be submitted to the **Pathfinder MDIA Digital Scholarship** office within two (2) months from the award of the qualification:

- a) Final report (directly from the institution via email) where the University confirms that the student has obtained the award.
- b) Soft copy of title and contents pages of thesis/dissertation/research work/project and Transcript and/or the Official Certificate awarding the Degree.

Soft Copy documentation shall be forwarded to the **Pathfinder MDIA Digital Scholarship** office in PDF format by email to pathfinder@mdia.gov.mt

- 13.14.** MDIA reserves the right to organise Public Relations events in relation to this **Pathfinder MDIA Digital Scholarship**. MDIA also reserves the right to invite any awardee to attend and/or to speak at such event. If such an invitation is received by an awardee, said awardee is hereby accepting such invitation a priori. Said acceptance shall be valid for the duration of their course and for two (2) years following the completion of their course.

- 13.15.** Awardees may be contacted for PR collaboration from the PR office at MDIA.

14. Termination prior to completion of programme

- 14.1.** Scholarship Awardees who for any reason discontinue their studies shall inform the **Pathfinder MDIA Digital Scholarship Board** in writing immediately.

- 14.2.** The **Pathfinder MDIA Digital Scholarship Board** shall on thirty (30) days written notice terminate the award if:
- a) the Applicant's progress is deemed unsatisfactory by the Recognised Institution;
 - b) the Applicant discontinues the studies; and/or
 - c) an Applicant is in breach of any provision of these regulations and does not remedy the breach within thirty (30) days of receipt of written notice requiring him/her to do so.
- 14.3.** When an Awardee has the scholarship award terminated under conditions stipulated in [Clause 14.2](#), the **Pathfinder MDIA Digital Scholarship Board** shall determine the amount to be reimbursed. The refund must be made within three (3) months of from the awardee's declaration in terms of [Clause 14.1](#).
- 14.4.** Awardees shall not be deemed to be in breach of these regulations ONLY in case of serious illness and demise of the awardee. In case of serious illness, the awardee needs to provide medical certificates and testimonials to the **Pathfinder MDIA Digital Scholarship Board**. Thus, awardees who cannot pursue further studies due to serious illness might be required to refund grants on a pro-rata basis as approved by and at the discretion **Pathfinder MDIA Digital Scholarship Board**.
- 14.5.** In such situations, the Scholarship Awardee shall provide justifiable explanation as to why the course was not completed or why the Scholarship Awardee failed to obtain the qualification. Documented evidence, medical certificates and testimonials must accompany each claim. The **Pathfinder MDIA Digital Scholarship Board** shall in no way be bound to waiver all claims put forward. The **Pathfinder MDIA Digital Scholarship Board** reserves the right to appoint its own expert, be it medical or otherwise, to advise and assess the case of the claimant.

15. Information

- 15.1.** For further queries and information please contact: **Pathfinder MDIA Digital Scholarship** office:

MDIA
Twenty20 Business Centre
Triq I-Intornjatur, Zone 3
Central Business District, Birkirkara
CBD 3050
Malta

Telephone :(+356) 21828800
Email: pathfinder@mdia.gov.mt
Website: www.mdia.gov.mt

Please note that the official website of **Pathfinder MDIA Digital Scholarship** is found on www.mdia.gov.mt/pathfinder. The **Pathfinder MDIA Digital Scholarship Board** shall not assume any responsibility for any incorrect information found on other websites as regards to the **Pathfinder MDIA Digital Scholarship**.

SCHEDULE 1

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 6.2.1 of the **Pathfinder MDIA Digital Scholarship** regulations.

Applicants ID Card No

Applicant's Signature