

## MASTER IN – WBI GRANTS 2026-2027

### APPLICATION GUIDE

---

Wallonia-Brussels International (WBI) offers financial support to pursue a master's degree or a specialised master's program of 60 or 120 credits for international students holding at least a bachelor's or master's degree obtained from a foreign awarding institution recognized by the competent authorities of the candidate's country in the field of higher education. The master's programme must be undertaken in Wallonia or Brussels within a higher education institution recognized by the Wallonia-Brussels Federation.

For a 60-credit master's programme, the grant is for a **maximum duration of one year**. For a 120-credit master's programme, the grant is awarded for a **maximum duration of two years**. Renewal of the grant for the second year is subject to the validation by the higher education institution of a sufficient number of credits allowing continuation of the programme.

In its current configuration, the programme excludes 180-credit master's degrees as well as joint-degree master's programmes with foreign higher education institution.

Finally, as laureates, recipients of the MASTER IN grant will pay **the same tuition fees as Belgian and European students**.

#### How to Submit Your Application

**STEP 1** Verify whether the [higher education institution of the Wallonia-Brussels Federation](#) of your choice participates in the MASTER IN – WBI grant programme. The grant may only be applied to a defined selection of study programmes as determined by certain institutions. Higher education institutions reserve the right not to process or respond to applications that are unrelated to the MASTER IN 2026–2027 call.

**STEP 2** Submit an admission request to the targeted higher education institution, according to the procedures specific to that institution. Your admission request for a master's program at a university will receive a reference number to be included on the form. **In other cases (university colleges, schools of arts), no number must be indicated.**

**STEP 3** Send your application form and the four annexes to the targeted institution. If it is a university, indicate the reference number of your admission file.

**STEP 4** The host institution preselects eligible applications.

**STEP 5** Its ranking is transmitted to Wallonia-Brussels International, which makes the final selection based on defined criteria, **no later than April 20, 2026**.

**STEP 6** Results are communicated by Wallonia-Brussels International to the targeted higher education institution **no later than May 15, 2026**.

**STEP 7** The candidate is informed of the outcome of their application by the targeted higher education institution.

#### **Documents to attach to the MASTER IN – WBI Grant Application Form**

1. Copy of the international passport or national identity card;
2. A one-page curriculum vitae (including, where applicable, academic background, previous scholarships, possible professional experiences related to the chosen master's program, etc.);
3. A motivation letter of up to 2,500 words written in French or English, depending on the language of the chosen master's program, **without the assistance of artificial intelligence (AI)**;
4. Copy of the degree(s) obtained and transcripts.

**Note: If written in a language other than French or English, they must be accompanied by a certified translation.**

#### **Eligibility Conditions for the MASTER IN – WBI Grant**

- The candidate must hold a bachelor's or master's degree awarded by an institution whose studies or training are recognised by the competent authorities of the candidate's country of origin in higher education.
- The last bachelor's or master's degree obtained in the country of origin must have been awarded **no later than five years before the start of the requested programme**.
- **Moreover, the MASTER IN programme does not allow the funding of a full year (60 ECTS) within the framework of a bridging pathway.**
- The candidate must hold a bachelor's or master's degree sufficient to access the targeted master's programme and meet its admission requirements. In addition, the higher education institution remains free to add further conditions.
- The candidate must be admitted to the master's programme to apply for financial support and must be enrolled in the programme to benefit from it.
- Any candidate meeting the necessary and sufficient conditions for submitting an admission file to the targeted higher education institution may apply.
- Applications from candidates already engaged in higher education studies in Belgium will be excluded. The aim is to support new mobility, not extensions of Erasmus+ stays or programmes previously undertaken as free students in French-speaking Belgian institutions.
- The candidate must indicate, in the application form, the reference number of the admission file provided by the university. In the case of an application to a university college or a school of arts, no reference number is required.

**Note: This file number does not mean that admission is finalised.**



- Candidates **who have studied in the following countries/regions are considered a priority by WBI and higher education institutions**: Brazil, Canada, Chile, Colombia, South Korea, Japan, Lebanon, Morocco, Mexico, United Kingdom, Switzerland, Taiwan, Tunisia, USA.
- All fields of study are considered in the selection process unless the institution decides to restrict the programmes concerned by this call.
- To avoid overlap with other international mobility schemes, candidates who have already submitted an application within an ongoing academic programme or who have previously benefited from a development cooperation scholarship from ARES are excluded (<https://www.ares-ac.be/en/international-training-scholarships-2026-2027>).
- The grant application form and required documents must be sent to the targeted higher education institution **no later than March 31, 2026, at midnight (GMT – Europe/Brussels)** for the upcoming academic year (2026–2027).
- Incomplete applications will not be submitted to the WBI jury responsible for candidate selection.

### **Selection procedure**

The selection process takes place in two stages:

First, the selection is carried out by the higher education institution based on its own criteria. Its ranking is transmitted to Wallonia-Brussels International, which makes the final selection based on a predefined set of criteria. The pre-established ranking of five applications per participating institution must reach Wallonia-Brussels International **no later than April 20, 2026**.

Second, results are communicated by Wallonia-Brussels International to the targeted higher education institution **no later than May 15, 2026**.

The candidate is informed of the outcome of their application by the international relations office or its equivalent of the higher education institution. The laureate must contact the programme manager of MASTER IN, Jeff NCUNGANYI ([j.ncunganyi@wbi.be](mailto:j.ncunganyi@wbi.be)), **on May 29, 2026**.

All study stays in universities, university colleges, or schools of arts must begin at the start of the academic year (September 2026). **No deferral will be possible for any reason**. If the student is not awarded the grant and therefore decides not to pursue their admission request at the targeted institution, the application fees incurred will not be reimbursed.

### Financial arrangements

The grant will be disbursed according to the applicable rules and the following terms:

- The grant amount of €10,020 is divided into 12 monthly payments deposited into a bank account denominated in euros. **This support does not cover the full costs of one academic year; therefore, the laureate must supplement these funds with personal resources.** Moreover, this funding is incompatible with other support provided by WBI or ARES.
- This amount meets the requirement of sufficient means of subsistence for a long-stay study visa (Visa D).
- The successful candidate shall benefit from an exemption from the administrative fee payable to the Immigration Office.
- Visa fees or other expenses must be advanced by the candidate. They will be indirectly reimbursed through the monthly payments, with no advance disbursement before the start of the academic year. Furthermore, Wallonia-Brussels International does not intervene in financial procedures related to obtaining the visa.

Additionally, Wallonia-Brussels International covers health insurance (mutual subrogation), repatriation, and personal liability insurance for the grant holder. Travel insurance remains the responsibility of the candidate.

### Contacts and further information

- University admissions office or its equivalent in a university college or school of arts of the chosen institution;
- WBI (for administrative questions once the file has been selected by the selection jury), International Scholarships Service: [bourses@wbi.be](mailto:bourses@wbi.be)