

DECREE
No.255, of 27.4.2007

**ON THE EXCELLENCE FUND FOR FINANCIAL SUPPORT TO OUTSTANDING STUDENTS
AND NEW SCIENTISTS**

Pursuant to Article 100 of the Constitution, Article 32 of the Law no.8461, on 25.2.1999 "On Higher Education in Albania", amended, and Article 8 of the Law no. 9645, of 27.11.2006 "On state budget for the year 2007 ", upon proposal of the Minister of Education and Science, the Council of Ministers

DECIDED:

1. the establishment of a special fund financed from the state budget to the amount of 100 000 000 (a hundred million) Albanian Leks per year, including donations too, for financial support to the outstanding Albanian students and new scientists, which shall be allocated to the Ministry of Education and Science for the following:

- a) special scholarships for doctoral students abroad;
- b) special scholarships for new scientists, doing post-doctoral studies abroad;
- c) prizes awarded to students, winners in international competitions or Olympiads;
- ç) support for high scientific level publications..

2. The following candidates are entitled to apply for the financial support specified in point 1 of this Decree:

a) students doing doctoral studies abroad, who have completed the first and second cycle studies with an average grade over 9.5 at Albanian higher education institutions or over 8.5 at foreign institutions, for each cycle study, as well as the new scientist doing post-doctoral studies and have completed the doctoral studies with excellent grade, and have fulfilled the following requirements:

- i) have been admitted at a foreign higher education institution for the doctoral or post-doctoral studies;
- ii) have prepared a research project in the course of doctoral or post-doctoral studies in the foreign institution;
- iii) have signed a waiver statement, pledging to work at least for 5 years in Albania following the completion of their doctoral or post-doctoral studies abroad;
- iv) have not benefited from other scholarships granted by the Albanian state, and have personal income less than 100 000 Albanian Leks per month.

b) the winners in well-known international competitions or Olympiads, of prizes;

- i) pupils or students who have won any of the three first prizes;
- ii) students or doctoral students who have graduated with an excellent grade from a higher education institution ranked among the best 30 in the world.

c) authors of high-level scientific publications of:

- i) original scientific articles and reviews accepted by foreign scientific journals which are indexed;
- ii) monographs, written in foreign language and requested by foreign institutions;
- ii) fundamental works, highly appreciated in view of the Albanian science and culture.

1 The Minister of Education and Science regulates through an ordinance, detailed provisions and specification, and the rules and criteria for each of the envisaged scholarships, to be awarded to the students or news scientists. Prior to the applications for scholarships, the Ministry of Education and Science shall publishe the ordinance in the Official Journal.

2 The criteria for the selection of the foreign higher education institutions, to be evaluated against the qualification cost, the priority fields for each category, within the constraints of the allocated fund, shall be determined by the Council of Higher Education and Science, which shall also determine and take a decision about the amount of the scholarship granted for the said purpose in the foreign higher education institution for one year.

5. The selection of the candidates shall be done prior to the beginning of each academic year, by the evaluation commissions set up for the purpose by Order of the Minister of Education and Science. The evaluation commissions shall be composed of university professors in the

appropriate fields, and a representative of the Ministry of Education and Science. When the special fund has been completed with donations, the commissions shall include a representative of the donors.

The selection of the candidates shall be pursuant to the procedures provided in the Ordinance of the Minister of Education and Science. The Ordinance shall be published in the Official Journal.

3 The final list of the selected winning candidates and the amount of the scholarship shall be finally approved by the Minister of Education and Science, after the candidate has signed the Waiver Statement approved by the Minister, regarding working in Albania. The list of the winning candidates shall be displayed on the official website of the Ministry of Education and Science.

4 The students who interrupt studies and drop out for more than an academic year, with the exception of cases when a statement by a medical doctor is issued, shall lose the granted scholarship. The students who do not take all the exams or take the exams at a grade lower than the equivalent to the Albanian grade 9, (after the foreign grades are converted into the Albanian evaluation system), or take a grade lower than the equivalent to the Albanian grade 8, are not entitled to the right to scholarship in the following year.

5 The students and new scientists ,who have been granted the scholarship as provided in this Decree, and, after the completion of the studies refuse to work in Albania as pledged and specified in the Waiver Statement, shall turn back the amount of the scholarship granted to them.

6 The amount of the special fund "For financial support to outstanding Albanian scientists ", for 2007, is 50 000 000 (fifty million) Albanian Leks, allocated to the budget of the Ministry of Education and Science.

10. The Ministry of Education and Science shall be in charge of the implementation of this Decree. The Decree shall enter into force following the publication in the Official Journal.

PRIME MINISTER
Sali Berisha

DECREE
No. 396, of 22.4.2009

ON SOME AMMENDMENTS TO DECREE No.255, of 27.4.2007 “ON THE EXCELLENCE FUND FOR FINANCIAL SUPPORT TO OUTSTANDING STUDENTS AND NEW SCIENTISTS”

Pursuant to Article 100 of the Constitution, Article 32 of the Law no.9741, on 21.05.2007 "On Higher Education in Albania", amended, and, upon proposal of the Minister of Education and Science, the Council of Ministers

DECIDED:

The Decree no. 255, of 27.4.2007, of the Council of Ministers shall be amended as follows:

1. Following paragraph “ç”, point 1, paragraph “d” will be added with the following provision:

“d) special scholarships for students, who are doing first cycle, second cycle and third cycle studies at one of the top ten universities in the world”.

2. Following paragraph “c”, point 2, paragraph “ç” will be added with the following provision:

“ç) students doing first cycle, second cycle and third cycle studies in one of the top 10 universities in the world, in cases when:

- i) have been admitted at one of the top 10 universities in the world to do a study program in one of the three cycles;
- ii) pledge to work no less than 5 years after completing the study program for which the scholarship was granted;
- iii) have not benefited other scholarships by the Albanian state, and have personal income lower than 100 000 (a hundred thousand) Leks per month.

The Decree shall enter into force following the publication in the Official Journal.

PRIME MINISTER

SALI BERISHA

REPUBLIC OF ALBANIA
Council of Ministers

DECREE
No. 744, of 1. 7 .2009

**AN AMMENDMENT TO DECREE No.255, of 27.4.2007 “ON THE EXCELLENCE FUND FOR
FINANCIAL SUPPORT TO OUTSTANDING STUDENTS AND NEW SCIENTISTS”**

Pursuant to Article 100 of the Constitution, Article 32 of the Law no.9741, on 21.05.2007 "On Higher Education in Albania", amended, and, upon proposal of the Minister of Education and Science, the Council of Ministers

DECIDED

The first paragraph, letter "a", point 2, of Decree no. 255, of 27.4.2007, of the Council of Ministers, amended, shall be amended as follows:

"a) students who are doing doctoral studies abroad, after completing the first and second cycle study programs at an Albanian higher education institution, with an average grade over 9 for a study program in natural sciences or engineering , and over 9.5, for a study program in economic and social sciences, or, at a foreign higher education institution with an average grade over 8 for a study program in natural sciences or engineering , and over 8.5, for a study program in economic and social sciences, for each of the cycle study program, as well as the new scientists who have completed doctoral studies with excellent grade, when:" .

PRIME MINISTER
SALI BERISHA

MINISTER OF EDUCATION AND SCIENCE
FATOS BEJA