

FAQ OKP (Formerly NFP)

What is the difference between OKP and NFP?

The Orange Knowledge Programme (OKP) merges the Netherlands Fellowship Programmes (NFP) and NICHE into a single integrated approach.

The OKP aims to advance the development of the capacity, knowledge and quality of both individuals and institutions in higher and vocational education.

Why does the OKP need to know about my employer?

The OKP aims for capacity building of your country and your organization. Because of this it is important that you include your employer statement including an action plan where you describe in detail how your organization will benefit from you studying at the ISS.

Please note that the Embassy will try to contact your employer to check if you are working there and what position you hold and to check if you are indeed nominated and how your employer thinks to benefit from you being sent to the ISS. Make sure your employer can be contacted by the embassy, if they cannot be contacted you may not receive the OKP.

My employer cannot guarantee to continue payment of my salary during my studies; does this mean that I am not eligible for OKP?

Yes, you are still eligible to apply. By right, your employer is supposed to pay you your monthly salary. However, if your employer cannot or is reluctant to do so, your employer can still nominate you for OKP and sign the employer statement.

I applied for the ISS last year but asked for a one year deferral to the next (this) year, can I apply for OKP now?

Yes, please kindly apply. Please note that there is a deadline to apply for the OKP.

My passport validity ends soon, should I renew it now?

Your passport must be valid at the time of the application so there is no need to renew it if it is still valid. However, if you have been awarded with the scholarship, you will need to apply for your passport as soon as possible.

What is meant by private and public sector?

Public sector is the people who work for the government (ex. A ministry, local government, Universities, etc.). The private sector is more often related to making a profit (ex. Consultancy firms, private Institutes, etc.).

Is there a Quota for countries in terms of how the OKP distributes the scholarships?

No, there is no distribution based on countries.

I am working part time for an organization that has an internal development program, will I be treated the same as the full time employees?

Yes, both full-time and part-time employees will be treated the same. It could be the case that you have another job at another organization where they do not have an internal development program in which case you should apply through this organization.

Can I defer my OKP application?

No. You are not allowed to defer the OKP scholarship to the following year. You will have to re-apply for the scholarship once again.

I am working as an independent consultant, can I still apply for the OKP?

No; you need to be nominated by your employer

Can I save my application in Atlas and come back again?

No, you need to do the application in one go. It is therefore important that you prepare all the right documents ahead of time. All the documents you need are listed in the Atlas manual.

If I'm not awarded the OKP scholarship can I re-apply?

The Scholarship programme is open only once a year (from February to March). If you are not nominated you will receive an e-mail with the decision in April. Unless you are considered ineligible for the scholarship you may apply again next year.

When will I know if I am nominated for the OKP scholarship?

If you are nominated for the OKP you will be notified in April.

The OKP result will be announced on?

Between May or June

Can I apply for other scholarships?

Yes, but please note that you can apply for only one programme in OKP, you can't apply for different programmes at different universities for the OKP. The system will notice this and your application will be considered non eligible for all programmes you applied for. In addition, please apply to other scholarships as well to increase your chances of coming to ISS. Do not rely on just the OKP scholarship.