

2026 scholarship working programme

Olive Growing, Olive Oil Technology and Environment Unit

1. Scholarships for the International Expert Course in Virgin Olive Oil Tasting

Objective: To support technical cooperation and training activities aimed at fostering technology transfer and improving knowledge of the composition and quality characteristics of virgin olive oils.

Title: Scholarships for the International Expert Course in Virgin Olive Oil Tasting at the University of Jaén (Spain), 23rd Edition – 2026

Course duration: 3 months (21 September to 15 December 2026, TBC)

Number of planned scholarships: 30 scholarships

Total assigned budget: €199,500.00

Cost breakdown per scholarship holder (estimated):

- Registration fees: €2,350
- Monthly allowance (board and lodging): €1,000 per month (3 months)
- Travel expenses (start and end of course): included
- Participation insurance: paid directly by the IOC to the University
- Estimated total cost per scholar: €6,650

Planned launch date of the call for applications: February 2026

Planned scholarship award date: June 2026

Planned course start date: Second half of September 2026

2. PhD Scholarships

Objective: To support advanced research and capacity building in the olive oil sector, contributing to innovation and sustainability.

Number of scholarships awarded: Four PhD scholarships were awarded in 2025. The scholarship holders will continue their studies in 2026. No new call for applications is planned to be launched this year.

Starting date: From 16 October 2025 for a maximum duration of 4 years (renewable annually subject to budget availability and students' performance).

Cost breakdown per scholarship holder:

- Monthly allowance: €1,400
- Travel expenses (start and end): up to €1,000
- Insurance: arranged and paid by the scholarship holder

3. Scholarships for the Master in Olive Growing and Olive Oil Technology at the University of Córdoba

Objective: To provide advanced training in olive cultivation and olive oil technology, enhancing technical skills and promoting innovation and sustainability in the olive oil sector.

Number of scholarships awarded: Two PhD scholarships were awarded in 2025. The scholarship holders will continue their studies in 2026. No new call for applications is planned to be launched this year.

Duration: 1 academic year, extendable for 1 additional year (renewable annually, subject to budget availability and students' performance).

Cost breakdown per scholarship holder:

- Monthly allowance: €1,050
- Travel expenses (start and end): up to €1,000
- Tuition fees: covered with funds from the IOC annual budget
- Insurance: arranged and paid by the scholarship holder