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IOC Scholarships Awarded in 2025

Introduction

The International Olive Council (IOC) implements a set of instruments each year to promote research, postgraduate training and technology transfer in member countries, thereby strengthening their scientific and technical expertise. Specifically, the IOC grants scholarships to students from member countries for doctoral studies in the field of olive research, the Master's degree in Olive Growing and Olive Oil Technology taught by the University of Córdoba, and for the International Specialisation Course in Virgin Olive Oil Tasting taught by the University of Jaén. This document provides an overview of the scholarships granted by the IOC in 2025.

PhD Programmes

Overview: The IOC provides financial support to doctoral students from member countries so they can acquire high levels of scientific knowledge through top-quality research. These scholarships encourage mobility between member countries and facilitate technology transfer and the exchange of information, experience and results.

Scholarship duration: from 16 October 2025 for a maximum duration of four years (renewable annually until 15 October 2029).

Scholarship amount: €1,400 per month (as a contribution towards accommodation, meals and mandatory insurance costs); reimbursement of travel expenses between the fellow's country of residence and the host institution, at the beginning and at the end of the PhD programme, up to €1,000 per journey; coverage of PhD enrolment, administrative and tutoring fees, as well as research stay expenses directly related to the PhD programme, up to €1,500 per year.

2025 scholarship awardees:

- Mivan Peçi (**Albania**): "Sustainability analysis in the Albanian olive oil sector: comparative study of organizational models with special focus on environmental sustainability"; University of Jaén (Spain).
- Ali Khemila (**Algeria**): "Impact of anthracnose on the phenolic profile of olive oil and induction of resistance to the disease"; University of Córdoba (Departments of Agronomy, Chemistry, and Epidemiology and Control; Spain).
- Hana' Jamal Mahmoud Mahili (**Jordan**): "Application of a cold pressing system to improve the extraction and the quality of extra virgin olive oil and sustainability of the olive industry"; University of Seville (Spain).
- Lidia Barreira González (**Spain**): "Development of isothermal DNA amplification methods combined with miniaturization for advanced food quality analysis"; University of Santiago de Compostela, UCOLIVO Group (University of Cordoba) and Biolóxica de Galicia (CSIC).

Master in Olive Growing and Olive Oil Technology

Overview: The University of Córdoba's *Master in Olive Growing and Olive Oil Technology* trains professionals and researchers to meet the growing demand for high-level specialists in the olive sector. The programme applies innovative scientific and technological methods to teach students how to produce high-quality olive oils, understand the sector's economic environment, and market products on national and international markets.

Scholarship duration: maximum duration of one calendar year from the onset of the programme and extendable for one additional year.

Scholarship amount: €1,050 per month (as a contribution towards accommodation, subsistence and mandatory insurance costs); reimbursement of travel expenses between the fellow's country of residence and the host institution at the beginning and at the end of each academic year, up to €1,000 per return journey; coverage of Master's enrolment, administrative and tutoring/tuition fees, within the limits of the IOC's annual budget.

2025 scholarship awardees:

In 2025, the IOC finally awarded two out of the four initially budgeted scholarships.

The scholarship awardees are:

- Basma Choukrane (**Morocco**)
- Montassar Habouria (**Tunisia**)

International Specialisation Course in Virgin Olive Oil Tasting

Overview: The University of Jaén's *International Specialisation Course in Virgin Olive Oil Tasting* trains professionals in the theory and methodology behind the organoleptic assessment of virgin olive oil. They also learn to analyse the factors and positive and negative attributes that define sensory quality in relation to cultural practices, processing methods and other general physical and chemical quality control parameters of olive oils. This course provides the basic knowledge for establishing olive oil tasting panels and improves the capacity of those laboratories that are already conducting sensory analyses of virgin olive oils.

Scholarship duration: three months of specialised training in virgin olive oil tasting.

Scholarship amount: a monthly allowance of €1,000 as a contribution towards board and lodging; €50 per month as a contribution towards mandatory health insurance; reimbursement of estimated travel expenses of up to €1,000 per student; coverage of tuition fees up to €2,250 per student.

2025 scholarship awardees:

In 2025, the IOC finally awarded 24 out of the 29 initially budgeted scholarships. The scholarship awardees are:

1. Abdul Kader El Hajj (**Lebanon**)
2. Afef Ladhari (**Tunisia**)
3. Amal Tageldeen (**Egypt**)
4. Elisa Peçi (**Albania**)
5. Fadoua Elhaddad (**Tunisia**)
6. Gabriela Verónica Minoldo (**Argentina**)
7. Ghita El Bendadi (**Morocco**)
8. Karima Amokrane (**Algeria**)
9. Laila Hassouneh (**Jordan**)
10. Maria Elena Puerta Alaniz (**Argentina**)
11. Mariem Lajmi (**Tunisia**)
12. Mehmet Dilmenler (**Türkiye**)
13. Mivan Peçi (**Albania**)
14. Mohammed Fawzy Mahmoud Mohammed (**Egypt**)
15. Moukhtar Guissos (**Algeria**)
16. Nezar Abed Elhadi (**Israel**)
17. Rachid Kajja (**Morocco**)
18. Rim Braham (**Tunisia**)
19. Sondes Souid (**Tunisia**)
20. Songül Acar (**Türkiye**)
21. Stefan Vuksanovic (**Montenegro**)
22. Wael Abdelfatah (**Egypt**)
23. Marcela Aranguren Mejía (**Italy**)
24. Pablo Luis Paz Lazo (**Spain**)