

The Tokyo Foundation, through its SYLFF Fellowship Programme (Ryoichi Sasakawa Young Leaders Fellowship Fund), in which the University of Deusto participates, primarily aims to support the development of doctoral students at the University of Deusto who demonstrate strong potential for future leadership in international affairs. These students are expected to transcend geopolitical, religious, ethnic, and cultural boundaries—whether in the public or private sector—and to engage actively in the promotion of peace and human well-being.

## CALL FOR APPLICATIONS

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Fellowships for **doctoral studies** in the fields of Social Sciences and Humanities at the University of Deusto, specifically in the following areas:

- Human Rights
  - Political action
  - Social development
  - Humanitarian development
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**Sole Article:** To award doctoral fellowships to applicants who meet the eligibility criteria set out in this call.

### Terms of the call

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2. Fellowship Allocation
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## 1. Eligibility - New applicants

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- Doctoral students enrolled in programmes at the University of Deusto in the abovementioned fields.

## 2. Fellowship Allocation

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On the recommendation of the Deusto SYLFF Evaluation Committee to the Tokyo Foundation, three SYLFF fellowships will be awarded for the 2025–2026 academic year, with a total budget of **\$50,000**, which will be allocated as follows:

- **\$20,000** for recipients who are either **new doctoral students** or who completed their **first year of doctoral studies** in 24-25.
- **20.000\$** for recipients who completed their **second year of doctoral studies** in 24-25.
- **\$10,000** for recipients in the **final phase of their doctoral studies** (third or fourth year).

Academic Year	1. New award (new doctoral students or first-year doctoral students)	2. New award (second-year doctoral students)	Special award: (students in the final phase of their doctoral studies)
2025-2026	\$20,000	\$20,000	\$10,000
2026-2027*	\$20,000	\$10,000	
2027-2028*	\$10,000		

*\*Subject to renewal of the agreement with the Tokyo Foundation from the academic year 2025-2026 onward.*

The documentation required for this call must be submitted through the following [online application form](#), except for recommendation letters, which should be sent directly by the referee to [beca.sylff@deusto.es](mailto:beca.sylff@deusto.es) with the subject line: **Solicitud Becas Sylff. (SYLFF Fellowship Application)**

- **Application period: Tuesday, 1 July to Thursday, 29 August 2025**
- **Date of decision: Friday, 12 September 2025**

### 3. Application Procedure

To apply, applicants must complete [this application form](#) and submit the following supporting documents:

1. Application form (mandatory [template](#) available via the application form mentioned above).
2. Copy of academic qualifications (Bachelor's or Master's degree) or proof of application. Master's students must provide this upon completion of their studies.
3. Full academic transcript for undergraduate and postgraduate studies (Bachelor's and master's degrees).
4. Proof of English language proficiency (if applicable).
5. Standardised CV (mandatory [template](#) provided in the form above).
6. National Identity Card or Passport.
7. Research project proposal (maximum five pages), presenting a justification for the chosen doctoral programme (academic reasons for the choice and intended objectives), as well as a summary of the doctoral research project, which should include at least the description, objectives, methodology, timeline, and bibliography. The proposal should also highlight the expected social impact and provide evidence of leadership potential in the fields of social sciences and humanities.
8. Proof of enrolment or admission letter for the 2025/26 academic year (if applicable).

**Additionally, two letters of recommendation** are required from university professors and/or socially relevant figures, providing an objective assessment of the applicant and justification for supporting the application. Letters **shall be sent directly by the person issuing the recommendation, by email to the reference address ([beca.sylff@deusto.es](mailto:beca.sylff@deusto.es))**. Please indicate the following in the subject line of the email: *Sylff recommendation + name of recommended person*

#### **4. English language proficiency**

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Proficiency in spoken and written English will be assessed. Communication between the Tokyo Foundation and fellowship recipients will be conducted in English.

#### **5. Grounds for incompatibility**

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Any remunerated employment or additional scholarship funding must be declared to the Deusto SYLFF Evaluation Committee, which will assess compatibility on a case-by-case basis.

#### **6. Evaluation and Selection Procedure**

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Applications will be assessed by the SYLFF Evaluation Committee at the University of Deusto, based on the fellowship objectives. The Committee will submit a proposed allocation of fellowships to the Tokyo Foundation.

Evaluations will be carried out taking into account:

- the quality of applicants' CVs;
- the proposed research projects and the extent to which they align with the research areas of the doctoral programmes to which the applicants would be assigned;
- the priorities set by the University of Deusto's research policy through its strategic focus areas.

Only in cases where the Deusto SYLFF Evaluation Committee deems it appropriate, and after prior communication with the applicant via email, may the Committee conduct individual interviews with candidates during the evaluation and selection period.

#### **7. Decision on the call**

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The decision will be published on **12 September 2025**. This decision is final and no appeals will be accepted.

## 8. Obligations of Fellowship Recipients

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1. Submit a written, explicit acceptance to the Tokyo Foundation (with a copy to the University of Deusto's Global Engagement Office at [beca.sylff@deusto.es](mailto:beca.sylff@deusto.es)) within one month of receiving notification of the award.
2. Reside at the location where you undertake your studies for the duration of the fellowship and do not leave without prior written notification to the Vice-Rector's Office for Research and International Relations at the University of Deusto. This notification must include the exceptional reasons justifying the absence and the period it covers. The University of Deusto will then assess the situation and decide, as appropriate, on any reduction, revocation, or repayment of the fellowship.
3. Commit to completing a [PhD thesis with international mention](#).
4. Fellowship recipients agree to comply with the verification and monitoring procedures related to the use of the fellowship as established in this call.
5. Declare any other scholarship or study aid awarded or pending to the Vice-Rector's Office for Research and International Relations, in order to assess any potential incompatibilities.
6. Provide any relevant information requested by the Vice-Rector's Office for Research and International Relations, such as home address and any changes thereof, or academic documentation.

**Failure to comply with any of the clauses contained in this call and its resolution will result in the loss of the fellowship and the repayment of any funds received.**

## 9. Submission of applications

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Submitting an application implies full acceptance of the terms and conditions of this call, as well as the final decision of the Evaluation and Selection Committee.

<b>Privacy Policy:</b> <a href="https://www.deusto.es/en/home/privacy/privacy-policy">https://www.deusto.es/en/home/privacy/privacy-policy</a>
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Bilbao, 1 July 2025