



Malta Football Association | Youth Players Grant Scheme Overview

The Malta FA Youth Players Grant Scheme Charter highlights your rights and obligations and tells you what you can expect from the Association and the host club/academy at each step of your scholarship.

- **The Malta FA** commits itself to respect the principles of the Youth Players Grant Scheme Charter to facilitate, support and recognise your experience abroad.
 - **On your side**, you commit yourself to respect the rules and obligations of the Scheme Grant Agreement that you have signed with the Association.
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STEP I | Before your scholarship period

- Once you have been accepted to benefit from this scheme, you are entitled to receive guidance with regards to completing all necessary documentation required.
- You will sign a **Grant Agreement** with the Association. In addition, you will sign a **Scholarship Agreement** with the Association. The Scholarship Agreement is crucial for the success of your experience. It sets out details of assessment which will enable us to measure progress made in different aspects during your experience.

STEP II | During your scholarship period

- You should take **full advantage of all the learning opportunities** available at the host club/academy, while respecting its rules and regulations, and endeavour to perform to the best of your ability in all relevant training sessions and competitions.
- Your host club/academy commits itself to treat you in the same way as its home students/players and you should make all the necessary **efforts to fit into your new environment**.
- You could benefit from networks of mentors and buddies where available at your host club/academy.
- Your host club/academy will not ask you to pay **fees** for training, registration, or assessments during your scholarship period. Nevertheless, you may be charged a small fee on the same basis of local students for costs such as insurance, and the use of training-related equipment.

STEP III | After your scholarship period

- Your host club/academy will give you a **Traineeship Certificate** recognising your experience abroad.
- You shall undergo a second assessment to compare progress achieved prior and after your scholarship experience.
- You must perform a **presentation** to provide **feedback on your scholarship period** to the Association.
- You are encouraged to **share your scholarship experience** with your friends, fellow teammates, staff in your club and association etc. to let other people benefit from your experience.

If you encounter a problem:

- You should identify the problem clearly and check your rights and obligations under your Grant Agreement.
- There are a number of people working in the Association whose role is to help participants benefitting from such schemes. Depending on the nature of the problem and the time it occurs, the contact person or the responsible person at the Association will be able to help you. Their names and contact details are specified in your Scholarship Agreement.
- Use the formal appeal procedures in the Association if necessary.



Malta Football Association

Youth Players Grant Scheme

Regulations 2019

1. Introduction

Over the last decade, Malta has witnessed an increase in youth football players seeking a professional career abroad. However, many of those players who pursued such an opportunity failed to settle at foreign clubs. Hence, the Malta Football Association is re-launching its youth player grant scheme with the aim of facilitating this transition and increasing the chances of success when it comes to living and playing football abroad. The revamp is intended to ensure maximization of benefits from funds available for the development of promising youth footballers.

The scheme shall cover 4 main pillars, which are:

- a) Player tuition fees (i.e. Learn a new language, academic program);
- b) Player subsistence allowance (Accommodation);
- c) Player flights / travel (EU Per diem); and
- d) Player Professional fees (ex. Use of nutritionist, psychologist, and strength & conditioning coach).

2. Aims and Objectives

The key aims of this Youth Players Grant Scheme are:

- To encourage youth players in pursuing a professional football career abroad;
- To provide support for youth players during migratory transitions; and
- To support promising youth players in further developing their quality of football.

The scheme shall be operational on an ongoing basis. The capping for this scheme shall be that of five hundred Euros (€500) per month per player provided on basis of a season long (10 months) with a maximum capping of five thousand Euros (€5000) per athlete per season.

The total amount reserved for this grant scheme shall not exceed (€50,000) annually to support all successful applications.

3. Eligibility

To be eligible under this scheme, applicants shall be:

- Between the age of **sixteen (16) and nineteen (19) years of age** as per FIFA Regulations on Status and Transfer of Players (FIFA RSTP)¹;
- Be a Maltese citizen or have been granted permanent resident status, residing in Malta; and
- In the pool of national team players at some point during their development / min. 4 seasons with Maltese nursery.

¹ For further information about the FIFA Regulations on Status and Transfer of Players (FIFA RSTP), go to the following link: <https://resources.fifa.com/image/upload/regulations-on-the-status-and-transfer-of-players-june-2019.pdf?cloudid=ao68trzk4bbaezlipx9u>

4. Application Form

Interested candidates are invited to submit the application form and any other supplementary material via email to dawn.aquilina@mfa.com.mt. The application shall be submitted by youth players with national team potential (**aged between 16 and 19**) directly to the Malta Football Association. All other documentation required in these terms and conditions and the application form itself shall also be submitted.

Documents to be sent along with the Application Form shall include the following:

- i. One (1) copy of the letter of acceptance from the Club / Academy applied for;
Letter of Acceptance shall include
 - The commencement date of the course;
 - The end date of the course;
 - Confirmation that the course is on full-time basis; and
- ii. One (1) copy of applicant's identity card – both sides.

5. Application Process

1. The player has to try and find a football scholarship. Once the player manages to do so, he/she is requested to complete the application form and submits it to the Malta Football Association.
2. The Malta Football Association shall set up a Board composed of a technical centre, finance and General Secretary's office representatives, to assess all the applications received and are checked for eligibility.
3. The player's respective football club shall be asked for its recommendations in relation to the applicant's performance and potential and the said recommendations shall be taken into consideration by the Malta Football Association.
4. Interviews with prospective candidates shall be conducted by the Board.
5. Once the application is approved, the Malta Football Association would issue a confirmation letter once the host football club/academy confirms the acceptance.

6. Grants

The Malta Football Association Players Grant Scheme provides financial support of five thousand Euros (€5000) for undertaking a football scholarship, as stated in Article 2. A financial contribution for the four pillars (tuition, subsistence, travel, and professional fees) stated in Article 1 during your

scholarship is awarded. The funding is intended to cover part of the costs and therefore you are encouraged to ensure that you have additional funds to support you during your scholarship.

Half of the funding will be provided at the start of the contract and the second half at the end. Kindly refer to Section 8.7 of the regulations.

Travel Contribution

Successful candidates will receive a travel contribution (covering flights and other transport methods during your stay) as part of the financial support stated in Article 2. In addition, the player is entitled to three (3) flights during this scholarship which can be used from family members to visit the player during his scholarship.

Note: The three (3) flights are excluded from national team call-ups.

Subsistence Contributions

Scheme grants are calculated on a monthly basis according to the current EU per diem rates. Grants are calculated pro-rata depending on the duration of the scholarship period, maximum ten (10) months.

7. Pre-departure preparations

Once the player is successful with the application, the player shall be expected to undertake an assessment which would consist of:

- a) A medical test;
- b) A psychological assessment; and
- c) A strength & conditioning test.

Pre-departure meetings are organised prior to the player's departure. Necessary documentation needs to be submitted by no later than 40 days before leaving Malta:

1. An acceptance letter issued by the host club/academy confirming the start and end date of the scholarship;
2. Training schedule and calendar of events;
3. Financial identification form;
4. Travel insurance.

Accommodation Arrangements

Accommodation arrangements need to be made directly by the player. Some clubs/academies offer accommodation, alternatively you might prefer a private accommodation. This is entirely up to you.

We strongly recommend that you familiarise yourself with rules and regulations of the accommodation being rented prior to entering into a long term lease. It is also important to ask for a contract and a receipt for any deposits paid.

Note: Only 50% from the financial support can be used for accommodation arrangements.

European Health Insurance Card (EHIC) and Insurance

It is your responsibility to have a valid EHIC document. You must have a travel insurance policy which is valid for your stay at the host club/academy, covering the entire duration of the scholarship. Travel insurance must cover 'special medical intervention and repatriation'. In case of the Players Grant Scheme you must have additional cover to your travel insurance policy to provide cover for 'work place accident insurance; and 'liability insurance coverage' for any damages caused during your scholarship at the host club/academy.

Youth Players Beneficiary Grant Agreement and payments

As soon as the necessary Scheme documents are submitted, the Malta Football Association will send you the Youth Players Beneficiary Grant Agreement. You are required to print two copies, initialise each page, sign the agreement and return the original Youth Players Beneficiary Agreements to the Malta Football Association.

8. During the scholarship

The Malta Football Association is your first point of contact. Should any issues arise during the scholarship, whether of football or personal nature, we will provide support whenever possible.

The Malta Football Association may furthermore, monitor the athlete's training and require regular meetings with the athlete and the joining club/academy.

1. During the player's scholarship, the host club/academy has to:
 - a) Provide the Malta Football Association with a training schedule and calendar of events relating to the player;
 - b) Details of the coaches involved in the training/preparation of the player;
 - c) Detailed report of participation in local competitions and results attained by the player in a monthly basis;
 - d) Be fully and totally responsible for the fitness level and medical condition of the athlete all throughout the Scheme;
 - e) Be fully and totally responsible for the total actuation and supervision of the training programme in order to maximise the benefits for the player within the Scheme;
 - f) Inform the Malta Football Association should the athlete face any injury and/or illness which may have adverse effects on the player;
 - g) Acknowledge the fact that the player is sponsored by the Malta Football Association through the Scheme.

2. The player shall undertake to:

- a) Abide with the Code of Sport Ethics;
- b) Make no use of illegal substances and/or performance enhancing during and/or other doping methods;
- c) Undertake any doping tests and update the ADAMS system thereby keeping NADO informed of his/her whereabouts (and submit other information, which includes but is not limited to details on the player residence, training venues and times, competition schedule, holiday arrangements etc. As well as a 60-minute time slot between 6am and 11pm where they can be located for testing) as required by NADO (where applicable);
- d) Immediately provide a contact telephone number for quick and easy contact if the need arises;
- e) Inform the Malta Football Association in cases of injury;
- f) Inform the Malta Football Association when not reporting for training;
- g) Inform the Malta Football Association when not fit for training.

3. Instances where the player is found guilty of:

- a) Illegal doping;
- b) Misbehaviour;
- c) Lack of respect towards the Malta Football Association;
- d) Any flagrant action and be suspended indefinitely in his football capacity;
- e) Any other action deemed to be serious in nature by the Malta Football Association,

Shall lead to an immediate termination of the scheme agreement.

- 4. Further to the above paragraph, if in default, through a doping offence/the use of illicit substances and/or drugs, the athlete has to reimburse the Malta Football Association for all allocated amounts provided to the athlete, when so charged. The amounts shall be returned to the player if he/she is found to be innocent.
- 5. The player shall attend any seminars organized by the Malta Football Association for the purpose of this Scheme and any events organized by the Malta Football Association as it deems necessary.
- 6. Furthermore, all players shall be available to be used as testimonials for the Malta Football Association marketing campaigns.
- 7. All funds shall be provided to the athlete upon presentation of proper documentation and receipts after the first half of the season is over. A full report of the activity including all expenses incurred and results attained by the athlete should be submitted at the end of the season.

9. After the scholarship

Once the scholarship is completed, you are required to submit the necessary documents to the Malta Football Association, within 30 days after the end of the scholarship:

- 1.** Final assessment/report prepared by the host club/academy;
- 2.** Certificate of Attendance prepared by the host club/academy;
- 3.** Attend MFA workshops to share experience with designated groups.

Furthermore, once the player returns back and has successfully completed the scholarship, he/she shall be expected to undertake an assessment which would consist of:

- 1.** A medical test;
- 2.** A psychological assessment; and
- 3.** A strength & conditioning test.



Annex II

GENERAL CONDITIONS

Article 1: Liability

Each party of this agreement shall exonerate the other from any civil liability for damages suffered by him or his staff as a result of performance of this agreement, provided such damages are not the result of serious and deliberate misconduct on the part of the other party or his staff.

Article 2: Termination of the agreement

In the event of failure by the participant to perform any of the obligations arising from the agreement, and regardless of the consequences provided for under the applicable law, the association is legally entitled to terminate or cancel the agreement without any further legal formality where no action is taken by the participant within one month of receiving notification by registered letter.

If the participant terminates the agreement before its agreement ends or if he/she fails to follow the agreement in accordance with the rules, he/she shall have to refund the amount of the grant already paid, except if agreed differently with the Association.

In case of termination by the participant due to “force majeure”, i.e. an unforeseeable exceptional situation or event beyond the participant’s control and not attributable to error or negligence on his/her part, the participant shall be entitled to receive at least the amount of the grant corresponding to the actual duration of the scholarship period. Any remaining funds shall have to be refunded, except if agreed differently with the Association.

Article 3: Data Protection

All personal data contained in the agreement shall be processed in accordance with the Malta Football Association Privacy Policy. Such data shall be processed solely in connection with the implementation and follow-up of the agreement by the Association, without prejudice to the possibility of passing the data to the bodies responsible for inspection and audit in accordance with national legislation.

The participant may, on written request, gain access to his personal data and correct any information that is inaccurate or incomplete. He/she should address any questions regarding the processing of his/her personal data to the Association. The participant may lodge a complaint against the processing of his personal data with the [national supervising body for data protection] with regard to the use of these data by the Association.

Article 4: Checks and Audits

The parties of the agreement undertake to provide any detailed information requested by [...] or by any outside body authorised by the Association to check that the scholarship period and the provisions of the agreement are being properly implemented.