



Digital Business

Evolving your digital future

Scholarships cascade funding call

DIGITAL4BUSINESS project- Scholarships for the Joint European Master's in Advanced Digital Technologies for Business

General Information: DIGITAL-2021-SKILLS-01

Project acronym: D4B

Full name of the EU funded project: DIGITAL4BUSINESS

Grant agreement number:

Topic DIGITAL-2021-SKILLS-01SPECIALISED – Practical Application of Advanced Digital Skills within European Companies

Opening date: 15 July 2025

Deadline dates: 31 October 2025

Expected duration of participation: 2 - 4 academic semesters depending on the programme.

Total funding available: €200,000.00

1. OBJECTIVE OF THE CALL

Digital4Business is an internationally accredited Master's in advanced digital technologies, delivered fully online by four of Europe's leading universities, Linköping University, NOVA IMS, National College of Ireland and the University of Bologna. Co-funded by the EU and internationally certified by ASIIN, the programme is a collaboration with world-renowned industry partners.

The programme offers 100 scholarships to support students belonging to underrepresented or disadvantaged groups and/ or come from vulnerable backgrounds.

The scholarships are awarded as discounts, part of the tuition fee, a lump sum of EUR 2,000 per student. The scholarship supports travel and accommodation for at least one in-person workshop/networking event organised during the programme. The duration of an event is 2 days on average. The calendar and locations will be communicated during the delivery schedule of the Master's programme.

The scholarships manager is the project coordinator, NCI (National College of Ireland).

2. ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

To be considered for the scholarship, applicants must:

- Be officially enrolled in the Master's programme (full-time, part-time or part-time accelerated).
- Agree that the EUR 2,000 scholarship is a discount of the tuition fee.
- Commit to attending a minimum of one in-person event.

3. AWARD CRITERIA & SCORING

The scholarships will be awarded to applicants based on the following criteria:

Award criteria	Minimum pass score	Maximum score
Merit (academic/ professional)	4	5
Equity, Diversity & Inclusion (EDI)*	2	5
Total	6 (threshold)	10

**Includes indicators from three categories: socioeconomic status, underrepresented groups, and geographic diversity.*

Applicants must pass the individual thresholds AND the overall threshold to be considered. The minimum passing score is 6.

Merit scoring mechanism.

Scoring Scale:

Score	Description
5	Outstanding profile: strong academic record, relevant degree, extensive relevant work experience (3+ years), active participation in digital/ tech projects, awards/ certifications.
4	Very good profile: strong academic background and 1–3 years of relevant experience or demonstrated interest in digital technologies through studies or internships.
3	Good profile: meets basic academic requirements, with some exposure to digital/tech fields but limited practical experience.
2	Weak academic background and limited/no relevant experience or demonstrable interest in digital fields.
1	Very weak or no alignment between background and the focus of the master's programme.

EDI scoring mechanism (2 to 5 points):

EDI Indicators:

- **Socioeconomic status:**
 - unemployed individuals,
 - low-income individuals,
 - students below the age of 25,
 - first-generation students (i.e., first in the family to attend tertiary or higher education).
- **Underrepresented groups:**
 - women, (in male dominated areas – Tech & STEM)
 - ethnic minorities,
 - persons with disabilities¹
 - neurodivergent
- **Geographic diversity:** citizens of Ukraine, Romania, Estonia, Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Croatia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Slovakia, Slovenia, Cyprus, Greece, Malta, Portugal.

Applicants are assessed across all EDI indicators grouped under three categories: (1) socioeconomic status, (2) underrepresented groups, and (3) geographic diversity.

A minimum of two EDI indicators must be met to receive the minimum qualifying score (2 points).

Each additional qualifying indicator earns one more point, up to a maximum of 5.

Scoring Scale:

Number of qualifying indicators	Points Awarded
2 indicators	2 points
3 indicators	3 points
4 indicators	4 points
5 or more indicators	5 points

Example: A neurodivergent woman from Greece receives 3 points.

¹ According to the definition of the [UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities](#)

Award

Scholarships will **be allocated on a rolling basis until the available budget is exhausted**, following the **“first come, first served” principle** and under the conditions that a minimum pass score of 6 is obtained during the evaluation process.

4. PAYMENT ARRANGEMENTS

The scholarship is reflected as a discount in the tuition fee. The awarded candidates are informed of the net amount of the tuition fee, after deducting the applicable amount of the scholarship. The webpage clearly indicates that the tuition fees are inclusive of a scholarship of EUR 2,000 which is co-funded by the EU Digital Europe Programme, under the project DIGITAL4Business.

Based on the payment option chosen for the tuition fee, the following scholarship payment conditions apply:

1. If the tuition fee has been paid in full, a reimbursement of EUR 2,000 will be made in 60 days after the award of the scholarship provided that full bank details have been communicated to NCI.
2. If the tuition fee is paid in 2 or more instalments, the scholarship will be deducted from the 2nd instalment onwards.

The student that was awarded the scholarship needs to provide proof of participation to the in-person events within 30 days after the event. To prove participation, the student must submit a signed attendance sheet or photographic evidence with timestamp within 30 days of the event. Failure to submit proof may result in the scholarship being revoked. In such cases, the student will be required to reimburse the scholarship amount or may face academic consequences, including a possible hold on final certification, in accordance with institutional policy.

5. INCOMPATIBILITIES

Students may apply for and receive other subsidies or scholarships, provided that these do not fund the same costs as those covered by the D4B scholarship.

If a student receives any additional funding from sources other than the D4B project, they must submit a written declaration confirming that there is no overlap in the costs covered.

6. APPLICATION PROCESS

Those interested must undertake to adhere to these requirements, prepare the application and submit the package via email at admissions@digital4business.eu. The application form can be accessed on the Digital4Business website.

Candidates will be required to provide the following documentation:

- Application form detailing previous academic and professional experience
- Motivation statement
- EDI required documentation:
 - o Passport or national ID – compulsory for all
 - o Medical certificate or official status proof – for persons with disabilities
 - o Medical report, psychological evaluation, certified statement from a licensed practitioner confirming neurodivergent condition (e.g., ADHD, autism, dyslexia) or signed self-declaration – for neurodivergent applicants.
 - o Signed self-declarations – for ethnic minority applicants and for first-generation student.
 - o Proof of low-income (country official documents that prove the applicant receives public benefits or has been declared low income by a national authority – for e.g. certificate of social assistance, certificate of housing support, food vouchers, free school meals etc.) – for low-income applicants.
 - o Unemployment certificate or registration from a national agency – for unemployed applicants
 - o Academic transcript or proof indicating study/ work in STEM/Tech field – for Woman in male-dominated field (Tech/STEM).
- Other supporting documentation as appropriate to demonstrate eligibility.

Legal Disclaimer

This call (as well as the financial support that will be provided through it) is NOT an EU action. This call is launched solely by Digital4Business consortium (D4B). The financial support to the selected successful applicants will be provided directly by D4B in its own name and under its own responsibility. D4B's own responsibility includes the preparation and drafting of this call as well as the selection of successful applicants that will receive the said financial support. The publication of this call in the EU Funding & Tenders Portal is made solely for information purposes with the aim to increase the visibility of this call to the general public, including to potential applicants (i.e. students). The said publication shall not be construed as direct or indirect approval of the content and conditions of this call by the relevant EU authorities or as any form of waiver from the above-described responsibility of D4B..