



Call for Applications for a Scientific Scholarship for Students of the Faculty of Science (ELTE) in the Field of Sustainable Agriculture

The Eötvös Loránd University Faculty of Science Research and Industrial Relations Center (KKIC), in cooperation with the AGCO Foundation (<https://www.agcocorp.com/us/en/home/agco-foundation/>) invites applications for a scientific scholarship for students of ELTE Faculty of Science to support research in the field of sustainable agriculture.

Successful applicants will receive a scholarship of USD 2,000 provided by the AGCO Foundation.

Application deadline (via email): Friday, May 29, 2:00 PM

Applicants must be students enrolled in the bachelor's, master's, or undivided teacher training programs of the Eötvös Loránd University Faculty of Science. Applications may be submitted in either English or Hungarian. The research projects are expected to run for seven months and must be carried out under the supervision of a faculty member or researcher affiliated with ELTE Faculty of Science. Applications must include a research proposal of at least two pages, and a short CV. Each student may submit only one application. However, joint applications by two or three students are also permitted. In such cases, a single joint application is sufficient, but both the expected research output and the amount of funding will increase proportionally to the number of participating students. Applications should be sent to: ffi.ugyintezes@ttk.elte.hu (Subject line: "AGCO Scholarship Application – Applicant Name").

Applications will be evaluated by a committee composed of representatives of the Faculty and AGCO Hungary staff members, and applicants will be notified of the results following the evaluation process. Up to **ten students** may receive the scholarship. The ELTE Faculty of Science will conclude a contract with the successful applicants regarding the implementation and funding of the research project. During the first phase of the research, the AGCO company will provide each successful applicant with a scholarship of **USD 2,000**, which will be paid by the Faculty in Hungarian forints based on the current exchange rate. (The scholarship conditions, payment details, and formal requirements related to the expected research activities will be specified in the contract concluded with the successful applicants.)

What should the research proposal include?

The research proposal must include the title and description of the research, a brief overview of previous work related to the topic (if applicable), relevant literature and academic background, the significance of the topic, its connection to sustainable agriculture, the aims and research questions of the project, the methods and tools to be used, the planned stages and timeline of the research, as well as the name of a proposed supervisor who will oversee the project throughout its duration. The **application template** required for submission can be downloaded from the following link: <https://ttk.elte.hu/en/call-for-applications-for-student-research-in-sustainable-agriculture>

Minimum formal requirements:

- The applicant must be a student of the ELTE Faculty of Science.
- The application form must be fully completed in either Hungarian or English.
- A designated or proposed supervisor must be indicated.
- The research topic must be meaningfully related to sustainable agriculture.
- The character limits specified in the application form must be observed.



- The application must include a signature and date.

Applications that do not meet the formal requirements will not be evaluated, and no opportunity for correction or supplementation will be provided

Evaluation criteria for ranking applications

The submitted applications will be evaluated and ranked by the review committee using a 100-point evaluation system. The ranking of applications will be determined based on the total score achieved, taking into consideration the following criteria:

1. Relevance and significance of the research topic – 30 points
2. Alignment of the research topic with the goals of sustainable agriculture – 30 points
3. Scientific quality and feasibility of the research proposal – 25 points
4. Professional background of the applicant and the expected impact and applicability of the results – 15 points

Total: 100 points

1. Relevance and significance of the research topic – 30 points

The reviewers will assess the extent to which the proposed research topic is timely, professionally justified, and significant. Preference will be given to applications that clearly identify an important scientific, social, environmental, or practical problem and convincingly demonstrate the added value of the proposed research.

2. Alignment of the research topic with the goals of sustainable agriculture – 30 points

A key evaluation criterion is the extent to which the proposed research is related to sustainable agriculture. The assessment will take into account, among other aspects, the project's connection to environmental sustainability, resource efficiency, biodiversity conservation, soil and water protection, climate adaptation, as well as precision or data-driven agricultural solutions.

3. Scientific quality and feasibility of the research proposal – 25 points

Reviewers will consider the overall quality and level of detail of the research plan, the soundness of the literature background, the clarity of the research questions and objectives, and the suitability of the proposed methods and tools. Additional consideration will be given to whether the research timeline is realistic and whether the planned work can be completed within the duration of the funding period.

4. Professional background of the applicant and expected utilization of the results – 15 points

The evaluation may also take into account the applicant's academic and research background, as well as the expected outcomes of the project. Preference may be given to applications whose anticipated results are likely to have scientific, educational, or practical value, for example in the form of a thesis, a students' scientific research project (TDK), a publication, further research activities, or practical applications.

In the case of identical or very similar scores, preference will be given to applications that demonstrate a stronger and more concrete connection to the goals of sustainable agriculture, as well as those whose feasibility and expected impact are supported more convincingly.

Suggested topics

The following research topics are recommended; however, applications may also be submitted on other topics related to sustainable agriculture.

Soil and water use in agriculture:

- Use of natural raw materials and microbiological methods to improve soil quality and fertility
- Carbon management (increasing carbon sequestration in soil through regenerative practices)



- Soil microbiome and plant health research (how microbial diversity in soil affects plant productivity and resistance to pests)
- Water-efficient irrigation models (design of groundwater sustainability models)
- Potential alternative water sources and their use in irrigation, with specific case studies

Biodiversity and land use in agriculture:

- Impact of climate change on local habitats (e.g. invasive species and their threats to agricultural production)
- Mapping agro-biodiversity (using GIS technologies, remote sensing, or drones to identify biodiversity hotspots in agricultural landscapes, as well as designing ecological corridors to connect habitats across farmland)
- Agroforestry and land-use optimization (designing mixed land-use systems combining crops and animals to maximize productivity and ecological benefits)
- Drivers of changing land use and their impacts on arable land, and opportunities for promoting sustainable agricultural production through case studies

Waste and energy in agriculture:

- Circular agricultural waste solutions and the use of biomass for energy and raw material production (converting agricultural waste into renewable energy or soil improvement materials, such as biogas or composting innovations)

Employment and agricultural statistics:

- Agricultural data analysis (traditional and innovative methods and opportunities for tracking changes in the agricultural sector)
- Retention and renewal of the agricultural workforce (career paths and opportunities for young farmers in the agricultural sector)
- Agricultural employment under climate change (how the workforce can adapt to the impacts of climate change)

Smart solutions and innovations in agriculture:

- New applications of smart tools in agriculture

Research implementation

Seven months are available for the completion of the research, until 31 December 2026. The progress of the **research must be discussed on a monthly basis with the assigned faculty member (supervisor)**. In addition, a **short written report (2–3 pages) on the mid-term progress** of the research must be prepared for the committee by the end of September 2026 and submitted by email. At the end of the research period (by 31 December), a **final research report of at least 30 pages must be prepared in Hungarian or English**. A **short summary in both Hungarian and English** must also be prepared, suitable for publication on websites, and submitted to the committee by email. In January 2027, the results of the **research must also be presented** in person to representatives of ELTE Faculty of Science and AGCO Hungary.

The results of the research remain the intellectual property of the student and the university. They may be used for a student research project (TDK), a thesis or diploma work, and may also be developed into a scientific publication. The final research report must indicate that the work was supported financially by the AGCO Foundation.

Contact persons:

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