

## Scholarship policy: ADHA Fellowship, Cohort 01

ADHA Digital Health & AI Leadership Fellowship

Policy v1.0, approved 3 October 2026. Reviewed after Cohort 01.

### 1. Purpose

The Fellowship should be open to leaders whose institutions cannot fund the seat. This policy sets out how ADHA gives partial and full scholarships fairly and openly. A scholarship also serves African sovereignty: scholarship holders give back by building ADHA's pool of mentors and markers, so that African leaders teach and assess the next cohorts.

### 2. What a scholarship covers

- A partial scholarship is 25% or 50% off the African rate (USD 4,800). A full scholarship is possible only when a named sponsor funds the seat.
- It covers the seat price only. It gives no cash, no travel and no stipend.
- A self-paying fellow pays the balance in one payment or in 3 instalments: the first before the start, the last before the capstone defence. An employer pays in one payment. Example: with a 50% scholarship, USD 2,400 remains, or 3 instalments of USD 800.
- After an offer, ADHA issues a pro-forma invoice on request, so that your procurement office can raise a purchase order.
- Ethiopian institutions may pay in birr, at the National Bank of Ethiopia rate on the invoice date.

### 3. Scholarships in Cohort 01

- Cohort 01 has up to 4 scholarship holders, whatever the share: 25%, 50%, or a full seat funded by a named sponsor.
- One of the 4 is kept for Round 2 until the Round 2 decisions are made. If it is not used then, it may go to a Round 1 or a Round 2 fellow.
- Scholarships are funded only by sponsor-a-seat money and by part of the surplus from seats sold at the international rate. ADHA never runs the cohort at a loss to fund scholarships.
- The number depends on the sponsor money received. It may be fewer than 4.

### 4. Who can receive a scholarship

Only an admitted fellow can receive a scholarship. Selection is needs-blind: how an applicant plans to pay is never scored. To ask for a scholarship, choose route (b), "Apply for a scholarship", in the application form.

When there are more requests than ADHA can fund, the Fellowship Awards Committee (section 6) gives priority in this order:

1. Need: the share of the seat that the applicant and the employer cannot fund.
  2. Among candidates with comparable need: leaders from low-income and lower-middle-income countries, and leaders who work in fragile settings.
  3. Among candidates who are still comparable: balance in the cohort, for women and for French-speaking leaders.
- Priorities 2 and 3 apply only between candidates with comparable need. They are not quotas.

### 5. How to apply and what to show

- Whether you ask for a partial or a full scholarship.
- A need statement of up to 150 words: why you and your employer cannot fund the whole seat.
- The contribution you or your employer can make, if any.
- The give-back pledge (a tick box in the form).
- No proof of income is required for Cohort 01. ADHA may ask you one follow-up question.

## 6. Who decides and when

- The Fellowship Awards Committee decides. The Board charts this Committee.
- It decides after the admission decision, on the need statements. The scholarship share is stated in the offer.
- The fellow accepts the offer by the seat-confirmation deadline (planned for Friday 19 February 2027).
- The founder is recused and takes no part. The reasons for each decision are recorded.
- The list of scholarships awarded goes to the Board without the applicants' need statements.

## 7. Conditions

- Give-back: within 24 months of receiving the ADHA Fellow award, the scholarship holder mentors or co-marks one ADHA cohort. This work is paid at standard rates and scheduled by agreement.
- The scholarship lapses if the fellow withdraws before the start. It has no cash value and cannot be transferred.
- The programme allows one pause of up to 12 weeks. The scholarship stays in place during a pause.
- The ADHA Fellow award is held until any balance is paid.
- A scholarship has no effect on the capstone assessment or on the award decision. The ADHA Fellow award is a programme award decided by the Fellowship Awards Committee. It is not the Africa Digital Health Expert (AfDHE) certification.

## 8. Privacy

- Until the admission decision, ADHA's admissions system shows the funding route and the need statement to no one, including the selection reviewers and the interview panel.
- After admission, the applicant can no longer be waitlisted or declined, so funding cannot change an admission. The Fellowship Awards Committee then reads the need statements to set the scholarship share.
- After admission, ADHA's admissions administrators can see this information in the system. Need information is used only by the Committee and, if a review is asked for, by the reviewer in section 9. Mentors and the capstone panel never see it.
- If an applicant is selected and accepts a seat, the application, including any need statement, becomes part of the Fellowship record. ADHA keeps it with the fellow's consent, given when the fellow accepts the offer. The limits above still apply.
- For an applicant who is not selected, or who does not take up a seat, ADHA deletes the application 30 days after telling them the outcome.

## 9. Review of a decision

An applicant who disagrees with a scholarship decision can ask for a review. Send a written request to [info@adha.edu.et](mailto:info@adha.edu.et) within 10 working days of the decision. The Board Vice-Chair appoints one reviewer who took no part in the first decision. This reviewer is not the founder and not a member of the capstone panel. Their answer is final.

## 10. Review of this policy

ADHA will review this policy after Cohort 01, using what it learned, and will update it before Cohort 02 opens.