

Policy Plan of the MFSG Seafarers' Welfare Worldwide Foundation

Mission

The MFSG Seafarers Welfare Worldwide Foundation promotes the welfare of seafarers around the world by addressing their physical, mental, and social needs through various initiatives. By doing so, the Foundation supports the collective interests of the maritime sector, contributing to vital infrastructure and safety at sea.

Vision

Our vision is a world where seafarers, regardless of their background or financial situation, have access to the support, training and resources necessary for healthy, safe and sustainable working conditions. The foundation focuses on improving the conditions of seafarers worldwide, paying particular attention to those affected by disasters or lacking sufficient resources.

Objectives

The foundation's objectives are:

1. Supporting seafarers and their families who are victims of force majeure situations, such as natural, environmental or shipping disasters, provided these situations directly or indirectly affect the maritime sector.
2. Provide financial, practical and emotional support exclusively to seafarers and future seafarers who can demonstrate that they do not have sufficient resources.
3. We will offer programmes and resources that contribute to the health, safety and well-being of seafarers. The focus will be on prevention and working conditions.
4. Promoting awareness and understanding of the challenges faced by seafarers among the general public and within the maritime sector.
5. We provide scholarships for (future) seafarers who would not have access to relevant training without financial support. Our aim is to increase the number of well-trained seafarers worldwide.
6. Conducting or commissioning research into the needs and challenges faced by seafarers. All results will be published and freely accessible.
7. Applications for support will be assessed in a transparent and objective manner, based on the pre-determined selection criteria set out below.

Strategies

1. Direct support

The foundation offers direct assistance to seafarers. This includes:

- Mental and medical support
- Access to communication with loved ones
- Basic provisions such as food, shelter and medical care

This assistance is only provided to individuals who can demonstrate that they lack sufficient resources. It is also focused on the collective interests of the maritime sector.

2. Education and scholarships

The Foundation provides scholarships for seafarers, both current and future, who would not have access to relevant training without financial support. The selection criteria are:

- Financial capacity
- Relevance of the training programme to the maritime sector
- Motivation and future prospects.

The aim is to promote livelihood security and ensure the continuity of the maritime profession.

3. Cooperation and networking

The foundation collaborates with maritime companies, government agencies and non-profit organisations to promote the welfare of seafarers through joint initiatives. By pooling knowledge and resources, they are able to increase their impact.

4. Research and publication

The foundation supports research into the needs of seafarers. All research results are published on the foundation's website and are freely accessible to the public. This promotes knowledge sharing and public interest.

Assessment framework and selection criteria for granting support

To ensure that the support provided by the MFSG Seafarers Welfare Worldwide Foundation serves the public interest, the Foundation uses a predefined selection criteria assessment framework. These criteria apply to all forms of individual support, including scholarships, medical assistance, and other services.

Support is exclusively intended for (future) seafarers who can demonstrate that they lack the financial resources to meet their needs independently. The assessment is based on the following criteria:

1. Financial capacity

- The applicant must provide insight into his or her financial situation, for example by means of payslips, tax returns or a statement from an independent body.
- An assessment will be made to determine whether the applicant would be unable to pay for the relevant training, care or provisions without support.

2. Relevance of the training or support

- In the case of study grants, an assessment will be made to determine whether the training is directly related to the profession of seafaring or to a position within the maritime sector.
- For other forms of support, an assessment will be made to determine their contribution to the well-being, functioning or safety of seafarers more broadly.

3. Motivation and future prospects

- The applicant must submit a motivation letter explaining why they are applying for support and what the expected social impact is.
- The applicant's commitment to, and future prospects within, the maritime sector will be taken into account.

4. Objective assessment and transparency

- All applications will be assessed by an independent assessment committee consisting of individuals with no personal interest in the outcome.
- The assessment will be based on a standardised application form and recorded in writing.
- The Foundation will publish an annual overview of the number of applications approved and rejected, excluding personal data, to ensure transparency.

5. Exclusion of private interest

- Support will not be granted if the application primarily concerns the personal comfort or private interests of the applicant without demonstrable social relevance.
- The Foundation will explicitly assess whether the application contributes to public interest as referred to in Section 5b of the AWR.

Funding

The foundation obtains its resources through donations, subsidies, fundraising and other forms of charitable support. It manages its finances transparently and provides an annual report to donors and stakeholders.

Board and Organisation

The board comprises professionals with expertise in seamanship, healthcare, and non-profit management. Board members do not receive any remuneration for their work. Applications for support are assessed by an independent committee on the basis of the established selection criteria.

Communication and Reporting

The foundation regularly communicates with its stakeholders via newsletters, social media and annual reports. All activities, support provided and research results are made public. The procedure for granting support is transparent and evaluated annually.