

Dear Elahé Omidyar Mir-Djalali Scholarship Committee Members,

My name is Negar Sagharichi and I am a prospective student of the Near and Middle Eastern Civilizations at the University of Toronto from 2024 to 2025. I am writing to submit my application for the graduate scholarship of The Elahé Omidyar Mir-Djalali Institute of Iranian Studies at the University of Toronto. As I approach the academic year of my M.A. in the NMC, this scholarship will provide a unique opportunity for me to cover part of my tuition fee. Receiving the financial support from this scholarship would allow me to begin my academic journey at the graduate level which hopefully will be continued at the Ph.D. level after the upcoming year.

My research interest is about unraveling the discourse of power embedded in the creation of illustrated lithographic books, focusing specifically on a case study of Shāhnāma of Firdawsī produced between 1847 and 1897 and the main question of this interest is “What is the intention behind choosing specific stories to be illustrated in the reproduction of Shāhnāma while the technique is shifting from creating manuscripts and folios to lithographic printing as well as the institution producing the work”. I have the privilege to pursue my interest under the supervision of Professor Mohamad Tavakoli-Targhi.

I am also, privileged to cooperate with the University of Toronto and Tavakoli Archive as a casual, part-time employee and I will cover part of my tuition through that. But it is beyond my power to cover all of the tuition alone.

Please find a brief description of the subject I aim to focus on during my M.A. program and a budget summary for the upcoming academic year attached to this application.

I would be honored to answer any further questions about the program or the research subject I am interested in.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Best regards

Negar Sagharichi