

Information for applicants from the Caribbean for study commencing in Semester Two, 2014

New Zealand Development Scholarships

The New Zealand Development Scholarships (NZDS) scheme offers the opportunity to people from targeted countries to undertake development-related studies at tertiary education institutions in New Zealand. NZDS are a central part of the New Zealand Government's development assistance to the Caribbean.

The New Zealand Aid programme offers NZDS awards to citizens from Antigua and Barbuda, Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Grenada, Guyana, Haiti, Jamaica, St Lucia, St Kitts and Nevis, St Vincent and the Grenadines, Suriname, and Trinidad & Tobago.

The purpose of the NZDS scheme is for scholarship holders to gain knowledge and skills in specific subject areas that will assist in the development of their home country by contributing to identified human resource development training needs. It is a pre-condition of accepting a NZDS award that scholarship holders return to their home country for a minimum period of two years.

For study commencing in Semester Two, 2014 NZDS scholarships will be offered at postgraduate level for study related to Sustainable Economic Development in the following priority sectors:

- Agriculture;
- Disaster Risk Management; and
- Renewable Energy.

Type, level and number of scholarships

The NZDS is directed to public sector, private sector and civil society (including NGO) candidates who independently apply for a scholarship, and who meet the eligibility and selection criteria outlined below.

The scholarships are offered for full-time, postgraduate study at the Postgraduate Certificate, Postgraduate Diploma, or Masters.

Female applicants are strongly encouraged to apply as the New Zealand Government attempts to ensure gender equity among scholarship holders.

Applicants with relevant paid or unpaid work experience, for example in public, private sector, development organisations, civil society/non-government organisations (NGOs), will be prioritised.

Eligibility criteria

Applicants must meet the following NZDS eligibility criteria before their application will be considered against the selection criteria.

To be eligible to be considered for a NZDS, applicants must:

- be a citizen of Antigua and Barbuda, Bahamas, Barbados, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Grenada, Guyana, Haiti, Jamaica, St Lucia, St Kitts and Nevis, St Vincent and the Grenadines, Suriname, or Trinidad & Tobago (i.e. permanent residents are not eligible to apply);
- not have citizenship or permanent residence status of New Zealand or Australia or another developed country excepting Trinidad and Tobago, the Bahamas or Barbados¹;
- not be married or engaged to be married to a person who holds, or who is eligible to hold, citizenship or permanent residence of New Zealand, Australia or another developed country except Trinidad and Tobago, the Bahamas or Barbados;
- be applying to commence a new qualification and not be seeking funding for one already commenced in New Zealand or another country²;
- satisfy the admission requirements of the New Zealand education institution at which the qualification is to be undertaken, including English language criteria;
- be able to demonstrate a strong commitment to the public or private or community sector (as relevant), and to their home country's development in general; and
- be able to take up the scholarship in the academic year for which it is offered.

It is preferred that applicants:

- be residing in their country of citizenship, preferably for at least two years prior to application;
- be 40 years or under before the scholarship start date;
- not have completed, or nearly completed, a qualification at a similar level (i.e. applicants must apply for a higher level qualification than any previously attained), unless strong developmental relevance is demonstrated; and
- have been working in their home country, preferably for at least two years prior to application, including since completing their highest tertiary qualification gained to date.

Applicants cannot:

- be studying full-time at post-secondary level;
- be transferring from another tertiary scholarship (either in New Zealand or in another country) to a NZDS;
- hold, or have held, a New Zealand Government or Australian Government scholarship in the 24 months preceding the scholarship start date; or
- have been terminated from a New Zealand or Australian Government scholarship previously.

Applicants are expected to continue residing in their home country during the NZDS application and selection process. If offered a NZDS, candidates must:

- be able to satisfy Immigration New Zealand requirements for international student entry to New Zealand (i.e. medical checks and police clearances/character checks, etc);
- not hold another scholarship during the period of the NZDS; and
- agree in writing that they will return to their home country for a minimum period of two years following completion of their scholarship in order to contribute to their country's social or economic development.

English language requirements

New Zealand tertiary education institutions set their own admission requirements for English language proficiency. As a guide, most New Zealand education institutions require a minimum IELTS score of 6.5, with no band less than 6.0, for postgraduate level study. Some postgraduate

¹ A developed country is defined as a country not included on the OECD's Development Assistance Committee's list of aid recipients.

² Students will not be funded to continue a qualification they have commenced outside their home country. The funding of qualifications being studied in the home country by self-sponsored, part-time students will be considered on a case-by-case basis.

qualifications may require a higher score. All applicants should check the IELTS or TOEFL³ score required for admission to their selected New Zealand education institution.

Applicants with an IELTS score 0.5 below the entry requirement and who have a strong academic record may be considered for bridging English Language Training of up to one Semester in length. Failure to meet the IELTS requirement at the end of this bridging period will result in a termination or downgrade of their award.

It is mandatory for candidates to provide the **original** copy of their IELTS or TOEFL exam result as a pre-condition of placement. Results must be no older than 24 months at the time of the scholarship start date.

Eligible institutions and study options

New Zealand Development Scholarships are available for study at the following institutions that offer programmes in the priority sectors:

- University of Auckland – Disaster Risk Management, Renewable Energy.
- University of Waikato – Agriculture, Renewable Energy.
- Massey University – Agriculture, Renewable Energy.
- University of Canterbury – Disaster Risk Management, Renewable Energy.
- Lincoln University - Agriculture

Application process

In order for the application to be considered, applicants must:

- complete an NZDS application form (available from a New Zealand Embassy, <http://www.aid.govt.nz/>, or New Zealand education institutions);
- indicate the level and field of study required, and the preferred education institution (For more information on study options in New Zealand please visit the institute's webpage.);
- attach to the application form an original or certified copy of the documents necessary to substantiate educational qualifications (i.e. full academic transcript and completion certificate), and an official translation of each document in English;
- attach to the application form three references (no more than 24 months old) on official letterhead, supporting the application to study in New Zealand under a NZDS. One reference should be from a current employer and one from a former academic supervisor or lecturer;
- ensure the relevant section of the application form has been signed and stamped by their employer;
- ensure all other relevant supporting documents have been included, including the original and current IELTS or TOEFL exam result; and
- forward the completed original application form and all relevant supporting documentation, plus one photocopy of the completed application form and all supporting documents, to the New Zealand education institute where you wish to complete your study.

All applications must be completed in English, with certified true copies of official English translations (where the original document is not in English) attached to the NZDS application form and must be received by the preferred New Zealand education institute by 2 December 2013.

Once received by the New Zealand institute:

³ International English Language Testing System – academic stream and Testing of English as a Foreign Language.

- The relevant education institution will assess each application for admission to the institution. Applicants who meet the institution's admission criteria will have their application sent on to the New Zealand Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade for consideration.
- The New Zealand Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade will consider all submitted New Zealand Development Scholarships applications for selection.
- Some candidates may be interviewed as part of the selection process.
- The New Zealand Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade will advise the institution of the outcome in March 2014.
- The education institution will inform successful candidates in April 2014, and then assist them with their travel arrangements to New Zealand.
- Successful candidates commence their studies in July 2014.

Selection criteria

In addition to the eligibility criteria above, candidates' applications will be considered against the following selection criteria:

- the proposed study programme links to an identified priority sustainable economic development sector for their home country eg agriculture, disaster risk management or renewable energy;
- the applicant clearly demonstrates the developmental relevance and applicability of their proposed study programme to the human resource development training needs of their country;
- the applicant has a strong academic background. Applicants for postgraduate study must hold a recognised Bachelors degree of good standard. (Note: Preference is given to candidates who do not already hold a degree from a developed country);
- consideration of gender equity, including efforts to ensure the scholarships are offered equitably between male and female candidates;
- the applicant must not have applied for New Zealand or Australian permanent residency;
- the applicant clearly demonstrates their links and commitment to their home country (e.g. services to their community, ability to influence change in a key development sector etc), supported by references. The proposed study programme must be relevant to:
 - recent paid and/or unpaid (volunteer) work experiences⁴;
 - the training needs of the employing organisation; and
 - identified employment opportunities on completion of their study.
- consideration of other factors which will contribute to the success of their studies (e.g. good character, positive study attitude and motivation to succeed).

Additional information

New Zealand Development Scholarships must be taken in the year for which they are offered and cannot be transferred to the next academic year.

If offered a scholarship, travel to New Zealand is subject to a visa being issued by Immigration New Zealand.

⁴ Preference will be given to applicants who have worked in their home country for at least two years. In general, applications from individuals whose professional experience has mostly been obtained overseas will not be supported.

Information on NZDS allowances and entitlements, and conditions of the NZDS, is provided on the scholarships pages of the New Zealand Aid Programme's website: <http://www.aid.govt.nz/funding-and-contracts/scholarships/types-scholarship/new-zealand-development-scholarships>

The scholarships include financial support for tuition, living costs while in New Zealand, and airfares. Applicants may also be entitled to return travel to their home country to see dependant family members under the Reunion Airfare Entitlement. Scholarship awardees are eligible to work part time, and the partners of students are eligible for a work visa that allows them to live and work in New Zealand for the duration of their partner's study. However, there is no additional funding provided for the awardee's family members to support family members accompany the awardee to New Zealand.

Applicants must not seek or apply for New Zealand or Australian permanent residency or a work permit while on scholarship or in the two years following completion of the scholarship.

Note: The New Zealand Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade has the right to make a final decision on the offering of scholarships. The New Zealand Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade has the right to amend terms and conditions of New Zealand Aid Programme scholarships. Amendments will be posted on the website <http://www.aid.govt.nz/funding-and-contracts/scholarships>

Addresses for further information

University of Auckland

International Office, University of Auckland

PO Box 92019

Auckland 1142

New Zealand

Email: int-questions@auckland.ac.nz

Website: <http://www.auckland.ac.nz/uaa/home/for/international-students/>

University of Waikato

Waikato International, University of Waikato

Private Bag 3105

Hamilton 3240

New Zealand

Email: int.centre@waikato.ac.nz

Website: www.waikato.ac.nz/international

Massey University

International Office, Massey University

Private Bag 11 222

Palmerston North

New Zealand

Email: international@massey.ac.nz

Web: <http://www.massey.ac.nz/massey/international/en/international-students-home.cfm>

University of Canterbury

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Email: international@canterbury.ac.nz

Website: <http://www.canterbury.ac.nz/international/>

Lincoln University

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