



# Organization of American States

## Department of Human Development, Education and Employment (DHDEE)

### OAS SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITIES 2015-2016 FOR GRADUATE, GRADUATE RESEARCH, AND UNDERGRADUATE ACADEMIC STUDIES

#### About OAS Academic Scholarships

OAS Academic Scholarships are awarded to citizens of OAS member states to undertake undergraduate or graduate studies (Bachelor's, Master's, or Doctorate degree) and/or graduate research that lead to a degree at an accredited or recognized university or higher learning institution in an [OAS member state](#), with the exception of the candidate's sponsoring country. Studies must be carried out on a **full-time basis**, and can be undertaken via on-site or online education, or a combination of both.

The OAS Scholarship is awarded for a period of **no more than 2 academic years**. These scholarships are contingent upon the continued availability of funds, the good academic performance of the student during the first academic year, and the confirmation by the academic institution that the renewal period for the second year is necessary to complete the program of study for which the scholarship was initially awarded.

OAS Scholarships have a monetary cap of US\$30,000.00 per academic year. The benefits are assigned on a case-by-case basis, and may include:

- Round trip ticket,
- Tuition and mandatory fees,
- Monthly complementary subsistence allowance,
- Medical insurance, and
- Yearly book allowance.

The OAS/DHDEE does not award scholarships for studies in the [Medical Sciences](#) or language training.

#### Types of Scholarships

**Graduate scholarships:** there are two types of graduate scholarships:

- **Self-Placed in an OAS Non-Consortium University:** Candidates apply directly for admission to the universities or educational institutions of their choice, and present their application for an OAS Scholarship. **Only 1 candidate per country will be awarded with this type of scholarship.**
- **Self-Placed in an OAS Consortium University:** Candidates apply directly to up to three programs in different universities which are members of the OAS [Consortium of Universities](#), located in three different countries. Applying to this type of scholarship increases the applicant's chances of being offered an OAS scholarship.

**IMPORTANT NOTE:** As no Member State may host more than 40% of the total number of scholarship recipients for graduate studies, Self-Placed candidates in an OAS Consortium University, must consider at least two different countries of study in their applications. The OAS will reserve its rights to select a country of study for selected candidates.

**Undergraduate Scholarships** are offered only to candidates from the English-speaking Caribbean Member States, and Suriname as a **Self-Placed scholarship**, in a university of their choice, for the **last two academic years** of study leading to an undergraduate degree (Bachelor's degree).

To apply for an undergraduate scholarship, an applicant must be:

- 1) **Enrolled in the program of study** and be eligible to graduate within 2 academic years from the date of the scholarship offer, **or**
- 2) **Accepted into the university** where he or she plans to study for the last two years of an undergraduate program that leads to a bachelor's degree. Admission letter must state that the applicant will complete the program of studies within 2 academic years.

For option 2, the transfer of credits process from previous post-secondary education to the host institution is the responsibility of the candidate. If a candidate is selected to receive an OAS scholarship, he or she will need to provide the OAS with an official letter from the host institution attesting to the total number of credits successfully transferred and the expected graduation date. These requirements must be fulfilled before the scholarship award documents are issued.

### **Key Eligibility Requirements for Applicants**

1. Be a citizen or permanent resident of an OAS Member State.
2. Have obtained a university degree **by the time they submit their scholarship applications** to their [National Liaison Offices \(ONE\)](#).
3. Be in good physical and mental health to complete the program of study successfully.
4. Posses the language competence to undertake studies in the language of the institution in country of study.
5. Obligation to return and reside in the sponsoring country for a minimum period of no less than twenty-four (24) months after completing the program of study covered by the OAS scholarship. Applicants for online studies must agree to remain in the sponsoring country for the same period of time.

### **Scholarship Application Documents and Forms**

**All interested applicants may visit our website [www.oas.org/scholarships](http://www.oas.org/scholarships) to obtain all the complete information about our scholarship announcements.**

Please click below to access all the information and the required forms to apply to the OAS Academic Scholarships for the **Regular Program**:

- Graduate Studies:  
[http://www.oas.org/en/scholarships/regular\\_program.asp](http://www.oas.org/en/scholarships/regular_program.asp)
- Undergraduate Studies:  
<http://www.oas.org/en/scholarships/specaf.asp>

Applicants are required to submit the following documents:

1. **Online Application Form**
2. Copy of the **diploma for the highest degree obtained**
3. Copies of **transcripts of grades for all academic degrees completed and to be completed**. (If the applicant is currently enrolled in a program of study, he/she will also need to submit the current transcript).

**For undergraduate studies applicants only:** copy of academic transcript for the Bachelor's degree program in which currently enrolled. Applicants that intend to transfer credits from previous studies to

undertake only the last two academic years of a Bachelor's degree program must submit copies of the diploma and transcripts for the Associate's degree previously obtained.

4. Two **recommendation letters from 2 different, current or former, professor, supervisor, business leader, etc.,** stamped and/or signed. Applicants must use only the OAS Recommendation Statement Form.
5. One **recommendation letter from a current or previous employer** stamped and/or signed. Applicants must use only the Recommendation Form for Employer. If unemployed or never employed, obtain a third recommendation letter using the Recommendation Statement Form above.

**Note:** Recommendation letters **must be written and signed by the recommenders and they cannot come from relatives of the applicant**. Relatives are defined as: spouse, son or daughter, stepson or stepdaughter, father or mother, stepfather or stepmother, brother or sister, half-brother or half-sister, stepbrother or stepsister, father- or mother-in-law, son- or daughter-in-law, and brother- or sister-in-law.

6. **Curriculum Vitae** (must not exceed 4 pages).
7. **Admission letters** can be submitted directly to the OAS, considering the deadlines mentioned in the table at the end of this announcement.

#### NOTES:

- Proof of additional funds will be requested from selected candidates.
- Only selected candidates will be required to submit the OAS [Medical History Form](#) that attests to the sound mental and physical health of the candidate to undertake and complete the program of studies. All costs associated with complying with the medical examination requirement are the responsibility of the selected candidates.

#### Selection Process

1. Applicants apply for an OAS Academic Scholarship through their respective [ONEs](#) in their sponsoring country.
2. Each ONE establishes a deadline for applicants to submit their scholarship applications, with special consideration for the schedule established by the OAS/DHDEE in order to receive, evaluate and preselect candidates.
3. All complete applications received on time by the ONE, that meet the eligibility requirements stated in this scholarship announcement, are evaluated and ranked by the sponsoring country's National Commission following the criteria established in the [OAS Scholarship Manual of Procedures](#).
4. The National Commission will present a minimum of 2 and a maximum of 4 pre-selected candidates for graduate studies and 3 pre-selected candidates for undergraduate studies to the OAS/DHDEE.
5. The ONEs forward the list of ranked pre-selected candidates to the OAS electronically along with a written justification of the rankings. The online application number must be included in the list. Use [Annex A](#), which is included in the Guide to the ONEs and National Commission. **The OAS will not receive physical files.**
6. The OAS/DHDEE will only present complete applications of pre-selected candidates that comply with the OAS eligibility requirements to the Academic and Technical Studies Scholarship Selection Committee (ATSSSC) appointed by the Secretary General of the OAS. This Committee reviews, evaluates and ranks candidates, if necessary to recommend for an OAS scholarship to the Secretary General of the OAS.
7. Based on the availability of funds and using the ranked list of selected candidates prepared by the ATSSSC, the OAS/DHDEE determines how many OAS scholarships can be financed and offered, and presents a list to the OAS Secretary General for his final approval.
8. The OAS/DHDEE informs the permanent missions of the member states to the OAS, the OAS Country Offices, and the ONEs about the OAS scholarship awards. The ONEs in turn will notify the awardees of the selection results.

9. OAS awardees who have been successfully admitted to an educational institution will receive an OAS Scholarship contract specifying the terms of the scholarship.
10. If feasible, the ONEs or any other competent authority in the sponsoring country will issue an additional contract to the OAS awardee, to ensure the return to his/her sponsoring country after completion of the program as stated in Article 32.3 of the [OAS Scholarship Manual of Procedures](#).

### Evaluation Criteria

1. The objectives and priorities established in the [Strategic Plan for Partnership for Integral Development 2006-2009](#) which takes into account individual country and hemisphere-wide developmental needs;
2. The training priorities of the member states;
3. The merits and overall credentials of the applicant, including academic and/or professional experience which will be judged by:
  - the quality of the written essays and how well candidates explain a) the impact they believe their studies will have on their institution/community/sponsoring country, and b) their five-year plan upon return to the sponsoring country
  - the candidate's university grade point average (GPA) and class ranking should be considered superior by the country/institution from which the candidate has graduated -or is currently studying- in order to facilitate the placement of an awardee in a reputable university
  - the scores obtained on standardized tests, if applicable
  - the level of completeness and detail put into the preparation of the application
  - the quality of the recommendation letters which attest to the candidate's ability to perform and to succeed as a scholarship recipient and describe what contribution and impact the recommender believes the candidate will have on the institution/community/sponsoring country
4. A geographic distribution that takes into account the greater needs of smaller and emerging economies;
5. Potential and commitment of the candidate to apply the knowledge and skills acquired to the development of the sponsoring country;
6. Gender equality and equity as an important element in all partnership-for-development programming; and,
7. The financial need of the applicant, as established by the ONEs and National Commissions.

### Important Dates

OAS academic scholarships for graduate and undergraduate studies will be offered to begin studies between January 2015 and March 2016.

STEPS OF THE PROCESS	PROPOSED DATES
Announcement to OAS Member States	December 13 <sup>th</sup> , 2013
<b>Deadline for the ONEs to send Annex A electronically with the list of pre-selected candidates and the justification for the raking.</b>	<b>April 18<sup>th</sup>, 2014</b>
Deadline for U.S. citizens or permanent residents to apply electronically	April 11 <sup>th</sup> , 2014
Deadline for submission to OAS Headquarter in Washington DC of letters of admission from <b>pre-selected applicants who will begin studies between January and April of 2015</b>	October 31 <sup>st</sup> , 2014
Meeting of the Academic and Technical Studies Scholarships Selection Committee (ATSSSC)	September, 2014

**IMPORTANT INFORMATION:**

- ✓ We recommend that ONEs properly inform applicants of their deadline and other additional documents or forms required by the ONE, if any.
- ✓ The OAS/DHDEE will only consider complete applications from eligible candidates.
- ✓ OAS Member States that have appointed more than one National Liaison Office (ONE) will need to submit to OAS/DHDEE only one (1) list containing the names of the pre-selected candidates presented by a Member State.
- ✓ Applicants who have questions regarding the status of their applications during the recruitment and selection process should contact their ONEs.
- ✓ Questions about eligibility/document requirements and the application process may be sent to [scholarships@oas.org](mailto:scholarships@oas.org).

**[Glossary of Terms](#)**