

CHINA

New Zealand Development Scholarships

Information for intake commencing in 2010

Purpose of New Zealand Development Scholarships

The New Zealand Development Scholarships (NZDS) scheme offers the opportunity for eligible candidates from China to undertake postgraduate study at a New Zealand university. These scholarships aim to improve the capacity and governance abilities of officials in eight targeted western provinces and autonomous regions.

In line with the geographical focus of NZAID's other programmes in China, NZDS scholarships are available to candidates from:

- Guizhou
- Yunnan
- Guangxi
- Sichuan
- Qinghai
- Gansu
- Xinjiang
- Tibet

Type, level and number of scholarships

For the 2010 student intake NZAID is offering up to five (5) NZDS in the Open category (NZDS-Open) to eligible Chinese nationals. Scholarships are offered for study at the postgraduate level (i.e. Postgraduate Diplomas, Masters or Doctorates (PhD)) in New Zealand. Applications for PhD study will only be considered where particularly strong development relevance and alignment to China's priority training needs are demonstrated. The New Zealand academic year begins in February and finishes in November-December. Scholarships for undergraduate degree level study are not offered.

Priority sectors

New Zealand Development Scholarships will be awarded in areas agreed with the Government of China as being priority human resources development needs.

The priority sector for 2010 is **Sustainable Rural Livelihoods**, including, but not limited to:

- Agricultural sciences; agricultural economics; agricultural trade
- Veterinary science related to rural development; other applied sciences or technology related to rural development
- Biosecurity, quarantine, sanitary and phytosanitary standards, plant and animal health
- Food safety, food quality and food technology
- Rural health services; environmental health; sanitation and waste management
- Rural basic education

- Community development
- Environmental science; environmental studies; sustainable management of natural resources
- Tourism management, eco-tourism
- Small business development

Eligibility criteria

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

Applicants must:

- be a Chinese citizen (i.e. permanent residents are not eligible to apply);
- be residing in China, preferably for at least two years prior to application (please also refer to China specific criteria);
- not have or be seeking citizenship or permanent residence status of New Zealand, Australia or another developed country¹;
- not be married or engaged to be married to a person who holds, or who is eligible to hold, citizenship or permanent residence status of New Zealand, Australia or another developed country;
- be applying to commence a new qualification and not be seeking funding for one already commenced in New Zealand or another country;
- 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;
- satisfy the admission requirements of the New Zealand education institution at which the qualification is to be undertaken, including English language criteria;
- have worked for two years in their home country since completing their highest qualification gained to date (please also refer to China specific criteria);
- be able to demonstrate a strong commitment to the development of China; and
- be able to take up the scholarship in the academic year for which it is offered.

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 China 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 clearance/character checks, etc);
- not hold another scholarship during the period of the NZDS; and
- agree in writing that they will return to China for a minimum period of two years following completion of their scholarship in order to contribute to their country's social or economic development.

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

China specific criteria

In addition to the eligibility criteria above, applicants from China must:

- be living and working in one of the eight identified provinces (Guizhou, Yunnan, Guangxi, Sichuan, Qinghai, Gansu, Xinjiang or Tibet);
- be aged between 25 and 45 years of age at 1 January of the year of NZDS study; and
- have worked in the public sector in China for at least three years prior to applying for the scholarship.

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 overall, with no band less than 6.0, for postgraduate level study. Some postgraduate qualifications may require a higher score. All applicants should check the IELTS or TOEFL² score required for admission to their selected New Zealand education institution.

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

Where an application shows particularly strong developmental relevance and applicability, there may be provision for three to six months English language training in New Zealand prior to commencement of the main academic qualification. Candidates with IELTS of 6.0 overall, with no band less than 5.5, should therefore still consider applying.

Application and selection process

In November each year the Chinese Ministry of Commerce (MOFCOM) will write to the above eight provincial government authorities inviting nominations from all eligible public sector employees. Nominations should be submitted to MOFCOM through various Chinese provincial departments.

MOFCOM will advise the New Zealand Embassy in Beijing of candidates who have received official endorsement by **15 May**. MOFCOM should ensure that all endorsed candidates have met all NZDS eligibility requirements.

MOFCOM should ensure there is a gender balance among the endorsed candidates, there is a good level of representation from all eight provinces and that candidates are from a range of government line ministries and institutions.

Endorsed candidates should communicate directly with their chosen New Zealand institution to identify a suitable course of study (see Annex 1 for contact details). **Note:** NZAID will assess the development potential of applications and seek placement for suitable applications with New Zealand institutions. NZAID will make the final selection of candidates based on the eligibility and selection criteria and merit.

In order for the application to be considered applicants must:

- complete one original NZDS application form;
- attach to the application form an original or certified copy of each document necessary to substantiate educational qualifications;
- ensure all the relevant documents, including original results notification from a current IELTS or TOEFL exam result, have been included. It is mandatory for candidates to provide original results from an IELTS or TOEFL exam as a pre-condition of placement;

² International English Language Testing System – academic stream; and Test of English as a Foreign Language

- attach to the application form three references, of which at least one must be from an academic supervisor and one from an employer;
- indicate the level and field of study required;
- ensure the relevant section of the application form has been signed and stamped by the applicant's employer; and
- forward the **completed original application form and all relevant documentation, plus one photocopy of the completed application form and all relevant documentation**, to NZAID (via MOFCOM).

It is important that all requested attachments are included. All applications must be in English, with certified true copies of official English translations where applicable.

Selection criteria

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

- the proposed study programme has direct relevance to the priority sector of sustainable rural livelihoods (see page 1)
- the applicant clearly demonstrates the **developmental** relevance and applicability of their proposed study programme to the human resource development training needs of their country;
- consideration of gender equity, including efforts to ensure the scholarships are offered equitably between male and female candidates;
- the applicant has a strong academic background. Applicants must hold a recognised Bachelors degree (or Masters degree for PhD applicants) of good standard. (Note: NZAID gives preference to candidates who do not already hold a degree from a developed country);
- the applicant clearly demonstrates their links and commitment to China (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 experiences³;
 - 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

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 to take up a position that utilises their study for a minimum period of two years.

Female applicants and applicants from minority and other disadvantaged groups are strongly encouraged to apply as the New Zealand Government attempts to ensure equity among scholarship holders.

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

³ In general, NZAID will not support individuals whose professional experience has mostly been obtained overseas.

Where a student's study programme is 18 months or longer, and the student has at least 12 months remaining of their study programme to complete, the student may be joined by their spouse/partner and dependant children at a higher rate of stipend. NZAID may fund the airfares to New Zealand for a student's spouse/partner and up to two dependant children. **Eligibility criteria apply.**

Information on NZDS allowances and entitlements, and conditions of the NZDS scholarship, is provided on the scholarships pages of NZAID's website: www.nzaid.govt.nz/scholarships/nzds.html

Applicants must not have applied for New Zealand or Australian permanent residency. Applicants must not seek or apply for New Zealand or Australian permanent residency or a work permit while on scholarship.

Note: NZAID has the right to make a final decision on the offering of NZAID scholarships. NZAID has the right to amend terms and conditions of NZAID scholarships. Amendments will be posted on the NZAID website (www.nzaid.govt.nz).

Contact for further information

Further information about the NZDS scholarships and processes can be found at <http://www.nzaid.govt.nz/scholarships/nzds.html>

The following staff at the New Zealand Embassy in Beijing are also able to provide further information on the NZDS scheme:

Jacinta Lawrey
New Zealand Embassy Second Secretary
Tel: 8532-7024
Fax: 6532 4317
jacinta.lawrey@mfat.govt.nz

Michelle Lu
New Zealand Embassy NZAID Officer
Tel: 8532 7037
Fax: 6532 3424
michelle.lu@mft.net.nz

The Chinese Ministry of Commerce NZDS contact points are:
Department of International Trade and Economic Affairs
Tel: 65197248 65197212
Fax: 65197903

Annex 1: Contact details for New Zealand institutions

New Zealand institution	Contact details
Auckland University of Technology (AUT University)	www.autinternational.info international.centre@aut.ac.nz
Lincoln University	www.lincoln.ac.nz international@lincoln.ac.nz
Massey University	www.massey.ac.nz international@massey.ac.nz
Unitec*	www.unitec.ac.nz international@unitec.ac.nz
University of Auckland	www.auckland.ac.nz int-questions@auckland.ac.nz
University of Canterbury	www.canterbury.ac.nz international@canterbury.ac.nz
University of Otago	www.otago.ac.nz international.admissions@otago.ac.nz
University of Waikato	www.waikato.ac.nz int.centre@waikato.ac.nz
Victoria University of Wellington (VUW)	www.vuw.ac.nz VUW-NZAID@vuw.ac.nz

* For study up to Masters level only