

Commonwealth Scholarships

Conditions of scholarship

Candidates who are offered a Commonwealth Scholarship are asked to sign a declaration before they leave their home country stating that they will comply with the conditions of the scholarship.

In accepting a Commonwealth Scholarship, at a minimum candidates agree:

- to take up the scholarship in the academic year for which it is offered;
- advise NZAID or the education institution of any changes to their personal circumstances between the time of accepting the scholarship and their arrival in New Zealand that might affect their scholarship (e.g. becoming engaged to be married, becoming pregnant, changing employment etc);
- that they will not apply for or receive any other scholarship funding during the period of the NZAID scholarship;
- that the scholarship offered is for the appropriate qualification, field and level of study;
- that no additional study under the scholarship will be considered;
- to undertake any preparatory (including English language training), bridging or qualifying programme required by the education institution;
- to undertake the approved study programme full-time and not change their programme or education institution without the prior agreement of NZAID;
- to achieve satisfactory academic progress, in accordance with the education institution and NZAID's continuation criteria, and meet all course requirements;
- to comply with the regulations of the education institution;
- that the international student adviser at the education institution is the first point of contact during their scholarship;
- to provide their current residential and postal address to the education institution while in New Zealand, and (where requested) to the Diplomatic Post on their return home;
- to the disclosure of information regarding their academic progress;
- to notify the education institution immediately should their circumstances change such that it would affect their scholarship status or studies (e.g. changes that potentially affect their residency, citizenship or marital status, number of dependants or their stipend (such as family arrival));
- to inform the education institution of any academic or personal issues (e.g. prolonged medical care) that may affect their ability to continue satisfactorily with their studies or scholarship, or complete within the original scholarship duration;
- to the release of information in the application form and information relating to their scholarship or study to relevant authorities (including their home government), in accordance with the New Zealand Privacy Act 1993, to enable collection of academic progress reports and results, placement in an education institution, consideration for a scholarship, and the ongoing administration and monitoring of their scholarship;
- to the exchange of information between NZAID and authorities such as Immigration New Zealand (regarding their immigration status) or any other relevant government agency (e.g. New Zealand Inland Revenue or the New Zealand Qualifications Authority);

- to assist with evaluation of their scholarship as required while on scholarship or on completion of their scholarship;
- to act in a manner that will not bring disrepute to themselves, their family, their country or NZAID during their scholarship;
- to provide for their dependants while they are in New Zealand;
- to ensure that their passport and student permit/visa are kept current for the duration of their study;
- not to engage in employment without the prior approval of NZAID, and not beyond the restrictions applying to their visa;
- to return to their home country for a minimum period of two years within 14 days of the completion date of their scholarship or study and acknowledge that if they do not, they will incur a financial debt to the New Zealand Government to the total value of their scholarship;
- that NZAID requires individuals to spend at least two years in their home country on completion of their scholarship to assist in the development of their country by applying the skills and knowledge that they have gained from their study;
- not to submit an application for a work permit or permanent residence of New Zealand or Australia, or another country, during their study and acknowledge that if they do, it will result in the scholarship being immediately terminated and that they will incur a financial debt to the New Zealand Government to the total value of their scholarship;
- not to submit an application for a work permit or permanent residence of New Zealand or Australia within two years of completion of their scholarship and acknowledge that if they do, they will incur a financial debt to the New Zealand Government to the total value of their scholarship;
- not to receive any other benefits funded by the New Zealand Government while on scholarship;
- to obey the laws of New Zealand and maintain an acceptable standard of conduct while in New Zealand;
- that the laws of New Zealand will apply to any agreement between themselves and the New Zealand Government;
- to return home at the end of their scholarship, regardless of the time remaining on their visa, or at any time upon formal request of the New Zealand Government; and
- that the scholarship may be withdrawn by NZAID if they fail to comply with the conditions of their scholarship.

In signing the declaration, candidates also acknowledge that the information provided about and by them in the NZAID scholarship application was true, complete and correct to the best of their knowledge and that supplying incomplete or false information will result in NZAID withdrawing or terminating the scholarship.