

LATIN AMERICA

NEW ZEALAND DEVELOPMENT SCHOLARSHIPS

Information for intake commencing 2009

Regional strategy

NZAID's engagement in Latin America is to contribute to the elimination of poverty in Latin America, in particular in rural areas and among indigenous people.

A key objective of NZAID's engagement in Latin America is to build the capacity of communities or development focused institutions to foster sustainable rural livelihoods and/or good governance. The expected outcomes are that:

- communities in Central America and the Andes have greater capacity/are empowered to foster sustainable rural livelihoods;
- development focused institutions have greater capacity to foster sustainable rural livelihoods or good governance.

New Zealand Development Scholarships will assist in meeting the Latin America Development Programme's goal and objectives. The Programme focuses on three sub-regions:

Central America El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua

Andean Bolivia, Ecuador and Peru

Brazil and the Southern Cone predominantly Chile, Argentina and Brazil, but including Uruguay and Paraguay for scholarships

Type, level and number of scholarships

NZAID will offer up to 17 New Zealand Development Scholarships in the Open category (NZDS-Open) to Latin America for the 2009 student intake. Up to three (3) scholarships will be offered to people from Bolivia, Ecuador, Honduras and Nicaragua, with the balance of the total number spread as equitably as possible across all remaining eligible countries (Argentina, Brazil, Chile, El Salvador, Guatemala, Paraguay, Peru and Uruguay).

The scholarships are offered for postgraduate study at the Postgraduate Diploma, Masters or Doctorate (PhD) levels. Study at PhD level will only be considered where particularly strong development relevance is demonstrated. Relevant undergraduate study may be considered for applicants from Rapa Nui.

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

Priority sectors

For the 2009 intake, scholarships are offered at postgraduate level in two development sectors: promotion of sustainable rural livelihoods and good governance. One of the two priority sectors has been identified for each country (see Annex 1). Applications for study relevant to a non-priority sector will only be considered if no applicants are looking to study in a priority sector in a given year.

In the event that there are a number of applicants with similar levels of skills and experience NZAID will prioritise applicants proposing to study in an area that is relevant to the priority sector for each country.

Related study areas for sustainable rural livelihoods include, but are not limited to: agricultural sciences, agricultural economics/agricultural trade (international and domestic), animal husbandry, applied sciences or technology related to rural development, community development, distance education and training delivery, ecotourism, environmental health, environmental science/environmental studies, environmental management or natural resource management, forestry, marine science/aquaculture, veterinary science related to rural development, small business development, sanitation and waste management.

Related study areas for governance include, but are not limited to: development studies, economics, finance/accounting, gender-related studies, human resource management or development, information management (libraries, archives and records, MIS), international law, comparative law, political science, public policy, public sector finance, public administration/government, project management, social research/demography, social policy, indigenous studies, statistics/monitoring and evaluation.

Priority will be given to applicants from indigenous communities who meet the criteria and/or to those where study will support a longer-term engagement elsewhere in the Latin America Development Programme.

Eligibility criteria

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

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

- be a citizen of a NZDS participating country (i.e. permanent residents are not eligible to apply);
- be residing in their country of citizenship, preferably for at least two years prior to application;
- not have citizenship or permanent residence status of New Zealand or 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 of New Zealand, Australia or another developed country;
- be aged 17 or over before the scholarship start date;
- be applying to commence a new qualification and not be seeking funding for one already commenced in New Zealand or another country²;
- 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 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;
- be able to demonstrate a strong commitment to the public or private or community sector (as relevant) of their home country, and to their country's development in general; 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;

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

² NZAID will not fund any students to continue a qualification they have commenced outside their home country. NZAID will consider funding qualifications being studied in the home country by self-sponsored, part-time students on a case-by-case basis.

- 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 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.

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.

Application process and closing dates for applications

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

- complete one original NZDS application form (available from the relevant New Zealand Embassy; or, in the case of Bolivia, Ecuador, Honduras and Nicaragua, the New Zealand education institution – see Annex 2 for contact details);
- indicate the level and field of study required, and the preferred education institution;
- 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 the employer;
- ensure all other relevant supporting documents have been included, including the original and current IELTS or TOEFL exam result;
- 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 Embassy or New Zealand education institution, as appropriate (see Annex 1).

It is important that the applicant's choice of education institution is indicated clearly and all requested attachments are included. NZAID is unable to forward incomplete applications to New Zealand education institutions.

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.

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

Closing dates for applications

Except for Honduras, Nicaragua, Bolivia and Ecuador, applications are to be submitted to the relevant New Zealand Embassy before **1 May 2008**. Details of the New Zealand Embassy for each country are set out below.

For Honduras, Nicaragua, Bolivia and Ecuador, applications are to be submitted to the applicant's selected New Zealand education institution **by the institution's published closing date** (see Annex 2). The institutions will forward complete, eligible NZDS applications to NZAID by 30 June 2008.

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 the identified priority development sector for their home country, i.e. sustainable rural livelihoods or good governance (see Annex 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;
- the applicant has a strong academic background. Applicants for postgraduate study must hold a recognised Bachelors degree of good standard. (Note: NZAID gives preference 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 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

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 are strongly encouraged to apply as the New Zealand Government attempts to ensure gender 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.

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

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

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).

Addresses for further information

For enquiries and to submit applications, applicants from **El Salvador** and **Guatemala** should contact:

Programme Officer, NZAID
New Zealand Embassy
Jaime Balmes 8, Piso 4
Col. Los Morales Polanco
CP 11510 Mexico, DF
MEXICO
Email: kiwimexico@prodigy.net.mx

For enquiries and to submit applications, applicants from **Chile** and **Peru** should contact:

Programme Officer, NZAID
New Zealand Embassy
El Golf 99
Oficina 703 (Casilla 112)
Las Condes
Santiago
CHILE
Email: becas@nzembassy.cl

For enquiries and to submit applications, applicants from **Brazil** should contact:

Programme Officer, NZAID
New Zealand Embassy
SHIS QI 09, conj.16, casa 01
Lago Sul 71625-160
Brasilia DF
BRAZIL
Email: zelandia@nwi.com.br
Website: www.novazelandia.org.br

For enquiries and to submit applications, applicants from **Argentina, Uruguay, and Paraguay** should contact:

Programme Officer, NZAID
New Zealand Embassy
Carlos Pelligrini 1427
Piso 5
1011 Buenos Aires
ARGENTINA
Email: kiwiargentina@datamarkets.com.ar

Annex 1: Country specific information

Argentina

Priority sector: Governance

Submit application to: NZAID, New Zealand Embassy, Buenos Aires

Bolivia

Priority sector: Sustainable rural livelihoods

Submit application to: relevant New Zealand education institution

Brazil

Priority sector: Governance

Submit application to: NZAID, New Zealand Embassy, Brasilia

Chile

Priority sector: Governance

Submit application to: NZAID, New Zealand Embassy, Santiago

Ecuador

Priority sector: Sustainable rural livelihoods.

Submit application to: relevant New Zealand education institution

El Salvador

Priority sector: Sustainable rural livelihoods

Submit application to: NZAID, New Zealand Embassy, Mexico

Guatemala

Priority sector: Sustainable rural livelihoods

Submit application to: NZAID, New Zealand Embassy, Mexico

Honduras

Priority sector: Sustainable rural livelihoods

Submit application to: relevant New Zealand education institution

Nicaragua

Priority sector: Sustainable rural livelihoods

Submit application to: relevant New Zealand education institution

Paraguay

Priority sector: Governance

Submit application to: NZAID, New Zealand Embassy, Buenos Aires

Peru

Priority sector: Sustainable rural livelihoods

Submit application to: NZAID, New Zealand Embassy, Santiago

Uruguay

Priority sector: Governance

Submit application to: NZAID, New Zealand Embassy, Buenos Aires

Applications for study relevant to the non-priority sector will be considered if no applicants are looking to study in the identified priority sector in a given year.

Annex 2: Contact details for New Zealand institutions and closing dates

Applicants from **Bolivia, Ecuador, Honduras** or **Nicaragua** apply directly to the New Zealand education institution where they wish to study.

New Zealand institution	Contact details	Closing date
University of Otago	www.otago.ac.nz international.admissions@otago.ac.nz	30 April 2008
Massey University	www.massey.ac.nz international@massey.ac.nz	1 May 2008
University of Waikato	www.waikato.ac.nz int.centre@waikato.ac.nz	15 May 2008 (1 May for PhDs)
Victoria University of Wellington (VUW)	www.vuw.ac.nz VUW-NZAID@vuw.ac.nz	15 May 2008 (1 May for PhDs)
University of Canterbury	www.canterbury.ac.nz international@canterbury.ac.nz	1 May 2008
Auckland University of Technology (AUT)	www.autinternational.info international.centre@aut.ac.nz	31 May 2008
Lincoln University	www.lincoln.ac.nz international@lincoln.ac.nz	31 May 2008
University of Auckland	www.auckland.ac.nz int-questions@auckland.ac.nz	1 April 2008
Unitec*	www.unitec.ac.nz international@unitec.ac.nz	25 June 2008

* Up to Masters level only