

MICRONESIA REGION

New Zealand Development Scholarships Information for intakes commencing 2010

Overview

New Zealand Development Scholarships aim to strengthen human resource capacity by providing knowledge, skills and qualifications in key socio-economic areas, with the objective of strengthening the ability for Pacific countries to meet their national development priorities.

In the Pacific region, through the Open category of the New Zealand Development Scholarships (NZDS-Open) scheme, New Zealand offers development scholarships for full-time, multi-year tertiary study in New Zealand. Candidates apply directly to New Zealand education institutions (see Annex 1).

Type, level and number of scholarships

New Zealand Development Scholarships are awarded for full-time, tertiary level study in New Zealand. NZDS-Open scholarships are available to those working in the public sector, private sector or for civil society organisations.

New Zealand will offer up to 2 NZDS-Open scholarships to citizens of the Federated States of Micronesia, Marshall Islands, Nauru and Palau, for study beginning in the 2010 academic year.

Scholarships for citizens of Nauru are available for postgraduate study (i.e. Postgraduate Diplomas, Masters or PhDs) at a participating New Zealand education institution (see Annex 1).

Scholarships for citizens of the Federated States of Micronesia, Marshall Islands and Palau may be awarded for undergraduate or postgraduate study at a participating New Zealand education institution.

Priority sectors

Scholarships will be awarded to applicants who clearly demonstrate the developmental relevance of the proposed field of study to their home country and/or Pacific region.

Preference will be given to applicants who propose study in relation to the following priority areas.

- Leadership and Governance including, but not limited to, development studies, development planning, management, law¹, political science, social science research, demography, social policy, indigenous studies, organisational psychology, anthropology, strategic studies
- Economics including, but not limited to, development economics, agricultural economics, development studies, development planning, international trade, banking, finance, business management, commerce and marketing
- Public sector governance and reform including, but not limited to, budgeting, tax reform, monitoring and evaluation, public auditing, public sector management, public policy, public sector finance, public sector administration, management, statistics
- Environmental studies including, but not limited to, land and water management, forestry, renewable energy technology, resource management, land rehabilitation, marine conservation, waste management, urban environment and town planning
- Education including, but not limited to, education administration, management and leadership, education planning, teaching and research

¹ Postgraduate level study only

- Health including, but not limited to, nursing, public health, HIV/AIDS
- Agriculture and Fisheries including, but not limited to, agricultural sciences, agribusiness, animal husbandry, applied sciences/technology related to rural development, marine science, veterinary science related to rural development
- Human Rights and Gender.

Candidates should be explicit in their application as to the link to the above development priorities.

NZDS eligibility criteria

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

- be a citizen of their home country (i.e. permanent residents are not eligible to apply);
- be residing their home country, preferably for at least two years prior to application;
- not have citizenship or permanent residence status of New Zealand, Australia or another developed country²;
- 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 aged 17 or over before the scholarship start date;
- be applying to commence a new qualification and not be seeking funding for a qualification 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 proficiency criteria;
- have been working in their home country, preferably for at least two years prior to application;
- have worked for two years in their home country since completing their highest tertiary qualification gained to date;
- be able to demonstrate a strong commitment to their home country's public, private or civil society sector (as relevant), and to the development of their home country 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 scholarship (either in New Zealand or in another country) to a NZAID scholarship;
- hold, or have held, a New Zealand Government or Australian Government scholarship in the 24 months preceding the scholarship start date (12 months for Short Term Training Awards); or
- have been terminated from a New Zealand or Australian Government scholarship previously.

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

² A developed country is defined as a country not included on the OECD's Development Assistance Committee's list of aid recipients.

- 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 NZAID scholarship; 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.

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 one of the identified priority sectors for the Pacific region (listed on pages 2);
- the applicant clearly demonstrates the **developmental** relevance and applicability of their proposed study programme to the human resource development training needs of their country;
- NZDS applicants must have a strong academic background. Applicants for postgraduate study must hold a recognised Bachelors degree of strong academic merit, in general relevant to the proposed postgraduate qualification (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 experiences;
 - 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).

Application process and closing dates for applications

NZDS-Open candidates apply **directly to one of the participating New Zealand education institutions** (see Annex 1), after ensuring that they meet the eligibility criteria. The education institution distributes and receives NZDS-Open application forms. In order for the application to be considered, applicants must:

- complete one original NZDS application form (available from the relevant New Zealand education institution);
- indicate the qualification, field and level of study required;
- attach to the application form an original or certified copy of the required supporting documents, including full academic transcripts and completion certificates;
- attach to the application form three references (no more than 24 months old) on official letterhead supporting the application to study in New Zealand. One reference should be from a current employer and at least one from a former academic supervisor or lecturer;
- ensure the relevant section of the application form has been signed and stamped by their employer; and
- forward the **completed original application form and all relevant supporting documentation, plus one photocopy of the completed application form and all relevant supporting documents**, to their selected New Zealand education institution.

It is important that all requested supporting documents are included. Applications with incomplete supporting documents will not be processed.

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.

Closing dates for applications

Applicants must ensure that the institution receives the completed NZDS application form (including all supporting documentation) before the institution's closing date (see Annex 1). Late applications, or late arrival of supporting documents, will not be accepted.

Selection process

Applications received by the education institution will be assessed for admission to the education institution, and checked against the NZDS eligibility criteria. The institution will then send complete NZDS applications, for candidates with unconditional offers of place, to NZAID's Scholarships Unit in Wellington, New Zealand, by 31 July.

NZAID will shortlist eligible applications according to the selection criteria. NZAID will advise the education institutions of the outcome of the NZDS selection round by November. NZDS-Open applicants will be notified by their selected institution regarding the success of their application and what they should do next.

Additional information

The purpose of NZAID scholarships schemes 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 NZAID scholarship that scholarship holders return to their home country to take up a position that utilises their study or training 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. Candidates from provincial areas/outer islands are also encouraged to apply.

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 medical clearance and a visa being issued by Immigration New Zealand. Successful applicants should allow a minimum two month period for their visa application (including medical and police clearance) to be processed.

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 can 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.**

NZAID funding may not cover all living costs. NZDS students and their families must carefully consider the costs of supporting a family in New Zealand, as New Zealand is likely to have a much higher cost of living than their home country. NZAID students may need to supplement the stipend with their own funds to cover items on top of basic day-to-day living expenses.

Information on NZDS allowances and entitlements, and terms and conditions, 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 permanent residency or a work permit for New Zealand, Australia, or another country, 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/scholarships).

Addresses for further information

New Zealand Diplomatic Posts

Federated States of Micronesia, Marshall Islands and Palau

New Zealand High Commission
Bairiki
(PO Box 53)
Tarawa, Republic of Kiribati
Tel: (+ 686) 21 400

Nauru

New Zealand High Commission
Level 10, Reserve Bank Building
Pratt Street
(PO Box 1378)
Suva, Fiji
Tel: (+ 679) 331 1422

Annex 1: Contact details for New Zealand institutions and NZDS-Open closing dates

NZDS-Open applicants apply directly to the New Zealand education institution where they wish to study. The application close-off dates listed in the table below only refer to **NZDS-Open** applications.

Applicants are advised to send applications well before the closing date as the institution may require further information or documentation.

<p>AUT University International Student Centre Private Bag 92006 Auckland 1020, New Zealand Website: www.aut.ac.nz Email: international.centre@aut.ac.nz Fax: (+64 9) 917 9925 Application close-off date: 30 June 2009</p>	<p>Lincoln University International Centre PO Box 94 Canterbury, New Zealand Website: www.lincoln.ac.nz Email: international@lincoln.ac.nz Fax: (+64 3) 325 3879 Application close-off date: 30 June 2009</p>
<p>Manukau Institute of Technology (MIT) Note: Undergraduate only International Centre Private Bage 94006, SAMC Auckland 2240, New Zealand Website: www.manukau.ac.nz Email: international@manukau.ac.nz Fax: (+64 9) 968 8741 Application close-off date: 25 July 2009</p>	<p>Massey University International Office Private Bag 11 222 Palmerston North, New Zealand Website: www.massey.ac.nz Email: international@massey.ac.nz Fax: (+64 6) 350 5698 Application close-off date: 1 June 2009</p>
<p>Unitec Note: Up to Masters level only International Office Private Bag 92025 Auckland, New Zealand Website: www.unitec.ac.nz Email: international@unitec.ac.nz Fax: (+64 9) 815 4301 Application close-off date: 3 July 2009</p>	<p>University of Auckland Auckland International PO Box 92019, Auckland Mail Centre Auckland 1142, New Zealand Website: www.auckland.ac.nz Email: international@auckland.ac.nz Fax: (+64 9) 373 7405 Application close-off date: 1 June 2009</p>
<p>University of Canterbury International Office Private Bag 4800 Christchurch, New Zealand Website: www.canterbury.ac.nz Email: international@canterbury.ac.nz Fax: (+64 3) 364 2171 Application close-off date: 1 June 2009</p>	<p>University of Otago International Office PO Box 56 Dunedin, New Zealand Website: www.otago.ac.nz Email: international.admissions@otago.ac.nz Fax: (+64 3) 479 8367 Application close-off date: 30 June 2009</p>
<p>University of Waikato Waikato International Private Bag 3105 Hamilton 3240, New Zealand Website: www.waikato.ac.nz/international/ Email: int.centre@waikato.ac.nz Fax: (+64 7) 838 4269 Application close-off date: 30 June 2009 (1 June for PhD applications)</p>	<p>Victoria University of Wellington (VUW) Victoria International PO Box 600 Wellington 6410, New Zealand Website: www.victoria.ac.nz Email: VUW-NZAID@vuw.ac.nz Fax: (+64 4) 463 5056 Application close-off date: 15 June 2009 (1 June for PhD applications)</p>