

PHILIPPINES

NEW ZEALAND DEVELOPMENT SCHOLARSHIPS

Information for intake commencing 2009

Country strategy

The goal of New Zealand's development cooperation programme in the Philippines is to contribute to poverty elimination through sustainable and equitable development. The programme will work towards this objective through assistance in three main areas: governance, indigenous peoples, and resource management. The Philippines has a national development plan which includes poverty reduction goals.

The New Zealand Development Scholarships (NZDS) scheme offers the opportunity to people from developing countries, including citizens of the Philippines, to undertake development-related studies at tertiary education institutions in New Zealand.

New Zealand Development Scholarships for the Philippines aim to strengthen the policy, technical service and analytical capacity of Philippine agencies, organisations and institutions associated with the delivery of economic and social benefits to the poor. Overall, NZAID's primary focus in Southeast Asia is on sustainable rural livelihoods.

Type, level and number of scholarships

There are two categories of NZDS:

New Zealand Development Scholarships – Public category (NZDS-Public): available to applicants from public sector (government), private sector or civil society organisations (including NGOs). Applicants apply directly to the Commission for Higher Education (CHED).

New Zealand Development Scholarships – Open category (NZDS-Open): available to applicants from public sector (government), private sector or civil society organisations (including NGOs). Applicants apply directly to a participating New Zealand education institution (listed in Annex 1).

Within the New Zealand bilateral development assistance programme for the Philippines, up to 12 scholarships (up to nine NZDS-Public scholarships and up to three NZDS-Open scholarships) will be offered to eligible citizens from the Philippines for study beginning in the 2009 academic year.

New Zealand Development Scholarships are awarded for full-time postgraduate level study (i.e. Postgraduate Diplomas and Masters degrees) in New Zealand. Doctorates (PhDs) will not be funded.

Priority sectors

In line with NZAID's country strategy for the Philippines, scholarships will be awarded for study linked to the following priority sectors:

- Resource management (including ecotourism, coastal and marine resources, forestry, conservation and environment);
- Indigenous peoples, including advocacy, capacity building, property rights and sustainable livelihoods; and
- Governance, including management and public sector reform, fiscal and economic management, judicial, decentralisation and local government capacity building and human rights.

Eligibility criteria

Applicants must meet the following NZDS eligibility criteria before their application will be considered further against the selection criteria, including any criteria specific to the Philippines (listed below).

Applicants must:

- be a Filipino citizen (i.e. permanent residents are not eligible to apply);
- be residing in the Philippines, preferably for at least two years prior to application;
- not have 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;
- (for the Philippines only) be aged between 21 and 46 years 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 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, and since completing their highest qualification gained to date, for at least two years prior to application;
- be able to demonstrate a strong commitment to the Philippines public, private or civil society sector (as relevant), and to the development of the Philippines 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;
- 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 the Philippines 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 the Philippines for a minimum period of two years following completion of their scholarship in order to contribute to their country's social or economic development.

Philippines specific criteria

In addition to meeting the criteria above, applicants from the Philippines must never have held a New Zealand Government scholarship.

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

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 IELTS² score of 6.5, with no band less than 6.0, for postgraduate level study. Some postgraduate qualifications 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 test result as a pre-condition of the application and placement process. Results must be no older than 24 months at the time of the scholarship start date.

NZDS-Public application process and closing date

Applications for NZDS-Public category applicants for the 2009 intake will be processed by the Commission on Higher Education (CHED), in close consultation with the New Zealand Embassy in Manila. NZDS-Public applications close mid-March 2008.

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. Applications with incomplete supporting documents will not be processed.

NZDS-Open application process

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 application forms. Applicants must ensure that the institution receives the completed NZDS application form (including all supporting documentation) before the institution's closing date (also in Annex 1). The institution will assess the candidate's application for admission to the institution, and check it against the NZDS eligibility criteria. The institution will then send complete applications, for candidates with unconditional offers of place, to NZAID's Scholarships Unit in Wellington, New Zealand, by 30 June.

NZAID will consider all eligible applications against the selection criteria below and will advise the institutions of the outcome of the NZDS selection round by late September. NZDS-Open applicants will be notified by their selected institution regarding the success of their application and what they should do next.

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. Applications with incomplete supporting documents will not be processed.

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 development sectors for the Philippines (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;
- applicants for postgraduate study must hold a recognised Bachelors degree of strong academic merit, relevant to the proposed postgraduate qualification (Note: NZAID gives preference to candidates who do not already hold a degree from a developed country);

² International English Language Testing System – Academic stream

³ Test of English as a Foreign Language

- the applicant clearly demonstrates their links and commitment to the Philippines (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 New Zealand Development Scholarship 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. Successful candidates should allow at least two months for their student visa application 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 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.**

Awardees are expected to travel to New Zealand alone and pass preliminary academic preparatory, English language or bridging programmes before being joined by any dependant family members. NZAID recommends that all students settle into their academic study before their family joins them in New Zealand.

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 permanent residency or a work permit for New Zealand, Australia or any other 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).

⁴ In general, NZAID will not support individuals whose professional experience has mostly been obtained overseas.

Address for further information

NZDS-Public category applicants apply directly to:

The Director
International Affairs Service
Commission on Higher Education (CHED)
DAP Building
San Miguel Avenue Ortigas Center
Pasig City 1605
THE PHILIPPINES

Tel/Fax: +63 2 687 1317

Email: ias@ched.gov.ph

Annex 1 Contact details for New Zealand institutions and closing dates

NZDS-Open applicants apply directly to the New Zealand education institution where they wish to study.

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