

## SAMOA

### NZAID SCHOLARSHIPS

Information for intakes commencing 2009

#### Purpose of NZAID scholarships

NZAID scholarships seek to strengthen the human resources base in Samoa by supporting identified priority areas of training. Scholarships are a significant component of the New Zealand/Samoa Official Development Assistance (ODA) programme. NZAID and Samoa have agreed to align scholarships to the Strategy for the Development of Samoa (SDS), its supporting sector plans and human resources development (HRD) priorities.

NZAID's support for Samoa's human resources development utilises a range of mechanisms including academic study and technical/vocational training. Samoa's human resource development is underpinned by the agreement between the Government of Samoa and NZAID on scholarships and training awards 2006-2010, and the principles of harmonisation under the Samoa/Australia/New Zealand Joint Samoa Program Strategy.

#### Type, level and number of scholarships

Under the New Zealand bilateral development assistance programme for Samoa, eligible citizens can apply for the following NZAID scholarships.

**New Zealand Development Scholarships (NZDS)** – up to 15 NZDS scholarships are available for National University of Samoa (NUS) Foundation Year graduates and up to 10 NZDS scholarships are available to in-service applicants (from across the public, private and civil society sectors) on an annual basis for full-time study in New Zealand. The scholarships are for either undergraduate study (i.e. undergraduate Diploma or Bachelors degrees) or postgraduate study (i.e. Postgraduate Diploma, Masters or Doctorates (PhD)). Study at PhD level will only be considered where particularly strong development relevance and alignment to Samoa's national development priorities is demonstrated.

**New Zealand Regional Development Scholarships (NZRDS)** – up to 20 NZRDS scholarships are available to NUS Foundation Year graduates on an annual basis for full-time, undergraduate study at approved education institutions in the Pacific region.

**Short Term Training Awards (STTA)** are available for targeted, short-term vocational and skills-based training in New Zealand, up to a maximum of one year. STTA can include work attachments, short courses, or undergraduate Certificate or Diploma level technical training. STTA are not available for part-time or academic tertiary study. STTA applicants must be employed and their employer must endorse their application.

#### Priority sectors

In line with the Strategy for the Development of Samoa and NZAID's development assistance focuses in Samoa, scholarships will be awarded for study or training linked to the following priority sectors:

##### Primary HRD needs

- Health (medical surgeons, radiologist, pathologist, cardiologist, optician, public health specialist, occupational therapist, dietician and nutritionist, physiotherapist)
- Education (teachers in science subjects, special needs education & early child hood education)
- Infrastructure and utility (engineers, technicians, architects)
- Legal assistance, policing and protection (forensic pathologist, investigation experts in drugs, fraud and crime, solicitors specialising in areas of administrative law, legislative drafting, contract law, land law, international law, environmental law and commercial law)

- Agriculture and environment (environmental scientists, marine biologist, veterinary).

#### Secondary HRD needs

- Health (administrators, planners and analysts, reform specialist, nurses)
- Education (curriculum developers, administrators, planners and analysts, reform specialists)
- Agriculture and environment (meteorologist, surveyors, land valuers, town planners)
- Information communication technology (programmers, technicians, graphic specialists)
- Commerce, industry and business
- Community and social development (clinical psychologists, probation parole experts, rural community development expert, intellectual property and patent expert)
- Public administration (project management expert, risk management expert).

### **Eligibility criteria**

---

Applicants for NZAID scholarships must meet the following eligibility criteria before their application will be considered against the selection criteria, including any criteria specific to Samoa (see page 3).

Applicants must:

- be a citizen of Samoa (i.e. permanent residents are not eligible to apply);
- be residing in Samoa, preferably for at least two years prior to application;
- not have citizenship or permanent residence status of New Zealand, Australia or another developed country<sup>1</sup>. The exception to this is applicants who are dual citizens of Samoa and New Zealand, and (in the case of NZDS-Public and NZRDS applicants) the applicant has been schooled, and their parents are currently living, in Samoa. In addition, applicants who meet all other eligibility criteria but were born in American Samoa between, and including, the years 1981-1988 for medical safety reasons only, are also eligible to apply;
- 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 (except for New Zealand citizens from the Cook Islands, Niue or Tokelau; or dual Samoa/New Zealand citizens from Samoa);
- be aged 17 or over before the scholarship start date (also see page 3);
- be applying to commence a new qualification or training programme and not be seeking funding for a qualification or training already commenced in New Zealand or another country;
- not have completed, or nearly completed, a qualification or training programme at a similar level (i.e. applicants must apply for a higher level qualification or training than any previously attained), unless strong developmental relevance is demonstrated;
- satisfy the admission requirements of the education institution or training provider at which the qualification or training is to be undertaken, including English language proficiency criteria;
- (for those applying from the NUS Foundation year) have completed their senior schooling in Samoa and their parents are living in Samoa;
- (for in-service applicants) have been working in Samoa, 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 Samoa's public, private or civil society sectors (as relevant), and to the development of Samoa in general; and
- be able to take up the scholarship in the academic year for which it is offered.

---

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

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 NZDS/NZRDS start date (12 months for a STTA); or
- have been terminated from a New Zealand or Australian Government scholarship previously.

STTA applicants must be employed in the field of the proposed training at the time of application and their employer must endorse their application.

All applicants are expected to continue residing in Samoa during the application and selection process. If offered a scholarship or award, candidates must:

- be able to satisfy the immigration requirements for international student entry to the relevant study country (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 Samoa for a minimum period of two years following completion of their scholarship in order to contribute to their country's social or economic development.

### **Samoa specific criteria**

Depending on the country-specific training needs, applicants must be currently completing their NUS Foundation Year or be working in the public, private or civil society sectors. In addition to meeting the eligibility criteria above, applicants from Samoa must:

- meet any identified eligibility or selection criteria agreed by the Government of Samoa and NZAID, available from the Samoa Scholarships and Training Division; and
- be aged between 17 and 45 years of age at 1 January 2009.

## **NZDS and NZRDS application and selection processes**

---

Under the principles of harmonisation, Samoa, NZAID and AusAID undertake joint advertising, application processing and selection for scholarships.

### **NZDS-Public and NZRDS (NUS Foundation Year applicants)**

The application and selection processes for NUS Foundation Year graduates applying for NZDS-Public and NZRDS scholarships include the following steps:

- joint scholarship meeting held at NUS in early March highlighting the eligibility and country specific criteria for the different donors;
- provisional nominations are selected after receipt of Semester 1 results (June/July) from NUS based on Faculty ranking;
- successful applicants complete the NZDS and NZRDS application forms;
- provisional placements sought based on Semester 1 Faculty ranking;
- unconditional placement and awardees' list finalised only after receipt of Semester 2 results and final Faculty ranking.

### **NZDS-Open (In-service applicants)**

The application and selection processes for in-service applicants applying for NZDS-Open scholarships include the following steps:

- newspaper advertisements are placed to advise country-specific criteria (NZAID selection criteria are listed below), eligibility criteria, applicant categories, assessment criteria and the procedure for applications;

- applicants complete a preliminary application form allowing initial screening for the most appropriate of the three agencies' schemes;
- successful applicants are advised by the respective agency and complete a common application form;
- common application forms are assessed for correctness and sent to the South Pacific Board of Education Assessment (SPBEA) for assessment against agreed common selection criteria and rank ordering of merit;
- those identified as best meeting all criteria will be interviewed by a small panel from the three agencies;
- final selection is reviewed and approved by the Samoa Staff Training and Scholarships Committee before being sent to the respective agencies.

## Selection criteria

---

NZDS and NZRDS scholarships will be awarded for fields of study that meet Samoa's priority human resources development needs. Scholarships will support training at the level and fields of study expected to have the greatest developmental impact.

Priority areas will be reviewed and determined on an annual basis prior to advertising the NZDS and NZRDS, according to the joint process and mechanisms determined for integrating HRD priorities into scholarships and awards allocations.

During the selection process, NZDS and NZRDS applications will be considered against the following selection criteria:

- the proposed study programme or training links with priority human resource development training needs outlined in the Strategy for the Development of Samoa, where there is a demonstrated training and employment need; and/or the proposed study programme or training links to one of NZAID's identified priority development assistance sectors for Samoa (see page 1); and
- a distribution of awards across target sectors, fields and levels of study outlined in the HRD priorities for Samoa;
- the applicant clearly demonstrates the **developmental** relevance and applicability of their proposed study or training programme;
- all applicants must have a strong academic background. NZDS-Open applicants proposing 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);
- support for study in New Zealand will be determined in consultation with the Government of Samoa after consideration of the home country or regional options available. Where a nominated undergraduate study programme is available within the Pacific region, applicants are generally directed to apply to study at an approved Pacific regional institution through the NZRDS scheme;
- 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 or training programme must be relevant to:
  - recent paid and/or unpaid (volunteer) work experiences<sup>2</sup>;
  - 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 or training (e.g. good character, positive study attitude and motivation to succeed).

---

<sup>2</sup> 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.

## **STTA application and selection process**

---

Short Term Training Awards are intended to provide a quick response to addressing skills shortages, which Samoa has identified as being priority HRD requirements. The types of training are agreed between NZAID and Samoa. These awards assist people in employment to gain knowledge and skills that will help progress the development of Samoa.

The Samoa Scholarships and Training Division will be responsible for nominating awardees under the scheme. The awards are for up to one year in duration for the purpose of vocational upskilling. The application and selection process includes the following steps:

- newspaper advertisements are placed to advise country-specific criteria, eligibility criteria, applicant categories, assessment criteria and the procedure for applications;
- applicants complete a preliminary application form allowing initial screening for the most appropriate of the three agencies' schemes;
- successful applicants are advised by the respective agency and complete a STTA application form;
- those identified as best meeting all criteria will be interviewed by a small panel from the three agencies.

Where STTA programme funds are still available in the financial year following the application process above, further awards may be funded following recommendations from the Samoa Scholarships and Training Division and approval by NZAID.

## **Other scholarships**

---

### **Commonwealth Scholarship and Fellowship Plan**

Candidates from Samoa are eligible to apply for Commonwealth Scholarships for postgraduate study in New Zealand on a contestable basis with applicants from other developing Commonwealth countries. The New Zealand Vice Chancellors' Committee ([schols@nzvcc.ac.nz](mailto:schols@nzvcc.ac.nz)) administers the selection process for the Commonwealth Scholarship scheme in New Zealand.

Application information can be obtained from the Samoa Staff Training and Scholarships Committee at the Samoan Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade. Additional information about the scholarship scheme can be obtained from the Commonwealth Scholarships and Fellowship Plan website ([www.csfp-online.org](http://www.csfp-online.org)).

## **Additional information**

---

The purpose of NZAID's 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 amongst scholarship holders. Candidates from provincial areas are also encouraged to apply.

NZAID scholarships and awards must be taken in the year for which they are offered and cannot be transferred to the next academic year.

If offered a scholarship for study in New Zealand, 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.

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.

Information on NZAID allowances and entitlements, and the conditions of NZAID scholarships, is provided on the scholarships pages of NZAID's website: [www.nzaid.govt.nz/scholarships/](http://www.nzaid.govt.nz/scholarships/)

**NZDS-Open and Commonwealth Scholarships schemes only:** 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. NZAID students and their families must carefully consider the costs of supporting a family in New Zealand or another study country, as the cost of living may be higher than that of 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.

**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/](http://www.nzaid.govt.nz/scholarships/)).

### **Address for further information**

---

For further information regarding NZAID scholarships, please visit the scholarships pages of NZAID's website or contact staff at NZAID or the Samoa Scholarships and Training Division:

NZAID Development Programme Administrator  
**New Zealand High Commission**  
Beach Road  
(PO Box 1876)  
Apia, Samoa

**Samoa Scholarships and Training Division**  
Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade  
Level Three  
Government Buildings  
Apia, Samoa

Tel: (685) 21 711, ext. 206