

## SOLOMON ISLANDS

### NZAID SCHOLARSHIPS

Information for intakes commencing 2009

#### Purpose of NZAID scholarships

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NZAID scholarships seek to strengthen the human resource base in the Solomon Islands by supporting identified priority areas of training. New Zealand's long-term objective is to assist the Solomon Islands Government and Solomon Islanders in creating an environment conducive for economic recovery and growth, and for addressing basic social needs.

NZAID is committed to being a key donor in support of the basic education sector (with continued support to tertiary education), strengthening governance, civil society and economic development. NZAID will contribute to the efforts of the Solomon Islands Government to work towards poverty elimination and the achievement of equitable and sustainable development in the long-term through leadership by Solomon Islanders and their institutions.

#### Type, level and number of scholarships

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Under the New Zealand bilateral development assistance programme for the Solomon Islands, eligible citizens can apply for the following NZAID scholarships:

**New Zealand Development Scholarships in the Public category (NZDS-Public)** are available to in-service applicants (i.e. public, private or civil society sector employees). Up to five (5) NZDS-Public scholarships will be offered to eligible candidates for study beginning in the 2009 academic year. NZDS-Public scholarships are awarded for full-time study in New Zealand, primarily at postgraduate level (i.e. Postgraduate Diploma, Masters or Doctorates (PhD)) in priority areas for the Solomon Islands. A limited number of scholarships are available at undergraduate level (i.e. Diploma and Bachelors) where the nominated study programme is not available in the Pacific region. Study at PhD level will only be considered where particularly strong development relevance and alignment to the Solomon Island's priority training needs are demonstrated.

**New Zealand Regional Development Scholarships (NZRDS)** are available to pre-service and in-service (i.e. public, private or civil society sector employees) applicants. Up to 10 scholarships will be offered to eligible candidates for study beginning in the 2009 academic year. NZRDS are awarded for full-time study in the Pacific region at both undergraduate and postgraduate levels (excluding PhDs).

**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. Individuals working in the public, private or civil society sectors can apply to undertake short courses or undergraduate Certificate or Diploma level technical training<sup>1</sup>. STTA applicants must be employed and their employer must endorse their application.

#### Priority sectors

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

- Public policy, planning and financial management
- Transport and Infrastructure management and planning
- Fisheries management and marine sciences
- Education related disciplines

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<sup>1</sup> STTA are not available for part-time or academic tertiary study.

## Eligibility criteria

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Applicants must meet the following NZAID eligibility criteria before their application will be considered against the selection criteria, including any criteria specific to the Solomon Islands (listed on page 3).

Applicants must:

- be a citizen of the Solomon Islands (i.e. permanent residents are not eligible to apply);
- be residing in the Solomon Islands, 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>2</sup>;
- 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 (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<sup>3</sup>;
- 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 secondary school) have completed their senior schooling in the Solomon Islands;
- (for in-service applicants) have been working in the Solomon Islands, 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 the Solomon Islands' public, private or civil society sector (as relevant), and to the development of the Solomon Islands 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 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 the Solomon Islands during the application and selection process. If offered a scholarship or award, candidates must:

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

<sup>3</sup> NZAID will not fund any students to continue a qualification they have commenced outside their home country. With prior agreement of the partner government, NZAID will consider funding qualifications that self-sponsored individuals have commenced studying part-time in the home country on a case-by-case basis.

- 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 the Solomon Islands for a minimum period of two years following completion of their scholarship in order to contribute to their country's social or economic development.

### **Solomon Islands specific criteria**

Depending on the country-specific training needs, applicants may be persons who are in the public sector, private sector or civil society workforce. In addition to meeting the criteria above, applicants from the Solomon Islands must:

- meet any identified eligibility or selection criteria agreed by the Solomon Islands Government and NZAID, available from National Training Unit; and
- be aged between 17 and 45 years of age at 1 January 2009 (excluding STTA applicants).

### **Application process and closing dates for applications**

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#### **Applicants apply for NZAID scholarships and awards through the National Training Unit.**

Details of the NZDS-Public scheme are advertised in the media in April. The NZDS-Public scheme may also be promoted to relevant government agencies around the same time.

Expression of interest (EOI) forms are available from:

#### **National Training Unit**

Ministry of Education and Human Resource Development  
 PO Box G28  
 Honiara  
 Solomon Islands  
 Tel: 24229  
 Fax: 24229

NZDS-Public and NZRDS applicants return their completed EOI forms directly to National Training Unit by **31 May**. Late applications will not be accepted.

Applications for STTA will be considered throughout the year.

It is important that all NZAID applicants clearly state their choice of qualification and education institution, or area of training, in their application forms and provide all requested certified supporting documents.

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 application form. Applications with incomplete supporting documentation will not be processed.

## Selection criteria

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During the selection process, applications for a NZAID scholarship or award will be considered against the following selection criteria:

- the proposed study programme or training links with priority sectors outlined by the Solomon Islands Government, 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 the Solomon Islands (see page 1); and
- the applicant clearly demonstrates the **developmental** relevance and applicability of their proposed study or training programme to the human resource development training needs of their country;
- NZDS/NZRDS 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.) Where a nominated undergraduate study programme is available within the Pacific region, applicants are 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>4</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).

## Selection process

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NZAID scholarships will be awarded in priority study or training areas requiring human resource capacity enhancement in the Solomon Islands, agreed between NZAID and the Solomon Islands Government.

The National Training Unit, Ministry of Education and Human Resource Development, will justly, fairly and without favouritism or bias, prioritise applicants and, in cooperation with NZAID, select scholarship nominees based on the principles of transparency and merit. The Solomon Islands Government will shortlist candidates in line with the agreed priorities and criteria and will consult with NZAID to finalise the list. Candidates must meet NZAID's eligibility and selection criteria outlined above.

The New Zealand High Commission (NZHC) in Honiara will liaise with NZAID's Scholarships Unit in Wellington regarding placement of shortlisted NZDS applications, and with the NZHC in Fiji regarding placement of NZRDS applications. The NZHC (Honiara) will advise NZDS and NZRDS candidates of the outcome of their application between September and January.

As STTA applications are considered throughout the year, candidates will be advised of the outcome of their application on an individual basis.

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<sup>4</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.

## Other scholarships

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In addition to the scholarships above, candidates from the Solomon Islands are eligible to apply for two contestable scholarship schemes.

### **New Zealand Development Scholarships – Open Category (NZDS-Open)**

In the Pacific region, the New Zealand Development Scholarships scheme in the Open category is offered for full-time, postgraduate study in New Zealand. Solomon Islands candidates are eligible to apply for the NZDS-Open on a contestable basis with applicants from other eligible Pacific countries. Applications from those working in the private sector or civil society, or living in provincial areas, are particularly welcome. The number of scholarships offered may vary annually.

**Note:** NZDS-Open scholarships are available for study at postgraduate level only, i.e. applicants must have already completed a Bachelors degree.

**Candidates apply directly to a New Zealand education institution** in accordance with the NZDS eligibility criteria. Applicants must ensure that the education institution receives the completed application (including all supporting documentation) before the institution's close-off date (see Annex 1 for the list of participating education institutions and their deadlines or check the scholarships pages of the NZAID website - [www.nzaid.govt.nz/scholarships/nzds.html](http://www.nzaid.govt.nz/scholarships/nzds.html)).

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

Solomon Islands candidates 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.

Information can be obtained from the National Training Unit (the nominating agency to which an applicant applies) or from the Commonwealth Scholarships and Fellowship Plan website ([www.csfp-online.org/hostcountries/nz.html](http://www.csfp-online.org/hostcountries/nz.html)).

### **Additional information**

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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 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 NZAID scholarship for study in New Zealand, entry 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.html](http://www.nzaid.govt.nz/scholarships.html)

**NZDS 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**

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For further information regarding NZAID scholarships, please visit the scholarships pages of NZAID's website ([www.nzaid.govt.nz/scholarships.html](http://www.nzaid.govt.nz/scholarships.html)) or contact NZAID staff at the:

**New Zealand High Commission**  
City Centre Building  
Mendana Avenue  
(PO Box 697)  
Honiara  
Solomon Islands  
Tel: 21502

## **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.

<p><b>University of Auckland</b>  Auckland International  PO Box 92019, Auckland Mail Centre  Auckland 1142, New Zealand  Website: <a href="http://www.auckland.ac.nz">www.auckland.ac.nz</a>  Email: <a href="mailto:international@auckland.ac.nz">international@auckland.ac.nz</a>  Fax: (+64 9) 373 7405  <b>Application close-off date: 1 May 2008</b></p>	<p><b>University of Otago</b>  International Office  PO Box 56  Dunedin, New Zealand  Website: <a href="http://www.otago.ac.nz">www.otago.ac.nz</a>  Email: <a href="mailto:international.admissions@otago.ac.nz">international.admissions@otago.ac.nz</a>  Fax: (+64 3) 479 8367  <b>Application close-off date: 30 June 2008</b></p>
<p><b>AUT University</b>  International Student Centre  Private Bag 92006  Auckland 1020, New Zealand  Website: <a href="http://www.aut.ac.nz">www.aut.ac.nz</a>  Email: <a href="mailto:international.centre@aut.ac.nz">international.centre@aut.ac.nz</a>  Fax: (+64 9) 917 9925  <b>Application close-off date: 30 June 2008</b></p>	<p><b>Unitec</b>  <b>Note: Up to Masters level only</b>  International Office  Private Bag 92025  Auckland, New Zealand  Website: <a href="http://www.unitec.ac.nz">www.unitec.ac.nz</a>  Email: <a href="mailto:international@unitec.ac.nz">international@unitec.ac.nz</a>  Fax: (+64 9) 815 4301  <b>Application close-off date: 4 July 2008</b></p>
<p><b>University of Canterbury</b>  International Office  Private Bag 4800  Christchurch, New Zealand  Website: <a href="http://www.canterbury.ac.nz">www.canterbury.ac.nz</a>  Email: <a href="mailto:international@canterbury.ac.nz">international@canterbury.ac.nz</a>  Fax: (+64 3) 364 2171  <b>Application close-off date: 1 June 2008</b></p>	<p><b>Victoria University of Wellington (VUW)</b>  Victoria International  PO Box 600  Wellington, New Zealand  Website: <a href="http://www.vuw.ac.nz">www.vuw.ac.nz</a>  Email: <a href="mailto:VUW-NZAID@vuw.ac.nz">VUW-NZAID@vuw.ac.nz</a>  Fax: (+64 4) 463 5056  <b>Application close-off date: 15 June 2008 (1 June for PhD)</b></p>
<p><b>Lincoln University</b>  International Centre  PO Box 94  Canterbury, New Zealand  Website: <a href="http://www.lincoln.ac.nz">www.lincoln.ac.nz</a>  Email: <a href="mailto:international@lincoln.ac.nz">international@lincoln.ac.nz</a>  Fax: (+64 3) 325 3879  <b>Application close-off date: 30 June 2008</b></p>	<p><b>University of Waikato</b>  Waikato International  Private Bag 3105  Hamilton 3240, New Zealand  Website: <a href="http://www.waikato.ac.nz/international/">www.waikato.ac.nz/international/</a>  Email: <a href="mailto:int.centre@waikato.ac.nz">int.centre@waikato.ac.nz</a>  Fax: (+64 7) 838 4269  <b>Application close-off date: 15 June 2008 (1 June for PhD)</b></p>
<p><b>Massey University</b>  International Office  Private Bag 11 222  Palmerston North, New Zealand  Website: <a href="http://www.massey.ac.nz">www.massey.ac.nz</a>  Email: <a href="mailto:international@massey.ac.nz">international@massey.ac.nz</a>  Fax: (+64 6) 350 5698  <b>Application close-off date: 1 June 2008</b></p>	