

## TIMOR LESTE

### NEW ZEALAND DEVELOPMENT SCHOLARSHIPS

Information for intake commencing 2008

#### Country strategy

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

The scheme seeks to strengthen the human resource base in Timor Leste by supporting identified priority areas of training.

New Zealand Official Development Assistance (ODA) to Timor Leste provides direct and indirect interventions that contribute to the elimination of poverty, facilitate sustainable development and promote human rights generally. NZAID assistance focuses on education, rural livelihoods and community development, with governance and capacity building underpinning any assistance provided in these sectors. Capacity building reflects an emphasis on building the capacity of government and non-government organisations and communities to identify and solve their own problems, with assistance that is appropriate to local needs and which directly promotes self-sufficiency.

#### Type, level and number of scholarships

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New Zealand Development Scholarships are offered to Timor Leste under the Public category (NZDS-Public) and the Open category (NZDS-Open). Within the New Zealand bilateral development assistance programme for Timor Leste, up to three NZDS-Public scholarships and up to two NZDS-Open scholarships will be offered to eligible Timor Leste citizens for study beginning in the 2008 academic year.

The NZDS-Public scholarships are for full-time undergraduate or postgraduate level study (i.e. Certificates, Diplomas and Bachelors degrees, Postgraduate Diplomas or Masters degrees). Successful awardees at the undergraduate level may be required to take English language training and/or a Foundation Studies programme before commencing their main qualification.

The NZDS-Open scholarships are for full-time postgraduate level study only (i.e. Postgraduate Diplomas or Masters degrees). Doctorates (PhDs) will not be funded.

Eligible applicants may be currently completing their final year of senior secondary studies or be employed in the public, private or civil society (including non-government organisations) sectors.

#### Priority sectors

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New Zealand Development Scholarships will be awarded in agreed sectors to meet Timor Leste's human resources development needs and training priorities. In line with NZAID's country strategy for Timor Leste, scholarships will be awarded for study linked to the following priority sectors:

- education, particularly education administration or management;
- rural livelihoods (for example, agriculture, small business administration, fisheries); and
- governance.

## Eligibility criteria

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Applicants must meet the following NZDS eligibility criteria before their application will be considered by a selection committee using the selection criteria listed on page 4, including any criteria specific to Timor Leste.

Applicants must:

- be a citizen of Timor Leste (i.e. permanent residents are not eligible to apply);
- be residing in Timor Leste, preferably for at least two years prior to application;
- not have citizenship or permanent residence status of New Zealand or Australia or another developed country<sup>1</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;
- 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 criteria;
- (for those applying from secondary school) have completed their senior schooling in their country of citizenship;
- (for in-service applicants) 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 Timor Leste's public, private or community sector and to the development of Timor Leste 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 Timor Leste 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 Timor Leste for a minimum period of two years following completion of their scholarship in order to contribute to their country's social or economic development.

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<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.

## Timor Leste specific criteria

In addition to meeting the criteria above, applicants from Timor Leste must have:

- a minimum IELTS<sup>2</sup> score of 5.5 to be considered for shortlisting.

## English language requirements

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New Zealand tertiary education institutions set their own admission requirements for English language proficiency. All applicants should check the IELTS or TOEFL<sup>3</sup> score required for admission to their selected New Zealand education institution. As a guide, most New Zealand education institutions require:

- a minimum IELTS score of 6.0, with no band less than 6.0, for undergraduate level study; and
- 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.

It is mandatory for candidates to provide the **original** copy of their IELTS or TOEFL test result as a pre-condition of placement. Results must be no older than 24 months at the time of the scholarship start date.

Successful applicants who do not meet their education institution's English language proficiency criteria will be required to undertake English language training prior to commencing their academic study programme in New Zealand.

## NZDS-Public application process

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**NZDS-Public applicants** should consult the New Zealand Embassy in Dili regarding the NZDS-Public process for 2007. The New Zealand Embassy will also advise the closing date for receipt of applications for the 2007 selection round.

## NZDS-Open application and selection process

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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. 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.

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<sup>2</sup> International English Language Testing System – Academic stream

<sup>3</sup> Test of English as a Foreign Language

## Selection criteria

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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 Timor Leste (see page 1);
- the applicant clearly demonstrates the **developmental** relevance and applicability of the proposed study programme to the human resource development training needs of the 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 Timor Leste (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<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 (e.g. good character, positive study attitude and motivation to succeed).

## Additional information

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

The purpose of the NZDS scheme is for scholarship holders to gain knowledge and skills in specific subject areas that will assist the development of their home country by contributing to identified human resource development training needs. It is a pre-condition of accepting a NZDS 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, 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 are encouraged to apply.

New Zealand Development Scholarships must be taken in the year for which they are offered and cannot usually 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 applicants should allow a minimum two month period for their 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 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<sup>5</sup>.

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

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

<sup>5</sup> Funding for dependant children will only be provided where evidence states that the student and/or his/her partner have been the legal guardians of the children for at least two years.

## **Contact for further information**

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For further enquiries regarding the application process and other matters, contact the:

Programme Manager, NZAID  
New Zealand Embassy  
Farol  
Dili  
TIMOR LESTE

Phone: +670 331 0087  
Mobile: +670 723 0927  
Fax: +670 332 4982  
Email: [umbelina.belo@gmail.com](mailto:umbelina.belo@gmail.com)

## **Annex 1 Contact details for New Zealand institutions and closing dates**

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

<b>New Zealand institution</b>	<b>Closing date</b>
<b>University of Otago</b> International Office PO Box 56 Dunedin NEW ZEALAND Web: <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>	30 April 2007

<b>Massey University</b> International Office Private Bag 11 222 Palmerston North NEW ZEALAND Web: <a href="http://www.massey.ac.nz">www.massey.ac.nz</a> <a href="mailto:international@massey.ac.nz">international@massey.ac.nz</a>	1 May 2007
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<b>University of Waikato</b> International Centre Private Bag 3105 Hamilton NEW ZEALAND Web: <a href="http://www.waikato.ac.nz">www.waikato.ac.nz</a> Email: <a href="mailto:int.centre@waikato.ac.nz">int.centre@waikato.ac.nz</a>	15 May 2007
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<b>Victoria University of Wellington (VUW)</b> Victoria International PO Box 600 Wellington NEW ZEALAND Web: <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>	15 May 2007
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<b>University of Canterbury</b> International Office Private Bag 4800 Christchurch NEW ZEALAND Web: <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>	18 May 2007
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<b>Auckland University of Technology (AUT)</b> International Student Centre Private Bag 92006 Auckland 1020 NEW ZEALAND Web: <a href="http://www.autinternational.info">www.autinternational.info</a> Email: <a href="mailto:international.centre@aut.ac.nz">international.centre@aut.ac.nz</a>	31 May 2007
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**Lincoln University**  
International Centre  
PO Box 94  
Lincoln 7647  
Canterbury  
NEW ZEALAND  
Web: [www.lincoln.ac.nz](http://www.lincoln.ac.nz)  
Email: [international@lincoln.ac.nz](mailto:international@lincoln.ac.nz)

31 May 2007

**University of Auckland**  
Auckland International  
PO Box 92019, Auckland Mail Centre  
Auckland 1142  
NEW ZEALAND  
Web: [www.auckland.ac.nz](http://www.auckland.ac.nz)  
Email: [int-questions@auckland.ac.nz](mailto:int-questions@auckland.ac.nz)

1 June 2007

**Unitec**  
International Office  
Private Bag 92025  
Auckland  
NEW ZEALAND  
Web: [www.unitec.ac.nz](http://www.unitec.ac.nz)  
Email: [international@unitec.ac.nz](mailto:international@unitec.ac.nz)

22 June 2007

**To seek course information for undergraduate NZDS-Public applications only**

**Manukau Institute of Technology (MIT)**  
International Centre  
Private Bag 94006, SAMC  
Auckland 2240  
NEW ZEALAND  
Web: [www.manukau.ac.nz](http://www.manukau.ac.nz)  
Email: [international@manukau.ac.nz](mailto:international@manukau.ac.nz)