

TONGA

NZAID SCHOLARSHIPS

Information for intakes commencing 2009

Purpose of NZAID scholarships

The goal of the New Zealand/Tonga Official Development Assistance (ODA) programme to Tonga is to build capacity for sustainable and equitable development and self-sufficiency. "Building capacity" is not seen to be limited to education, training or institutional strengthening activities. It 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.

NZAID scholarships seek to strengthen the human resource base in Tonga by supporting identified priority areas of training.

Type, level and number of scholarships

Under the New Zealand bilateral development assistance programme for Tonga, 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) or pre-service applicants, whose nomination is endorsed by the Tonga Government. Up to eight (8) 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 at undergraduate (i.e. Bachelor degrees) and postgraduate level (i.e. Postgraduate Diploma, Masters or Doctorates (PhD)). Study at PhD level will only be considered where particularly strong development relevance and alignment to Tonga's national development priorities is demonstrated.

New Zealand Regional Development Scholarships (NZRDS) are available to in-service applicants (i.e. public, private or civil society sector employees) or pre-service applicants, whose nomination is endorsed by the Tonga Government. Up to 12 scholarships will be offered to eligible candidates for study beginning in the 2009 academic year. NZRDS are offered for full-time study in the Pacific region at both undergraduate (i.e. Bachelors degrees) and postgraduate level (i.e. Postgraduate Diploma or Masters).

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, work attachments or undergraduate Certificate or Diploma level technical training¹. STTA applicants must be employed and their employer must endorse their application.

In-Country Awards (ICA) are available for students to attend local post-secondary institutions that include USP-Tonga Campus, Atenisi University, Tonga Institute of Higher Education, Tupou Tertiary Institute, Tonga Institute of Science and Technology, Hango Agricultural College in Eua and Mailefihi, and Siu'ilikutapu College in Vava'u. The scholarships are for undergraduate level study at Certificate, Diploma or Bachelors level.

¹ STTA are not available for part-time or academic tertiary study.

Priority sectors

NZAID scholarships will be awarded for study or training in priority areas requiring human resource capacity enhancement in Tonga, including those identified by the Government of Tonga and/or those linked to NZAID's development assistance focuses for Tonga, that is:

- education
- governance and civil society
- broad-based growth and sustainable livelihoods

Eligibility criteria

Applicants must meet the following NZAID eligibility criteria before their application will be considered against the selection criteria, including any criteria specific to Tonga.

Applicants must:

- be a citizen of Tonga (i.e. permanent residents are not eligible to apply);
- be residing in Tonga, 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 (the minimum age does not apply to ICA applicants);
- 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 country³;
- 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 Tonga;
- (for in-service applicants) have been working in Tonga, 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 Tonga's public, private or civil society sector (as relevant), and to the development of Tonga in general; and
- be able to take up the scholarship in the academic year for which it is offered.

Applicants cannot:

- (excluding ICA students) 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;

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

³ 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.

- (excluding ICA students) 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 Tonga 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 Tonga for a minimum period of two years following completion of their scholarship in order to contribute to their country's social or economic development.

Depending on the country-specific training needs, applicants may be completing their final year of senior secondary studies or may be working in the public, private or civil society sector. In addition to meeting the criteria above, applicants from Tonga must meet any identified eligibility or selection criteria agreed by the Government of Tonga and NZAID.

Application process and closing date for applications

NZDS-Public and NZRDS applicants

Expression of Interest (EOI) application forms are available from the Scholarships Office in Pahu (address below) or applicants can download an application form from the following website: www.tihe.org (scroll down to the bottom of the page and click on the **Tonga Government Scholarship applications** link). All applications must be clearly marked:

Scholarships Application

Olivina Tuiono
 Scholarships Office
 Community Development and Training Centre
 PO Box 161, PAHU

NZDS-Public and NZRDS applicants must send their application to the Scholarships Officer **by 4:30pm on 30th May 2008.**

STTA applicants

All interested applicants are encouraged to direct their queries to:

Training Section
 Ministry of Training, Employment, Youth and Sports
 Government of Tonga
 PO Box 2395
 NUKU'ALOFA

Email: METYS@kalianet.to
 Tel: (00 676) 28 976 or 28 977

ICA applicants

Applicants apply directly through:

New Zealand High Commission
 PO Box 830
 NUKU'ALOFA

ICA application forms will be available from the New Zealand High Commission from **1 October 2008**. Applicants must return completed application forms to the New Zealand High Commission by **30 Jan. 2009**

It is important that all applicants clearly state their choice of qualification or training programme, the education institution or training provider, 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

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 Tonga 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 Tonga (see page 2); 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 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 or training (e.g. good character, positive study attitude and motivation to succeed).

Selection process

NZDS-Public and NZRDS candidates are shortlisted by members of the Tonga Government's selection panel, which comprises officials of the Tonga Government and NZAID. The Tonga Government's Scholarship Office confirms the selection of shortlisted candidates. The Tonga Government will nominate up to eight (8) candidates and two (2) reserves for NZDS-Public scholarships and up to 12 candidates and three (3) reserves for the NZRDS.

⁴ 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.

The New Zealand High Commission in Nuku'alofa receives the shortlisted priority and reserve NZDS-Public applications for comment before 19 August each year. NZDS-Public applications are submitted, before 31 August, to NZAID's Scholarships Unit in Wellington for placement.

The New Zealand High Commission receives the shortlisted priority and reserve NZRDS applications for comment before 19 August each year. NZRDS applications are submitted, before 15 October, to the New Zealand Diplomatic Post of the relevant study country in the Pacific region for placement.

The Ministry of Training, Employment, Youth and Sports manages the selection process and is responsible for nominating candidates for the STTA scheme jointly with NZAID. The New Zealand High Commission receives the shortlisted priority and reserve STTA applications for comment in June each year. STTA applications are submitted to NZAID's Scholarships Unit in Wellington for placement.

NZAID retains the right to make a final decision on the offering of all NZAID scholarships.

Other scholarships

In addition to the scholarships above, candidates from Tonga are eligible to apply for two contestable scholarship schemes funded by the New Zealand Government.

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

In the Pacific region, the Open category of the New Zealand Development Scholarships scheme is offered for full-time, postgraduate study in New Zealand. Candidates from Tonga are eligible to apply for the NZDS-Open on a contestable basis with applicants from other eligible Pacific countries, with reference to the priority sectors (see page 2). Applications from those working in the private or civil society sectors, or living in rural 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).

Commonwealth Scholarship and Fellowship Plan

Candidates from Tonga 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) administers the selection process for the Commonwealth Scholarship scheme in New Zealand.

Information can be obtained from the Ministry of Education Community Development and Training Centre in Nuku'alofa – Tonga Government Scholarships office or from the Commonwealth Scholarships and Fellowship Plan website (www.csfp-online.org/hostcountries/nz.html).

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 amongst scholarship holders. Candidates from rural areas/outer islands 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, 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.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 amend terms and conditions of NZAID scholarships. Amendments will be posted on the NZAID website (www.nzaid.govt.nz/scholarships).

Address for further information

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

New Zealand High Commission
Corner Taufa'ahau and Salote Roads
PO Box 830
Nuku'alofa
TONGA
Tel: 23 122 ext:108

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>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 May 2008</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 2008</p>
<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 2008</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: 4 July 2008</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 2008</p>	<p>Victoria University of Wellington (VUW) Victoria International PO Box 600 Wellington, New Zealand Website: www.vuw.ac.nz Email: VUW-NZAID@vuw.ac.nz Fax: (+64 4) 463 5056 Application close-off date: 15 June 2008 (1 June for PhD)</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 2008</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: 15 June 2008 (1 June for PhD)</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 2008</p>	