

TUVALU

NZAID SCHOLARSHIPS

Information for intakes commencing 2009

Purpose of NZAID scholarships

The goal of the New Zealand/Tuvalu Official Development Assistance (ODA) programme (agreed in 2002) is to contribute to the efforts of the Tuvalu Government and people to achieve equitable and sustainable development. This goal is in line with Tuvalu's National Strategy for Sustainable Development, 2005-2015, *Te Kakeega II*. The "vision" of *Te Kakeega II* is "to achieve a healthier, more educated, peaceful and prosperous Tuvalu".

One of the three objectives of the ODA programme for Tuvalu is to support human resource development within Tuvalu by supporting strategic education and training initiatives at national and local levels. The purpose of NZAID scholarships is to strengthen the human resource base and capacity in Tuvalu by supporting selected candidates to gain knowledge and skills in priority subject or training areas that will contribute to the sustainable development of key sectors in their country. NZAID support for education and training in Tuvalu includes technical/vocational training, tertiary level academic study and professional development in the public, private and civil society sectors.

Type, level and number of scholarships

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

New Zealand Development Scholarships in the Public category (NZDS-Public) are available to pre-service or in-service (i.e. public, private or civil society sector employees) applicants. Up to three (3) 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 level (i.e. Certificates, Diplomas or Bachelors degrees) or at postgraduate level (i.e. Postgraduate Diplomas, Masters or Doctorates (PhDs)), in identified priority areas for Tuvalu. Study at PhD level will only be considered where particularly strong development relevance and alignment to Tuvalu's priority training needs are demonstrated.

New Zealand Regional Development Scholarships (NZRDS) are available for pre-service or in-service applicants. Up to five (5) NZRDS 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 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. Depending on the country's training and skills needs, STTA can include work attachments, short courses, or undergraduate Certificate or Diploma level technical training¹. STTA applicants must be employed and their employer must endorse their application.

Priority sectors

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

- education (e.g. secondary teaching in maths, sciences, technology (e.g. nutrition, woodwork and textiles), English; school leadership and management; curriculum development);

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

- health (e.g. nursing, dentistry, mental health work, medical laboratory technology, medical radiation technology, hospital management, nutrition, pharmacy studies);
- economic development;
- environmental management;
- government services and administration (e.g. advanced computing, management training, financial management and accounting, policy analysis); and
- outer islands development.

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 Tuvalu (see page 3). Applicants must:

- be a citizen of Tuvalu (i.e. permanent residents are not eligible to apply);
- be residing in Tuvalu, 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 (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 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 Tuvalu;
- (for in-service applicants) have been working in Tuvalu, 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 Tuvalu's public, private or civil society sector (as relevant), and to the development of Tuvalu 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.

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 by on a case-by-case basis.

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

Tuvalu 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 (including non-government organisations). In addition to meeting the criteria above, applicants from Tuvalu must:

- meet any identified eligibility or selection criteria agreed by the Tuvalu Government and NZAID, available from the Personnel and Training Division; and
- be below 35 years of age at 1 January 2009 for undergraduate level study (excluding STTA); or
- be below 55 years of age at 1 January 2009 for postgraduate level study.

Application process and closing dates for applications

In-service applicants apply for NZAID scholarships and STTA awards directly through the Personnel and Training Division:

Secretary of Personnel and Training
Personnel and Training Division
Office of the Prime Minister
Vaiaku
Funafuti
Tel: 20103
Fax: 20819

Pre-service applicants apply for NZAID scholarships directly through the Pre-Service Training Officer, Ministry of Education:

Pre-Service Training Officer
Ministry of Education
Vaiaku
Funafuti
Tel: 20834

Both agencies must submit the NZDS-Public and NZRDS applications to the NZAID Office in Tuvalu by **11 July 2008. Late applications will not be accepted.** Applications will be processed by the Personnel and Training Division in close consultation with the New Zealand High Commission in Suva.

It is important that NZDS and NZRDS applicants clearly state their choice of qualification and education institution, and include 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 in Tuvalu's National Strategy for Sustainable Development, 2005-2015, *Te Kakeega II*, and Human Resources Planning Framework; and/or
- the proposed study programme or training links to one of NZAID's identified priority development assistance sectors for Tuvalu (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 institutions 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

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

NZDS-Public and NZRDS candidates are shortlisted by the Tuvalu Government's selection panel, which comprises members of the Tuvalu Government and NZAID officials. The Tuvalu Government's Personnel and Training Division confirms the selection of shortlisted candidates. The Tuvalu Government nominates up to three (3) candidates and one (1) reserve for NZDS-Public scholarships and up to five (5) candidates and two (2) reserves for the NZRDS.

The New Zealand High Commission in Suva 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 the NZAID 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.

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 advises candidates of the outcome of their application between September and January.

STTA applications

The Tuvalu Government's Personnel and Training Division manages the selection process and is responsible for nominating candidates for the STTA scheme jointly with the New Zealand High Commission. The New Zealand High Commission receives the shortlisted priority and reserve STTA applications for comment in June each year. STTA applications are then submitted to NZAID 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 Tuvalu are eligible to apply for two contestable scholarship schemes.

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

In the Pacific region, New Zealand Development Scholarships in the Open category are offered for full-time, postgraduate study in New Zealand. Candidates from Tuvalu 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 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 Tuvalu are eligible to apply for a Commonwealth Scholarship 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 Commonwealth Scholarships and Fellowship Plan website (www.csfp-online.org/hostcountries/nz.html), which should also list the nominating authority to which an applicant applies.

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 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, 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

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).

Addresses for further information

For further information regarding NZAID scholarships and the application process:

In-service applicants contact the: **Secretary of Personnel and Training**
Personnel and Training Division
Office of the Prime Minister
Vaiaku
Funafuti
Tel: 20103
Fax: 20819

Pre-service applicants contact the: **Pre-Service Training Officer**
Ministry of Education
Vaiaku
Funafuti
Tel: 20834

Alternatively, contact **NZAID:** **EU/NZAID In-Country Coordinator**
TNCW Building
Funafuti
Tel: +688 20200
Email: eunzaid@tuvalu.tv or paseala@yahoo.com

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>	