

Offer of Scholarships by the New Zealand Commonwealth Scholarship Commission

For Study Commencing February 2017

The Government of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago invites **ONLINE** applications from citizens of Trinidad and Tobago for scholarships being offered by the New Zealand Commonwealth Scholarship Commission for studies commencing February 2017.

Characteristics of the Offer of Scholarship

Purpose of Scholarship	To strengthen ties with the New Zealand Commonwealth
Number of Scholarships offered	Two (2) nominees for Postgraduate studies – (PhD or Masters Level)
Areas of Study to be awarded	The Priority study sectors are listed as follows: • Agricultural Development • Renewable Energy • Disaster Risk Management
Who Can Apply	Citizens of Trinidad and Tobago
Tenability	Post graduate degrees are to be pursued at any of the following accredited University in New Zealand: • Auckland University of Technology • Lincoln University • Massey University • University of Auckland • University of Canterbury • University of Otago • Victoria University of Wellington • University of Waikato The course of study and the institution of study must be recognized and accredited by the Accreditation Council of Trinidad and Tobago (ACTT). The scholarship is renewed annually subject to satisfactory performance as evidenced by the attainment of a Grade Point Average of 2.50 or a general score of 50% and over. University application for admissions is solely the applicant's responsibility and not the New Zealand scholarship agency.
Application	Go to the scholarships website and complete the

Process	prescribed application form and attach all the required documents.
Deadline date for submission	May 20, 2016 at 4:00pm
Response to Application	For Nomination: The range of response time is between 60 to 90 days from the closing date of the scholarship. For Selection: The New Zealand government will announce the names of successful applicants through diplomatic channels.
General Conditions of Scholarship	Applicants should be aware of the following general conditions of the scholarship: • The Government of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago (GoRTT) reserves the right to publish the names of candidates selected for Scholarships. By applying for a scholarship, the candidate gives consent for such publication in the event that his/her application is successful. • Candidates will be given a formal Notification of Scholarship, requesting that they indicate their interest in the Scholarship. • Formal confirmation of the scholarship will be issued when all conditions have been met. • Scholars will be expected to take up the Scholarship from the date stated by the Government of Republic of Trinidad and Tobago (GoRTT) in its Notification of the Scholarship. • Scholars will be expected to reside in New Zealand throughout their Scholarship and to seek prior approval for any proposed visits abroad except for visits to Trinidad and Tobago. Expenses for such travel are not included in the scholarship. • Scholars may not undertake paid employment during their scholarship without prior consent. • Scholarships are valid for one degree only and not to be used for completion of another degree simultaneously or continuation to another higher degree. • Scholarship holders must not change their programme of study during the tenure of the scholarship except with written permission from The Government of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago (GoRTT) and/or the sponsor agency. • Scholarship recipients must maintain satisfactory

	progress and good standing as stipulated by the academic institution, or the scholarship will be withdrawn and the recipient liable to repay The Government of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago (GoRTT) for the expenditure on the scholarship. • Scholarship recipients must follow the approved programme of study and abide by the rules, regulations and codes of conduct of the academic institution. A suspension from the academic institution will result in immediate suspension of the scholarship and can lead to termination of the scholarship. Allowances are not payable during suspension. • The Government of New Zealand will require a medical report before a Scholarship can be confirmed. • Scholars will be required to sign an undertaking to return to Trinidad and Tobago as soon as their Scholarship comes to an end. • The Government of New Zealand and Government of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago will only consider requests to extend the scholarship or leave to remain in New Zealand post scholarship in instances where it is absolutely necessary. Strict conditions will apply. • The Government of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago will be unable to provide any letter of support which might be required by a scholarship holder to work in a foreign country. • All terms and conditions of the scholarship will be subject to local law and practices. • All regulations concerning immigration and visas are set by the Government of New Zealand and are outside of the control of the Ministry of Public Administration, Scholarships and Advanced Training Division, the agency responsible for managing your scholarship
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Scholarship Procedure	Final award of scholarships will be made when the Cabinet approves the scholarship and the New Zealand Commission has completed its selection process. Applicants will be notified as indicated above. The scholarship will be governed by a legally binding Scholarship Agreement. A duly executed Scholarship Agreement along with other scholarship policies shall be the binding authority between the recipient of a scholarship and the Trinidad and Tobago Government. Please go to our website at www.scholarships.gov.tt to review additional scholarship information. Successful applicants will also be managed by the policy and procedures of the New Zealand Commission.
Role of The Government of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago (GoRTT)	The nominating Government is responsible for : • Disseminating information on the scholarships • Ensuring that all applications are completed according to requirements • Ensuring that only qualified applicants are shortlisted • Nominating only the best among applicants and • Assisting successful candidates in their departure.

A. FUNDING

Postgraduate degrees are to be pursued at any of the listed accredited universities in New Zealand. The New Zealand Commonwealth Scholarship Commission will pay:

- i. Airfare
- ii. Medical and Travel Insurance
- iii. Tuition and compulsory fees
- iv. Personal Maintenance Allowance
- v. Thesis Allowance
- vi. Establishment Allowance (to meet the cost of books and other set up costs)

Funding will be provided for the duration as follows:

Master's (research)	2 years
Doctorate	3 years (maximum)

B. ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA:

To apply for this scholarship, applicants must:

- a) Be citizens of Trinidad and Tobago. Permanent Residents are not eligible to apply.
- b) Be residing in the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago, preferably for at least two (2) years prior to application.
- c) Have been working in their country of citizenship, preferably for at least two years prior to application.
- d) Provide a current job description confirming your position and outlining your responsibilities and duties, if employed.
- e) Not have citizenship or permanent residence status of New Zealand or Australia, or another developed country.
- f) Be applying to commence a new qualification and not be seeking funding for one already commenced at the PhD or Master's level.
- g) Provide proof of acceptance at an accredited academic institution in New Zealand.
- h) Satisfy the admission requirements of the New Zealand education institution in which the qualification is to be undertaken, including the English Language criteria.
- i) Be in good health, both physically and mentally. A medical certificate must be provided, the cost of which is to be borne by the applicant.
- j) Be available to commence their academic studies in New Zealand by the start of the New Zealand academic year in February 2017.
- k) Be between 18 and 50 years of age.
- l) Possess the following **qualifications**:

For master's degree:

An undergraduate degree with Second Class Honours (Upper Division) or a minimum GPA of 3.00

For PhD degree:

An undergraduate degree with Second Class Honours; and relevant postgraduate qualification, which will normally be a Master's degree.

Applicants cannot:

- (i) Be studying full-time at post-secondary level.
- (ii) Be transferring from another tertiary scholarship (either in New Zealand or Australia or in another country) to a Commonwealth Scholarship
- (iii) Hold, or have held, a New Zealand Government or Australia Government scholarship in the 24 months preceding the scholarship start date
- (iv) Have been terminated from a New Zealand or Australian Government scholarship previously

Once nominated by The Government of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago (GoRTT), the New Zealand Commission will require nominees to provide the following documents:

- (i) A 500 word statement describing the specific skills and knowledge you want to gain from the proposed study and how this will contribute to your current and/or future job.
- (ii) A 500 word statement describing how your proposed area of study will enable you to contribute to the social or economic development of your home country.
- (iii) A 500 word statement outlining your proposed research topic. Information on additional requirements for this scholarship programme can be accessed at the following link www.aid.govt.nz/scholarships/. Kindly ensure that you have read all the information attached to the above mentioned link.

C. REQUIREMENTS

Applicants must ensure that the two (2) Recommendations are submitted by their Recommenders **'online'** and these Recommenders must **not** to be related to the applicant.

- i. One **must** be an academic recommendation; and
- ii. Recommenders must attest to the applicant's ability to perform and to succeed as a scholarship recipient by providing relevant and practical examples where applicable. They must also describe what contribution and the likely impact the applicant will have on the institution/community/country.

Please note only scanned copies of signed recommendations will be accepted.

Applicants must prepare and submit a Study Plan 'online' of no more than 500 words, which must include:

- i. The impact your studies will have on your institution/ community/country;
- ii. Information on how the course of study relates to the existing and future development needs of your institution, community or the country;
- iii. A description of how exposure gained from pursuing this course of study could contribute to the development of the nation. Please indicate clearly where the development need has been identified and outlined in the national development strategy; and
- iv. Your five-year plan upon returning to Trinidad and Tobago to put into practice the knowledge and experience acquired through the scholarship.

D. SELECTION CRITERIA:

Applicants will be assessed and recommended for a scholarship based on the following:

- I. Academic Merit;
- II. Area of Study; as it links to the development of Trinidad and Tobago;
- III. The likely development impact the applicant will have on completion of studies; and
- IV. The quality/content of the plan of study/research proposal.
- V. Work Experience
- VI. Interview- short-listed candidates will be interviewed to get a sense of their maturity, commitment, adaptability, cultural awareness, and their state of mind in relation to the undertaking of studies overseas and their ability to complete the programme of study successfully.

Candidates must attain a minimum score of 50% at the interview in order to be considered for the award of a scholarship.

SCORING GUIDELINES

Academic Merit (40 points)

Master's Programme:

Degree	Grade Average	Point	Score Maximum – 40 points
<i>Undergraduate Degree</i>			
Upper Second Class Honours	3.00 – 3.59		0 point
First Class Honours	3.60 and above		30 points
Additional Diploma/Degree			5 points to a maximum of 10 points

PhD Programme:

Degree	Grade Average	Point	Score Maximum – 40 points
<i>Undergraduate Degree</i>			
Upper Second Class Honours	3.00-3.59		10 points
First Class Honours	3.60 and above		20 points
<i>Master's</i>			
Master's			0 point
Distinction			10 points
Additional Postgraduate Qualifications (Diplomas, Postgraduate Certificates and Master's)			5 points each to a maximum of 10 points

Area of Study according to Development Needs Ranking (10 points)

Priority Areas*		Score
1	First most critical	10 points
2	Second most critical	7 points
3	Third most critical	5 points
4	Fourth most critical	3 points
5	Any other areas of study	0 point

Quality and Content of Study Plan (20 points)

<i>Item</i>	<i>Score</i> <i>Maximum – 20 points</i>
Clearly defined goals and objectives in the national context	1 – 10 points
Demonstrate an understanding of the area of study in a national context	1 – 10 points

Likely Development Impact Applicant will have on Completion of Studies (10 points)

<i>Future Impact of Applicant</i> <i>Likely development impact of applicants work on completion of studies</i>	<i>Score</i> <i>Maximum- 10 points</i>
Likelihood of applicant returning to work in the area in Trinidad and Tobago *	1 – 5 points
Likely Development impact of the applicant *	1 – 5 points

*Favourable consideration should be given where the applicant has demonstrated a deep interest in the area of study and has contributed to the sector.

Work Experience (20 points)

<i>Work Experience (duration)</i>	<i>Score</i> <i>Maximum- 20 points</i>
Irrelevant work experience in relation to the areas of study	
• Under 3 years that is not relevant	5 points
• Over 3 years	5 to 10 points
<i>Relevance in relation to the area of study and the quality of contribution to sector</i>	
• Under 3 years	10 points
• 3 – 5 years	15 points
• 5 years and over	20 points

Applicants must upload the following documents to their 'Online' application:

- Copies of Academic Certificates, Degrees of Diplomas
- Proof of acceptance at an accredited academic institution in New Zealand
- Letter of Accreditation from the Accreditation Council of Trinidad & Tobago (ACTT)
- Copy of Birth Certificate (with affidavit where necessary)
- Copy of Proof of Change of Name (where necessary)
- Copy of relevant bio data page from valid Trinidad and Tobago Passport. If this is not available, a copy of Electoral Identification Card (back and front)
- Persons born outside of Trinidad and Tobago must provide evidence of citizenship (copy) and residency
- Applicants who are Public Officers must upload a signed letter from their Permanent Secretary/Head of Department indicating that they have no disciplinary matters pending
- Any further documents which you prepared and which provides greater insight into your research proposal

Please Note:

- All originals must be produced upon request.
- Applicants must ensure that their information on the attached/uploaded documents are legible at a zoom ratio of 100%. Applicants must not submit documents in 'Zip Folders'. Each document should be uploaded in the relevant field on the upload page. Please ensure that your documents are legible by opening and checking the quality of the document before submitting your application online. Applications with documents which are illegible, cannot be verified and will therefore not be processed.

Applicants must ensure that their transcripts are sent directly to the following address:

**Permanent Secretary
Ministry of Public Administration
(Scholarships and Advanced Training Division)
5th Floor National Library Building
Corner Hart and Abercromby Streets
Port-of-Spain**

Attention: Head, Selections Secretariat

Applicants who wish to hand deliver their transcripts must ensure that this document is properly sealed by the academic institution and submitted to the Selections Secretariat.

Transcripts must be received before the closing date of the scholarship for your application to be considered.

DEADLINE DATE FOR APPLICATION: May 20, 2016 at 4:00pm

For further information please go to our website at www.scholarships.gov.tt or contact the office at telephone numbers 625-6724, 623-7608, ext. 2064, 2070, 2097, 2093 or email scholarshipenquiries@mpa.gov.tt

[Click here to access the application](#)

Important Notice:

If you are returning to your application, please go to the scholarships website at www.scholarships.gov.tt and click on SATIS Login to continue your application

PLEASE NOTE UNSUITABLE APPLICATIONS WILL NOT BE ACKNOWLEDGED.