New Zealand Development Scholarships - Africa

Information for students commencing study in 2017

The New Zealand Government provides New Zealand Development Scholarships (NZDS) to targeted countries in Africa with the opportunity to undertake studies at tertiary education institutions in New Zealand. The Scholarships scheme is a central part of the New Zealand Government’s development assistance to Africa and aims to strengthen sustainable economic development in Africa by contributing to human resource development, particularly in Agriculture and Renewable Energy. New Zealand scholarships target applicants from developing countries who are motivated to make a difference at home.

Preferences

Preference will be given to candidates who demonstrate strong academic ability, leadership qualities, and a commitment to the development of their home country.

Preference is also given to candidates who are 39 years of age or younger at the time of commencing their scholarship.

Preference will be given to candidates who apply to study in academic disciplines relating to one or more of the following:

Agriculture Development
- Agri-business management, agricultural economics, agricultural systems and management, rural development, domestic supply chains and distribution, Natural Resource and Environmental Management
- Biology, vegetable production, livestock/animal husbandry, crop management, sericulture (silk production), forestry, fisheries, aquaculture, agricultural pest management
- Phytosanitary, bio-security, biotechnology, agricultural trade,
- Food production, food sciences/technology, post-harvest processing, food storage and packaging, food safety

Renewable Energy
- Geothermal, solar, hydro engineering and wind energy, renewable energy distribution systems

Eligible countries

Applications for New Zealand Development Scholarships are welcome from the following countries: Algeria, Angola, Botswana, Cameroon, Djibouti, Egypt, Ethiopia, Gambia, Ghana, Kenya, Lesotho, Malawi, Mauritius, Morocco, Mozambique, Namibia, Nigeria, Rwanda, Senegal, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, South Africa, Swaziland, Tanzania, Tunisia, Uganda, Zambia and Zimbabwe.
Type and level of scholarships

NZDS are awarded for full-time, postgraduate level study (i.e. Postgraduate Certificates, Diplomas and Masters degrees) in New Zealand. The types of course include:

- Postgraduate Certificate (6 months)
- Postgraduate Diploma (1 year) e.g. Agricultural Science, Water Resource Management, and Geothermal studies, and
- Masters Degree (1 – 2 years) e.g. Agri-Commerce, Resource Management, and Geothermal Energy
- PhD (up to 3.5 years)

Eligibility criteria

Applicants for the scholarships must meet the generic eligibility criteria before their application will be considered against the selection criteria, including any criteria specific to Africa. The Scholarships are directed to public sector, private sector and civil society (including NGO) candidates who independently apply for a scholarship, and who meet the eligibility and selection criteria outlined below. Preference will be given to applicants from disadvantaged communities.

Applicants must:
- be a citizen of Algeria, Angola, Botswana, Cameroon, Djibouti, Egypt, Ethiopia, Gambia, Ghana, Kenya, Lesotho, Malawi, Mauritius, Morocco, Mozambique, Namibia, Nigeria, Rwanda, Senegal, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, South Africa, Swaziland, Tanzania, Tunisia, Uganda, Zambia and Zimbabwe. (i.e. permanent residents of these countries are not eligible to apply).
- Be a citizen of the country from which you are applying for a scholarship.
- Have resided in your home country for at least two years immediately prior to commencing your scholarship. (unless you are a member of the diplomatic corps or a dependent of a member of the diplomatic corps)
- Not be serving military personnel.
- Be able to satisfy Immigration requirements for international student entry to New Zealand or the country in which you will undertake your scholarship (i.e. medical checks, police clearances/character checks, etc.)
- Be able to meet the academic entry requirements (including English language ability) to get into your preferred programme of study
- Not have been previously terminated from a New Zealand Government Scholarship
- Seek a qualification that will contribute to the sustainable development of your home country
- Commit to return to your country for a minimum of 2 years at the end of your scholarship to contribute to your country’s development.
- Not have citizenship or permanent residence status of New Zealand, Australia, USA, Canada, European Union countries, United Kingdom, Japan, Israel, South Korea, Qatar, United Arab Emirates, Saudi Arabia.
- Have at least 2 years of work experience (part time or fulltime, paid or voluntary).
**English language requirement**
New Zealand tertiary education institutions set their own admission requirements for English language proficiency. IELTS is the International English Language Testing System. TOEFL is the Test of English as a Foreign Language. These are the two tests we use for assessing scholarship applicants. As a general rule, for those wishing to complete a postgraduate qualification an overall IELTS score of 6.5 and no band less than 6.0 is the minimum required. Similarly, a TOEFL score of 90 on the internet-based test is required for postgraduate study.

If you are shortlisted for a scholarship, you will be asked at that stage to sit the appropriate English language test. However, if you already have IELTS or TOEFL test scores which are no more than two years old you can enter them on your application. You will not be disadvantaged if you have not sat the test when you apply.

If you have previously completed tertiary education in English you can provide an official statement from the education provider that English is the language of instruction. Please note, each institution sets their own English language requirements. Please check with your preferred institution about their requirements for admission to their institution as they may require additional documentation.

**What the scholarship offers**
New Zealand has first-rate education institutions that offer world-recognised qualifications. Successful applicants will have access to excellent academic knowledge in quality facilities.

The scholarships include financial support for tuition, living costs while in New Zealand, medical and travel insurance and airfares. The partners of students are eligible for a work visa that allows them to live and work in New Zealand for the duration of their partner’s study.

**Application process**
You do not require an offer of place at your selected institution before you apply. If you are shortlisted for a scholarship, we will seek a place at the institution you have requested in your application, on your behalf.

**PAPER applications deadline - 15 April 2016**
1. Request a New Zealand Development Scholarship application form from the nearest New Zealand High Commission or Embassy in your country or region.
2. Complete the New Zealand Tertiary Scholarships application form for the New Zealand Development Scholarship in English.
3. Documentation required
   a. One of the following forms of identity documents:
      o Verified copy of passport
      o Verified copy of birth certificate
      o Verified copy of other official government issued ID
b. Verified copies of relevant academic transcripts

c. Verified copies of relevant completion certificates

d. Contact details of most recent employer + two most relevant other employers

e. A non-verified copy of an IELTS Test Report Form (TRF) which will be verified by MFAT online using the TRF Verification Service OR An original copy of a TOEFL test result form. Whichever is provided it must have been completed in the last 24 months

4. Submit your application to your nearest New Zealand High Commission or Embassy so that it arrives by the final closing date of 15 April 2016.

5. Also at the shortlist stage, you will be required to undertake aptitude testing. You will be notified if you will be undertaking aptitude testing.

**ONLINE applications deadline - 30 April 2016**


2. **Create a RealMe login** to enable you to apply. You will use this login any time that you want to access your online Scholarship application, and can also use the same login for a range of other New Zealand Government services, including applying for a Student Visa through Immigration NZ if you are successful in being awarded a Scholarship. You will need your reference number in order to start your application form – so please make a note of it at the end of your eligibility checklist.

3. **Register with New Zealand Scholarships Online.** A link will be provided from 1 February 2016 where you can login, or create a login if you don't already have one. The first time that you login you will also need to register with New Zealand Scholarships online. This means that you will be notified via email when the application round opens. You will also be notified when the application round is about to close. To do this you will need to provide us with a few basic details such as your name and email address. This is also where you will need to provide the eligibility reference number from step one above. You will be taken directly to the Scholarships registration page once you have created your RealMe login.

4. **Complete your application.** Once you have logged in and registered, you will be able to apply for any open Scholarship intake in your country. In 2016 tertiary scholarships will be open from 1 February. If an intake is not currently open for applications, you can pre-register and receive an email alert when applications open You can also update your contact details at any time should they change, which will help us to get in touch with you regarding your application(s) if needed. Please note that you will need to scan your academic transcript into one single document and upload it onto the application portal. The shortlist will be confirmed several months after the application deadline has been reached.

5. **Documentation.** If you are successful in reaching the shortlist, you will be required to provide the following official documentation:

   a. One of the following forms of identity documents:

      o Verified copy of passport
      o Verified copy of birth certificate
      o Verified copy of other official government issued ID

   b. Verified copies of relevant academic transcripts

c. Verified copies of relevant completion certificates

d. Contact details of most recent employer + two most relevant other employers

e. A non-verified copy of an IELTS Test Report Form (TRF) which will be verified by MFAT online using the TRF Verification Service OR An original copy of a TOEFL test result form. Whichever is provided it must have been completed in the last 24 months.
**Selection Process**
Applications will be reviewed by the New Zealand Government and assessed for admission to the institution you have selected. Shortlisted candidates may be required to undertake aptitude testing and undergo a telephone interview. You will be notified if you will be undertaking aptitude testing. All candidates will be informed of the outcome of their application by October 2017.

**Additional Information**
Female applicants are strongly encouraged to apply as the New Zealand Government attempts to ensure gender equity among scholarship holders. Scholarships must be taken in the year for which they are offered and cannot be transferred to the next academic year.

If offered a New Zealand Aid Programme scholarship, travel to New Zealand is subject to a visa being issued by Immigration New Zealand. Candidates may be required to provide additional information to assist with immigration requirements. Successful candidates should allow at least two months for their student visa application to be processed.

The scholarship will cover travel to and from the scholar’s home country at the start, during and end of your scholarship, medical and travel insurance, full tuition fees, an establishment allowance, and a living allowance to cover day to day costs in New Zealand. Applicants may also be entitled to additional support for a thesis.
New Zealand Aid Programme scholarship awardees may work for up to 20 hours in any given week during the academic year and any holidays within the academic year and full-time during the Christmas-New Year holiday period.

The New Zealand Aid Programme does not provide funding for dependants. However, eligible partners of awardees are now able to apply for open work visas without an offer of employment or written approval from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade.

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 any other country while on scholarship.

Note: The New Zealand Aid Programme has the right to make a final decision on the offering of New Zealand Aid Programme’s scholarships. The New Zealand Aid Programme has the right to amend terms and conditions of the New Zealand Aid programme's scholarships. Amendments will be posted on this website.

For more information please contact: scholarships@mfat.govt.nz.