

**New Zealand Development Scholarships - Africa**

**This information is for applicants who are interested in studying for up to one year from Semester Two, July 2014.**

**This page should be read with the general information available in the** [**New Zealand Development Scholarships**](http://www.aid.govt.nz/funding-and-contracts/scholarships/types-scholarship/new-zealand-development-scholarships) **section.**

**The New Zealand Government provides Development Scholarships (NZDS) to targeted countries in Africa that offer the opportunity to undertake studies at tertiary education institutions in New Zealand. The Scholarships are a central part of the New Zealand Government’s development assistance to Africa under its Africa Regional Programme. The Scholarships scheme aims to strengthen sustainable economic development in Africa by contributing to human resource development, particularly in agriculture and geothermal development.**

**Priority sectors**

**For the 2014 intake, scholarships will be offered at postgraduate level for study related to Sustainable Economic Development with preference given to study in sectors of:**

* **Agriculture**
* **Renewable energy**

**Information about courses available at selected New Zealand education institutes is provided**

**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:**

* **Semester-long Postgraduate Certificates,**
* **Year-long Postgraduate Diplomas in areas such as Agricultural Science, Water Resource Management, and Geothermal Energy, and**
* **Year-long Masters Degrees in subject areas such as Agri-Commerce, Resource Management, and Geothermal Energy.**

**Eligibility criteria**

**All students will need to satisfy Immigration New Zealand requirements, which include police clearance/character checks and medical checks.**

**Applicants must also meet the general eligibility criteria as outlined in the** [**New Zealand Development Scholarships**](http://www.aid.govt.nz/funding-and-contracts/scholarships/types-scholarship/new-zealand-development-scholarships) **section.**

**Applicants must meet the following NZDS eligibility criteria before their application will be considered against the selection criteria:**

 **To be eligible to be considered for a NZDS, applicants must:**

* **be a citizen of Algeria, Angola, Botswana, Cameroon, Djibouti, Ethiopia, Egypt, Gambia, Ghana, Kenya, Lesotho, Malawi, Mauritius, Morocco, Mozambique, Namibia, Nigeria, Rwanda, Senegal, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, South Africa, Swaziland, Tanzania, Tunisia, Uganda, Zambia, Zimbabwe (i.e. permanent residents of these countries are not eligible to apply);**
* **not have citizenship or permanent residence status of New Zealand or Australia or another developed country** [**1**](http://www.aid.govt.nz/funding-and-contracts/scholarships/eligible-countries/africa#note1)**;**
* **not be married or engaged to be married to a person who holds, or who is eligible to hold, citizenship or permanent residence of New Zealand, Australia or another developed country;**
* **be applying to commence a new qualification and not be seeking funding for one already commenced in New Zealand or another country**[**2**](http://www.aid.govt.nz/funding-and-contracts/scholarships/eligible-countries/africa#note2)**;**
* **satisfy the admission requirements of the New Zealand education institution at which the qualification is to be undertaken, including English language criteria;**
* **be able to demonstrate a strong commitment to the public or private or community sector (as relevant), and to their home country’s development in general; and**
* **be able to take up the scholarship in the academic year for which it is offered.**

**It is preferred that applicants:**

* **be residing in their country of citizenship, preferably for at least two years prior to application;**
* **be 40 years or under before the scholarship start date;**
* **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; and**
* **have been working in their home country, preferably for at least two years prior to application, including since completing their highest tertiary qualification gained to date.**

**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.**

***1 - A developed country is defined as a country not included on the OECD’s Development Assistance Committee’s list of aid recipients.***

***2 - Students will not be funded to continue a qualification they have commenced outside their home country. The funding of qualifications being studied in the home country by self-sponsored, part-time students will be considered on a case-by-case basis.***

**English language requirement**

**New Zealand tertiary education institutions set their own admission requirements for English language proficiency. As a guide, most New Zealand education institutions require a minimum IELTS score of 6.5, with no band less than 6.0 for postgraduate level study. Some postgraduate qualifications require a higher score, particularly in education and the health sciences. All applicants should check the English language proficiency requirements, including the IELTS or TOEFL score required, for admission to their selected New Zealand education institution. 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.**

**In some cases, applicants whose primary to tertiary education has been in English will not normally be required to provide an IELTS or TOEFL test score but are required to provide a letter with their application from the tertiary institution the applicant last attended stating that English is the language of instruction.**

**Application process and closing dates for applications**

**NZDS candidates apply directly to one of the participating New Zealand education institutions after ensuring that they meet the New Zealand Scholarship eligibility criteria. The education institution distributes and receives New Zealand Scholarship application forms. In order for the application to be considered, applicants must:**

* **complete one original** [**New Zealand Development Scholarship Application Form**](http://www.aid.govt.nz/webfm_send/471) **(PDF 204kb);**
* **indicate the level and field of study required;**
* **attach to the application form an original or certified copy of the documents necessary to substantiate educational qualifications (i.e. full academic transcripts and completion certificates);**
* **attach to the application form three references (no more than 24 months old) on official letterhead supporting the application to study in New Zealand. One reference should be from a current employer and one from a former academic supervisor or lecturer;**
* **ensure the relevant section of the application form has been signed and stamped by their employer; and**
* **forward the completed original application form and all relevant supporting documentation, plus one photocopy of the completed application form and all relevant supporting documents, to their selected New Zealand education institution by 2 December 2013.**

**It is important that all requested supporting documentation is included. 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.**

**Closing dates for applications**

**Applicants must ensure that the institution receives the completed New Zealand Scholarship application form (including all supporting documentation) by 2 December 2013.**

**Selection Criteria**

**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 Africa;**
* **the applicant clearly demonstrates the developmental relevance and applicability of their proposed study programme to the human resource development training needs of their country;**
* **applicants for postgraduate study must hold a recognised Bachelors degree of strong academic merit, relevant to the proposed postgraduate qualification. (Note: The New Zealand Aid Programme gives preference to candidates who do not already hold a degree from a developed country);**
* **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 programme must be relevant to:**

* **recent paid and/or unpaid (volunteer) work experience ;**
* **the training needs of the employing organisation;**
* **identified employment opportunities on completion of their study;**
* **consideration of gender equity, including efforts to ensure the scholarships are offered equitably between male and female candidates; and**
* **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**

**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.**

**Information on Scholarship allowances and entitlements, and conditions of the New Zealand Scholarship is provided in the** [**New Zealand Development Scholarships**](http://www.aid.govt.nz/funding-and-contracts/scholarships/types-scholarship/new-zealand-development-scholarships) **section.**

**The scholarship will cover air travel, 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 return travel to their home country to see dependant family members under the Reunion Airfare Entitlement.**

**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.**

**Further information**

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