



New Zealand Commonwealth Scholarships 2016 Applications for tenure from 2017

Information for Applicants

1. Scholarship Application - Invitation

An invitation to receive applications in 2016 for the New Zealand Commonwealth Scholarships for tenure from 2017 has been sent to Nominating Agencies in forty-six Commonwealth Countries.

A list of invited eligible countries can be found on the Universities New Zealand and New Zealand Aid Programme web sites.

2. Information - Web Sites

Information for this scholarship programme can be found on these web sites:

- Universities New Zealand
 - o <http://www.universitiesnz.ac.nz/NZCommonwealthScholarships>
- the New Zealand Aid Programme
 - o <http://www.aid.govt.nz/funding-and-contracts/scholarships/types-scholarship/commonwealth-scholarships>

3. Application Form

A copy of the application form can be obtained from the Nominating Agency. A copy can be downloaded from the Universities NZ and NZ Aid Programme websites.

(A list of Nominating Agencies can be found on the Universities NZ web site).

4. Enquiries from Applicants

Enquiries from applicants should be directed to their Nominating Agency.

5. Applications

The application form contains detailed instructions and advice to allow applicants to complete it fully and accurately.

The application form needs to be completed carefully and legibly.



Applicants who do not satisfy the eligibility criteria (Section A in the form) or applications which are incomplete will not be considered.

Note: Applicants must submit their applications to their Nominating Agency.

Note: Any application received in New Zealand direct from an applicant will be ineligible.

From all the applications which are received Nominating Agencies can submit only **two nominations** to New Zealand.

6. Eligible New Zealand Institutions

A New Zealand Commonwealth Scholarship may be held only at a New Zealand university.

The eight New Zealand universities are listed in Table D of the application form.

7. Application to a New Zealand University - Offer of Place

Applications must include an offer of place, even a conditional offer of place, from a New Zealand university.

Applicants must make an early application for entry to a New Zealand university for their chosen programme of study to secure an offer of place.

If two preferred institutions are listed in the application (Section D of the form) then an offer of place from just one of them will be acceptable.

8. Eligible Postgraduate Programmes

Applicants must be applying for direct entry to a Masters or PhD programme at a New Zealand university.

An offer of place from a New Zealand university must be for a Masters or PhD programme.

9. Priority Study Areas

Scholarships will be awarded in agreed priority study areas to meet countries' or regions' human resources development needs and training priorities, as set by the New Zealand Government and Nominating Agencies (as outlined, wherever possible, in countries' National Strategic Development Plans and Human Resources Planning Frameworks).



Information relating to the priority study areas for your country can be found on the information page for your country on the NZ Aid website.

10. The Decision Process - Universities NZ

Universities NZ will receive the nominated applications from the Nominating Agencies.

These applications will be subject to a final check for eligibility and completeness. Any nominated applications that are found to be ineligible or incomplete will not be considered.

Complete and eligible applications will be assessed and reviewed by a selection committee in Wellington, New Zealand. Members of this committee will be representatives from the New Zealand Aid Programme at New Zealand's Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade (MFAT) and representatives from the Scholarships Committee of Universities NZ.

The selection committee will make scholarship recommendations to the New Zealand Aid Programme team at MFAT.

The New Zealand Aid Programme team at MFAT will review the recommendations and decide which they will support for further assessment.

11. Timeline and Due Dates

Each Nominating Agency will set their own country deadline for the receipt of applications.

Applicants must be aware of this date and abide by it.

Nominating Agencies are aware that their nominations must be received by Universities NZ in Wellington, New Zealand no later than 30 June 2016.

The selection committee will meet in Wellington in September 2016.

As soon as possible after the committee meeting nominated candidates and their Nominating Agency will be advised of the outcome of their application and of any subsequent processes that the selection committee or the NZ Aid Programme may require.



12. Selection Criteria

The nominations submitted to Universities NZ will be considered by the selection committee according to the following selection criteria:

- academic merit of the candidate.
- the likely impact of the work on the development of the candidate's home country.
- the quality of the research proposal/study plans.

The assessment criteria which will be used are:

Academic Merit

- Examination results.
- Academic transcripts.
- Referees' reports.
- Any academic prizes.
- Other relevant activities.
- Publications, where appropriate.

Development Impact

- The extent to which the candidate illustrates that the proposed study will increase knowledge about development and / or solutions to poverty reduction (including, amongst other themes, public health, education, governance, political, social and economic development and environment).
- Relevance and extent to which the Plan of Study fits well with the strengths and career aspirations of the candidate.

Quality of Study Plans - PhD Applications

- Extent to which the study programme has been well researched and thought out, including the identification of appropriate institution and supervisor.
- Degree of innovation.
- Likely impact.
- Clarity of presentation.
- Relevance to field.
- Feasibility.

Quality of Study Plans - Master's Applications

- Extent to which the proposed course / institution of study has been well researched (including specific options and dissertation topics, where appropriate) and presented.
- Clarity of presentation.