

Offer of Scholarships by the *Organization of American States* (OAS)

For Study Commencing 2024

The Government of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago invites **ONLINE** applications from citizens of Trinidad and Tobago for scholarships being offered by the Organization of American States (OAS) for the academic year commencing 2024.

A. Characteristics of the Scholarship

Purpose of Scholarship	(i) To fill specific human resource needs in member states. (ii) To increase the education opportunities of the citizens of member states in order to promote development.
Number of Scholarships	One (1) Undergraduate Scholarship. One (1) Postgraduate Scholarship.
Areas of Study to be awarded	Areas critical to National Development as indicated on the Interim List of Priority Areas of Study, <u>excluding medical science and new languages.</u> OAS scholarships are awarded for full-time study, or research leading to a graduate or undergraduate degree, in any OAS member state except the one sponsoring the candidate.
Who Can Apply	Citizens of Trinidad and Tobago
Tenability	Scholarships are tenable at academic institutions at any OAS member state participating and not participating in the OAS Consortium of Universities. Scholarships are not awarded to study at academic institutions in the sponsoring country. The scholarship is renewed annually subject to satisfactory performance as evidenced by the attainment of a Grade Point Average of 2.50 or having met the requirements of the institution for the student to be in good academic standing. The programme of study must be accredited and the institution of study must be recognized by the Accreditation Council of Trinidad and Tobago (ACTT).
Application Process	The prescribed application form is available at www.scholarships.moe.gov.tt for completion and submission along with all supporting documents.
Deadline date for submission	March 1, 2024 @ 4 p.m.
Response to Application	The advertisement and selection process must be completed and nominations made by the respective Governments between 60 to 90 days from the advice of the availability of the awards.
General Conditions of Scholarship	Applicants should be aware of the following general conditions of the scholarship: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 applicant gives consent for such publication in the event that his/her application is successful.

- Recipients will be given a formal *Notification of Scholarship*, requesting that they indicate their acceptance of 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 GoRTT in its *Notification of the Scholarship*.
- Scholars will be expected to reside in an OAS member state 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 from the GoRTT.
- Scholarships are valid for one degree only and scholars are not eligible for completion of another degree simultaneously or continuation to another higher degree.
- Scholars must not change their programme of study during the tenure of the scholarship except with written permission from the GoRTT and/or the sponsoring agency.
- Scholars must maintain satisfactory progress reports and good standing as stipulated by the academic institution, or the scholarship will be withdrawn and the recipient liable to repay the GoRTT for the expenditure on the scholarship.
- Scholars 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 OAS will require a medical report before a scholarship can be confirmed.
- Recipients of scholarships will be required to sign a *Master Scholarship Loan Agreement (MSLA)* to return to Trinidad and Tobago and report in person to the Ministry responsible for the administration of this scholarship within one (1) month of completion of the requirements for the award of the degree.
- The OAS and the GoRTT will only consider requests to extend the scholarship or grant leave to remain in the member state post scholarship in instances where it is absolutely necessary. **Strict conditions will apply.**
- The Ministry responsible for the administration of this scholarship will **not** provide any letter of non-objection to work in a foreign country on the completion of the programme of study.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All terms and conditions of the scholarship will be subject to local law and practices in the country of study and sponsoring country. <p>All regulations concerning immigration and visas are set by the OAS member state and are outside of the control of the Scholarships and Advanced Training Division, the agency responsible for managing the scholarship.</p>
Scholarship Procedure	<p>Final award of scholarships will be made when the Cabinet approves the scholarship, and the OAS advises of the selected nominees. Applicants will be notified as indicated above. The scholarship will be governed by a legally binding <i>MSLA</i>. A duly executed Scholarship Agreement, along with other scholarship policies, shall be the binding authority between the scholar and the GoRTT. Additional scholarship information is available on the Ministry of Education’s website, www.scholarships.moe.gov.tt. The application and award process will be managed in accordance with the policies and procedures of the OAS.</p>
Role of the GoRTT	<p>The nominating Government is responsible for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Disseminating information on the scholarships; Ensuring that all applications are completed according to requirements; Ensuring that only qualified applicants are shortlisted; and Nominating only the best among applicants.

A. FUNDING

The under-mentioned payments will be made by the OAS unless otherwise stated:

Tuition and Mandatory fees
Fixed Monthly Subsistence Allowance
Fixed Annual Book Allowance
Round Trip Economy Air Travel
Health Insurance
Salary Allowance (applicable to <u>Permanently Appointed Public Officers</u> only); Payment to be made by the GoRTT.

Please note: A maximum limit of US \$10,000 is established on the total cost per scholarship per academic year for a minimum of 1 and no more than 2 academic years.

The duration of funding will be guided by the following:

Undergraduate degrees	<p>2 years (last two years of the undergraduate degree)</p> <p>A maximum of two years of funding will be provided</p>
Postgraduate degrees (Masters/PhD)	<p>2 years</p> <p>A maximum of two years of funding will be provided</p>

B. Eligibility Criteria

To be eligible for this scholarship, an applicant must:

- a) (i) Be a citizen of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago and must not be a permanent resident of any other country;
- (ii) Be between the ages of 18-50;
- b) Have obtained a university degree **by the closing date for submission of applications** to the Ministry of Education, SATD (for postgraduate applicants only);
- c) Be in good physical and mental health to complete the programme successfully;
- d) Possess the language competency to undertake studies in the proposed country of study;
- e) Be in possession of the Graduate Management Admission Test (GMAT) and Graduate Record Examination (GRE) scores if required by the academic institution;
- f) Be able to take up his/her scholarship as indicated by the OAS;
- g) Agree to remain in the sponsoring country for the period of time required to complete studies, if applying for an on-line programme;
- h) Be starting a Programme of Study between the periods January 1st, 2024 and December 31st, 2024;
- i) Possess the following:

For undergraduate degrees:

- (i) A minimum of five (5) CSEC General Proficiency passes with Grades I, II or III, or five (5) GCE O' Level passes with Grade A, B, or C. The subjects passed must include English Language and Mathematics.

With

A minimum of two (2) CAPE subjects at both Units I and II with Grades I, II, or III, or two (2) GCE A' Level subjects with Grades A, B or C;

And

CAPE Caribbean Studies **and** Communication Studies with Grades I, II, or III, or GCE General Paper with Grades A, B or C.

OR

- (ii) Five (5) CSEC General Proficiency passes with Grades I, II or III, or five (5) GCE O' Level passes with Grade A, B, or C. The subjects passed must include English Language and Mathematics.

And

An Associate Degree with a minimum Grade Point Average (GPA) of 3.00 or equivalent.

For Postgraduate degrees:

- (i) At least a Second Class Honours undergraduate degree (Upper Division) with a minimum GPA of 3.00, if applying for a Master's degree;
- (ii) At least a Second Class Honours (Upper Division) undergraduate degree and a relevant postgraduate qualification, which will normally be a Master's degree, if applying for a PhD.

C. Requirements

- a) Applicants must ensure that the two (2) recommendations are submitted by their Recommenders **'online'**.
 - (i) Recommendation letters must be from a current or former professor, supervisor, business leader, etc., stamped and/or signed. If unemployed or never employed, the candidate may obtain recommendations from whom they think can give academic, professional or personal references. Recommendation letters must be written and signed by the recommenders, and they cannot come from relatives of the applicant.

The recommendations must attest to the applicant's ability to perform and to succeed as a scholar by providing relevant and practical examples where applicable. They must also describe what contribution the applicant will make and the likely impact the applicant will have on the institution/community/country.

Recommendations must be signed, scanned and uploaded to the application. Only scanned copies of the signed recommendations will be accepted.

- b) Applicants must:
 - (i) Prepare and submit an essay, **'online'**, of no more than **500** (undergraduate) **750** (postgraduate) words, which includes:
 - A description of a national developmental need, in relation to the goals and objectives of Trinidad and Tobago's National Development Plan - Vision 2030. The need should be one, which already exists;
 - A description/discussion of a programme of study that deals significantly with the need identified; and
 - A description/discussion of how exposure to the selected programme of study equips the candidate in meeting the identified need.
 - (ii) Be enrolled in the programme of study and have at least one academic year left from the date of the scholarship or;
 - (iii) Be eligible to graduate within 2 academic years from the date of the scholarship offer or;

- (iv) Be accepted into the university where he or she plans to study for the last two years of an undergraduate or postgraduate programme that leads to a bachelor's or master's or Ph.D. degree.

Information on the offer of scholarship by the Organization of American States (OAS) is available by accessing the following link:

www.oas.org/scholarships

D. Selection Methodology

For all awards, candidates must first meet the standards set for academic merit. Those candidates will then be assessed and recommended for a scholarship based on the following:

- i. Quality and Content of Essay
- ii. Work and Volunteer Experience
- iii. Interview

N.B:

- **Candidates must attain a minimum score of 50% at the interview to be considered for the nomination of a scholarship.**
- **The OAS will give preference to persons who have been accepted/enrolled in any OAS Consortium Universities; or within any OAS Member state (except the sponsoring country).**
- **The GoRTT is responsible for the nomination of suitable candidates, and this does not in any way guarantee selection or placement for this scholarship.**

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

- Copies of Academic Certificates, Degrees of Diplomas
- Proof of acceptance/enrollment at an academic institution
- 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 Education
(Scholarships and Advanced Training Division)
Level 10, Education Towers
5 St. Vincent Street
Port-of-Spain

Attention: 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.
- Failure to submit all relevant documents will result in an incomplete application.

DEADLINE DATE FOR APPLICATION: March 1, 2024@ 4 pm

For further information please go to our website at www.scholarships.moe.gov.tt or contact the office at telephone numbers 622-2181, ext. 1943, 1942 or email scholarshipenquiries@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.moe.gov.tt and click on SATIS Login to continue your application