

## NATIONAL BURSARY PROGRAMME

### Offer of National Bursaries by the Government of The Republic of Trinidad and Tobago for Undergraduate Studies

The Government of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago (GoRTT) invites **ONLINE** applications from citizens of Trinidad and Tobago for the offer of National Bursaries for studies commencing academic year 2023/2024.

#### Characteristics of the Offer:

<b>Purpose of Bursaries</b>	(i) To support strategic national development by affording education opportunities to citizens to pursue areas of study that are aligned to national development. (ii) To enhance access to higher education to students who have excelled at the Caribbean Advanced Proficiency Examinations (CAPE).
<b>Number of Bursaries Available</b>	500
<b>Areas of Study to be awarded</b>	Priority will be given to areas critical to national development as indicated on the <a href="#">Interim Development Needs List</a> with consideration to other existing and emerging areas.
<b>Who Can Apply</b>	Citizens of Trinidad and Tobago who have completed the CAPE over a period not exceeding two (2) consecutive years ( <b>Lower VI 2021/2022 - Upper VI 2022/2023</b> ) in Form 6, including the year of the award.
<b>Tenability</b>	<p>The Programme of Study must be pursued at an accredited/recognized local tertiary level institution or a regional campus of The University of the West Indies (UWI), in keeping with the guidelines of the GATE programme.</p> <p>The bursary will be renewed annually subject to satisfactory performance as evidenced by the attainment of a Grade Point Average of 2.5 or its equivalent.</p> <p><b>The Programme of Study must be accredited and the Institution of Study must be recognized by the Accreditation Council of Trinidad and Tobago (ACTT).</b></p> <p><b>The Programme of Study must be GATE funded.</b></p> <p><b>Self-funded Programmes of Study will not be considered.</b></p>

<b>Application Process</b>	Go to the scholarships website at <a href="https://www.scholarships.moe.gov.tt/">https://www.scholarships.moe.gov.tt/</a> and complete the prescribed application form.
<b>Deadline date for submission</b>	<b>March 8<sup>th</sup>, 2024 @ 4p.m</b>
<b>Response to Application</b>	The range of response time is between 60 to 90 days from the closing date of the advertisement.
<b>General Conditions of National Bursary</b>	<p>Applicants should be aware of the following general conditions of the National Bursary:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The GoRTT reserves the right to publish the names of candidates selected for these National Bursaries. By applying for a National Bursary, the candidate gives consent for such publication in the event that his/her application is successful.</li> <li>• Successful candidates (hereinafter referred to as “Recipients”) will be given formal notification, requesting that they indicate their interest in the National Bursary.</li> <li>• Formal confirmation of the National Bursary will be issued when all conditions have been met.</li> <li>• Recipients will be expected to take up the National Bursary from the date stated by the GoRTT in its notification of the National Bursary.</li> <li>• Recipients will be expected to reside in the approved country of study throughout the duration of their programme of study 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 National Bursary.</li> <li>• The Ministry will facilitate studies under the National Bursary Programme through the following delivery approaches: i) Full Time Onsite; ii) Part-Time Onsite; iii) Full Time Online or Distance Learning; and iv) Part-Time Online.</li> <li>• Recipients may not undertake paid employment during the duration of their programme without prior consent.</li> <li>• The National Bursaries are valid for one undergraduate degree only and not to be used for the completion of another degree simultaneously or continuation to another higher degree or any other tertiary level qualification.</li> <li>• Recipients must not change their Programme of Study during the tenure of their National Bursary except with written permission from the GoRTT.</li> <li>• Recipients must maintain satisfactory progress as evidenced by the attainment of a 2.5 GPA or its equivalent, or the National Bursary will be withdrawn and the recipient liable to repay the GoRTT for the expenditure on the National Bursary.</li> <li>• Recipients must receive approval before proceeding on a Leave of Absence from the GoRTT.</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 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 National Bursary and can lead to termination of the National Bursary. Allowances are not payable during suspension.</li> <li>• Recipients will be required to sign an undertaking to serve the GoRTT in either the Public or Private Sector as soon as their National Bursary comes to an end.</li> <li>• The GoRTT will only consider requests to extend the National Bursary or leave to remain in the approved country of study post completion of studies in instances where it is absolutely necessary. Strict conditions will apply.</li> <li>• The GoRTT will be unable to provide any letter of support which might be required by a recipient to work in a foreign country.</li> <li>• All terms and conditions of the National Bursary will be subject to local law and practices.</li> <li>• All regulations concerning immigration is set by the Government of the approved country of study and are outside of the control of the Ministry/Agency with the responsibility for managing the National Bursary.</li> </ul>
<p><b>National Bursary Procedure</b></p>	<p>Final award of the National Bursaries will be made when the Cabinet approves the recommendation of the list of candidates and has allocated and committed the funds. All applicants will be notified as indicated above. The National Bursary will be governed by a legally binding <i>National Bursary Agreement</i>. A duly executed <i>National Bursary Agreement</i> along with other National Bursary policies shall be the binding authority between the recipient of the National Bursary and the GoRTT. Please go to our website at <a href="http://www.scholarships.moe.gov.tt">www.scholarships.moe.gov.tt</a> to review additional information.</p>
<p><b>Role of the GoRTT</b></p>	<p>The GoRTT is responsible for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Disseminating information on the National Bursaries;</li> <li>• Ensuring that all applications are completed according to requirements;</li> <li>• Ensuring that only qualified applicants are shortlisted and;</li> <li>• Selecting only the best among applicants.</li> </ul>

## A. FUNDING

The following payments are made under this National Bursary Programme, and are subject to the approval of the Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Education (Scholarships and Advanced Training Division):

- i. The GoRTT will pay for and provide:

- Medical - A book allowance of \$9,711 as first time payment and thereafter \$5,711 payment annually.
  - Non medical - A book allowance of \$8,062 as first time payment and thereafter \$4,062 payment annually.
- ii. A personal maintenance allowance of \$3,043.00 per month, payable per quarter of the fiscal year (December, March, June and September).
- iii. Funding in accordance with GATE guidelines.
- iv. Funding will be provided for the duration of the Programme of Study and will be guided as follows:

<b>DEGREE</b>	<b>MAXIMUM DURATION</b>
<b>BACHELOR'S DEGREES</b>	Three (3) to four (4) years where required by the academic institution and approved by the GoRTT.
<b>MEDICAL DEGREES</b> including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bachelor of Medicine; Bachelor of Surgery, MBBS</li> <li>• Doctor of Dental Surgery, DDS</li> <li>• Doctor of Veterinary Medicine, DVM</li> </ul> ** any other related programme of study	Five (5) years  ** Funding duration where stipulated by the academic institution and approved by the GoRTT.
<b>LAW DEGREE</b> including; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bachelor of Law (LLB)</li> <li>• Legal Education Certificate (LEC)</li> </ul>	Five (5) years  Four (4) years only where required by the academic institution and approved by the GoRTT.  <i>Three (3) years LLB followed by: Two (2) years LEC</i>

**B. ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA:**

**To apply for this National Bursary, applicants must:**

- i. Be citizens of Trinidad and Tobago and must be able to provide proof of citizenship of Trinidad and Tobago.

- ii. Attain eight (8) subject units, over a period not exceeding two (2) consecutive years in Form 6, including the year of the award. The eight (8) subject units must comprise both compulsory subjects: Caribbean Studies and Communication Studies. Applicants must attain at least 7 units at Grades I – II. Applicants are allowed to have a maximum of one (1) Grade III in their profile and still be eligible.
- iii. Provide a Letter of Acceptance, Proof of Enrollment or Proof of Application to an accredited/recognized local tertiary level institution or a regional campus of The University of the West Indies (UWI), in keeping with the guidelines of the GATE programme.
- iv. Pursue a Programme of Study which is in alignment with the priority areas of development.
- v. Prepare and submit a **Purpose Statement** which explains in a minimum of 420 words to a maximum of 520 words:
  - 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 of the Programme of Study you have chosen that deals significantly with the need identified.
  - A description of how exposure to the selected Programme of Study will equip you to meet the identified national need.
- vi. Submit a signed and stamped verification form from a Registered Community-based Organisation (CBO), Non-Governmental Organisation (NGO), Sporting and Extra-curricular Activity Organization attesting to their involvement in Extra-curricular Activities/Contribution to Community/Country.

### C. REQUIREMENTS

- i. An applicant must provide proof of his/her socio-economic background as evidenced by the GATE Administered National Bursary Means Test which must be signed by the Applicant and his/her Parent or Guardian. The National Bursary Means Test must be authorized by a Commissioner of Affidavits or a Justice of the Peace.
- ii. An applicant is required to verify that his/her academic institution holds valid accreditation status with the Accreditation Council of Trinidad and Tobago (ACTT).

## **D. SELECTION CRITERIA:**

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

- i. Academic Merit (30%)
- ii. GATE Administered National Bursary Means Test – (30%)
- iii. Quality & Content of Purpose Statement – (10%)
- iv. Alignment of Priority Areas to National Development – (15%)
- v. Extracurricular Activities/ Contribution to Community / Country – (15%)

### **Applicants must upload the following documents to their ‘Online’ application:**

- Copies of CAPE Academic Certificates
- Proof of Acceptance/Enrollment/Application to an accredited academic institution
- Copy of Birth Certificate (with affidavit where necessary)
- Copy of Proof of Change of Name (where necessary)
- Copy of valid form of Trinidad and Tobago identification:
  - Bio data page of Passport
  - Electoral Identification Card (back and front)
  - Driver’s Permit
- Persons born outside of Trinidad and Tobago must provide evidence of citizenship (copy) and residency
- Other mandatory supporting documents

### **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.

**INCOMPLETE APPLICATIONS WILL NOT BE CONSIDERED.**

**DEADLINE DATE FOR APPLICATION: Friday 8<sup>th</sup> March, 2024 @ 4 p.m**

For further information please go to our website at [www.scholarships.moe.gov.tt](http://www.scholarships.moe.gov.tt) or contact the office at telephone numbers 622-2181 ext 1943, 1942 or email [bursaryenquiries@moe.gov.tt](mailto:bursaryenquiries@moe.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](http://www.scholarships.moe.gov.tt)