

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

For Study Commencing 2020

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 August 2020.

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	Undergraduate/ postgraduate degrees are tenable at academic institutions in all Member States, including those participating in the OAS Consortium Universities. The scholarship is renewed annually subject to a satisfactory progress report as evidenced by the attainment of a Grade Point Average of 2.50 or a general score of 50% and over.
Application Process	Go to the scholarships website at www.scholarships.moe.gov.tt and complete the prescribed application form and attach all the required documents.
Deadline date for submission	August 7, 2020 at 4pm.
Response to Application	<u>For nomination:</u> The range of response time is between 60 to 90 days from the closing date of the scholarship. <u>For selection:</u> The OAS will announce the names of successful applicants through diplomatic channels.
General Conditions of Scholarship	Applicants should be aware of the following general conditions of the scholarship: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Ministry responsible for the administration of this scholarship (hereafter referred to as “the Ministry”) reserves the right to publish the names of candidates selected for scholarships. By applying for a scholarship, the candidate gives

	<p>consent for such publication in the event that his/her application is successful.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Scholars will be given formal notification of the award, requesting that they indicate their acceptance of the award.• Formal confirmation of the award will be issued when all conditions have been met.• Scholars will be expected to take up the award from the date stated by the Ministry in its notification of the award.• Apart from study related travel, 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 this award.• As a general principle, Scholars pursuing these programs shall not undertake paid employment during their awards without prior consent from the Ministry.• This award will be used to fund the programme of study for the specified period.• This award is valid for one degree only and 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 consent from the Government of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago.• Scholars must maintain satisfactory progress and good standing as stipulated by the academic institution, or the award will be withdrawn and the Scholar liable to repay the Ministry for the funds expended at the date of withdrawal.• The institution of study and the course of study must be recognised and accredited by the Accreditation Council of Trinidad and Tobago.• Scholars must follow the approved programme of study and abide by the rules, regulations and codes of conduct of the academic institution. Suspension from the academic institution can lead to termination of the award. Allowances are not payable during suspension (as outlined in the Policy governing Scholarship Awards).• The Organization of American States will require a medical report before an award can be confirmed.• Scholars will be required to sign an undertaking to return to Trinidad and Tobago as soon as their scholarship ends.• The Organization of American States and GoRTT will only consider requests to extend the award or leave to remain in the Member State post scholarship in instances where it is absolutely necessary. Strict conditions will apply as outlined in the Policy governing Scholarship Awards.
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Ministry will not provide any letter of non-objection to work in a foreign country on the completion of the programme of study. • All terms and conditions of this award will be subject to local law and practices of the Government of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago. • All regulations concerning immigration and visas are set by the OAS Member State and are outside of control of the Ministry.
Scholarship Procedure	Final award of scholarships will be made when the Cabinet approves the scholarship and the OAS advises of the selected candidates. Applicants will be notified as indicated above. The scholarship will be governed by a legally binding Scholarship Agreement. A duly executed Scholarship Agreement along with other scholarship policies shall be the binding authority between the recipient of this award and the Trinidad and Tobago Government. Applicants are advised to visit our website at www.scholarships.moe.gov.tt to review additional scholarship information. Successful applicants will also be managed by the policy and procedures of the OAS.
Role of the GoRTT	<p>The nominating Government is responsible for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Disseminating information on the awards; • Ensuring that all applications at all stages of the process are completed according to requirements; • Ensuring that only eligible applicants are shortlisted; • Selecting only the most suitable applicants; • Assisting successful candidates in their preparations for taking up the awards; and • Monitoring the candidate's adherence to the conditions as stipulated in Scholarship Agreement.

B. Funding

Undergraduate/ postgraduate degrees are tenable at academic institutions in all Member States, including those participating in the OAS Consortium Universities. The under-mentioned payments will be made by the OAS unless otherwise stated:

Tuition and Mandatory fees (as indicated by the academic institution)
Monthly complementary subsistence allowance
Yearly book allowance
Round trip economy air travel
Medical Insurance
Salary Allowance (applicable to <u>Permanently Appointed Public Officers only</u>); Payment to be made by the GoRTT

The duration of funding will be guided by the following:

Undergraduate degrees	2 years (last two years of the bachelor's degree). A maximum of two years of funding will be provided.
Postgraduate degrees (Masters/PhD)	2 years. A maximum of two years of funding will be provided.

C. 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 years.
- b) Have obtained a university degree **by the closing date for submission of applications** to the Ministry of Education, Scholarships and Advanced Training Division (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 GMAT and GRE score if required by the academic institution;
- f) Be able to take up their 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 accepted to an academic institution in an OAS Member State, including those participating in the OAS Consortium Universities; and
- i) Possess the following:

For Undergraduate degrees:

- (i) Minimum of five (5) General Proficiency (CSEC) or (GCE) passes which must include:
English Language and Mathematics, CSEC- Grades I, II or GCE – Grades A or B;

In addition, the applicant must possess the following academic qualifications:

CAPE

Four (4) CAPE subjects at Units I and II with Grades I or II or equivalent;

and

Caribbean Studies and Communication Studies with Grades I or II.

or

GCE

Four (4) GCE (Advanced Proficiency) subjects with Grades A or B;

and

General Paper with Grades A or B.

or

- (ii) Five (5) General Proficiency (CSEC) passes with Grades I or II or (GCE- Ordinary Level) passes with Grades A or B and which must include English Language and Mathematics or equivalent;

with

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

For Postgraduate degrees:

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

Evidence of any additional qualifications should be submitted with the application.

D. Requirements

- a) Applicants are required to submit three (3) recommendations electronically:
- (i) Two must be academic recommendations;
- (ii) One from a current or previous employer; and
- (iii) The recommenders must attest to the applicant's ability to perform and to succeed as a scholar by providing relevant and practical examples where applicable. This may include a description of any contribution the applicant may have made to institutions/community/country.

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

b) i) Applicants applying for an undergraduate degree must prepare an essay, of no more than 500 words, submitted online. The essay should:

a. State why your course of study is crucial for Trinidad and Tobago's development and demonstrate its alignment to government's expressed policy;

- Demonstrate that you have knowledge of this sector and present relevant data that would highlight this as an important national issue.

b. Indicate why you have selected to study your course of study;

- Demonstrate how your educational background can help you maximize the benefit of being exposed to this programme of study.
- Justify how this programme will be of benefit to the country (identify clear and appropriate gaps and targets).

c. Discuss the impact the chosen course of study is likely to have on your capacity to meet the country's needs.

- Articulate your vision for the sector (to which your course of study applies) have been exposed to this programme.
- Discuss the impact (medium and long term) you would like to make in relation to the goals and objectives of Trinidad and Tobago's National Development Plan – Vision 2030.

ii) **Applicants applying for undergraduate degrees must:**

- Be enrolled in the programme of study;
- Be eligible to graduate within 2 academic years from the date of the Scholarship offer, or accepted into the university where he or she plan of study for the last two years of an undergraduate programme that leads to a bachelor's degree; and
- Have an admission letter which must state that the applicant will complete the programme of studies within two (2) academic years.

c) Applicants applying for a postgraduate degree must prepare an essay, of no more than 750 words, submitted online. The essay should:

a. State why your course of study is crucial for Trinidad and Tobago's development and demonstrate its alignment to government's expressed policy;

- Demonstrate that you have knowledge of this sector and present relevant data that would highlight this as an important national issue.

b. Indicate why you have selected to study your course of study;

- Demonstrate how your educational background can help you maximize the benefit of being exposed to this programme of study.

- Justify how this programme will be of benefit to the country (identify clear and appropriate gaps and targets).
- c. Discuss the impact the chosen course of study is likely to have on your capacity to meet the country's needs.**
- Articulate your vision for the sector (to which your course of study applies) have been exposed to this programme.
- Discuss the impact (medium and long term) you would like to make in relation to the goals and objectives of Trinidad and Tobago's National Development Plan – Vision 2030.

Please ensure your essay is formatted according to the following specifications:

- i. Typed in font style Times New Roman
- ii. Font size 12;
- iii. Line spacing 1.0;
- iv. Aligned Justified; and
- v. A declared word count is displayed at the end of the study plan/essay.

Your essay must be scanned and uploaded to the online application.

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

www.oas.org/scholarships

E. Selection Methodology

Both Undergraduate and Postgraduate applicants will be assessed and recommended for a scholarship based on the following:

- i. Academic Merit
- ii. Quality and content of essay
- iii. Work and volunteer experience
- iv. Interview

Candidates must attain a minimum score of 50% at the interview in order to be considered for nomination for a scholarship.

Kindly note that the Government of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago 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 or Diplomas;
- Proof of acceptance/enrollment at an academic institution;
- Copy of New Polymer 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 Selection 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: August 7, 2020 @ 4:00PM

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, 1912, 1945 or email scholarshipenquiries@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.