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**Department of Human Development, Education and Employment (DHDEE)**  
**ACADEMIC SCHOLARSHIPS PROGRAM 2023**

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**CALL FOR SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS FOR UNDERGRADUATE AND  
GRADUATE ACADEMIC STUDIES, AND GRADUATE RESEARCH**

**About the OAS Academic Scholarships Program**

OAS Academic Scholarships are awarded to citizens of the Organization of American States (OAS) member states to undertake undergraduate (only for the last two years) or graduate studies and/or graduate research that lead to a degree at an accredited or recognized university or higher learning institution in an [OAS member state](#), with the exception of the candidate's sponsoring country. Studies must be carried out on a full-time basis, and can be undertaken onsite, online, or a combination of both.

**Length of the Scholarship**

The Scholarship is awarded for a minimum period of one (1) academic year and a maximum period of two (2) academic years. These scholarships are contingent upon the continued availability of OAS funds, the good academic performance of the student during the first academic year, and the confirmation by the academic institution that the renewal period for the second year is necessary to complete the program of study for which the scholarship was initially awarded.

**General Requirements**

1. Be a citizen or permanent resident of an OAS Member State.
2. Be in good physical and mental health to complete the program of study successfully.
3. Possess the language competence to undertake studies in the language of the institution in country of study.
4. Agree to return and reside in the sponsoring country for a minimum period of no less than twenty-four (24) months after completing the program of study covered by the OAS scholarship. Applicants for online studies must agree to remain in the sponsoring country for the same period of time.

**Benefits**

OAS Scholarships have a monetary cap of US\$10,000 per academic year. Funds may cover the following benefits and are assigned on a case-by-case basis following this order of priority:

1. Tuition and mandatory fees
2. Health insurance
3. Monthly complementary subsistence allowance
4. Roundtrip air ticket
5. Books/study materials

**Where to study**

Scholarships are tenable at academic institutions at any [OAS member state](#) including those participating in the OAS Consortium of Universities. **Scholarships are not awarded to study at**

**academic institutions in the sponsoring country.** Candidates must apply directly for admission to their desired programs of study<sup>1</sup>. The OAS [Consortium of Universities](#) was created in 2000 to negotiate tuition waivers, reductions and additional scholarship benefits with reputable educational institutions in the Americas. The Consortium presently comprises over one-hundred higher education institutions. Applicants are strongly encouraged to apply to institutions participating in the OAS Consortium of Universities because of lower tuition rates negotiated with them.

### **Types of Scholarships**

**1. Undergraduate Scholarships** are offered only to candidates from the English-speaking Caribbean Member States and Suriname to carry out studies in a university of their choice, for the **last two (2) academic years** of study leading to a Bachelor's degree.

To apply for an undergraduate scholarship, an applicant must:

- Be enrolled in the program of study and be eligible to graduate within 2 academic years starting between January 1 and December 31, 2023, or;
- Provide an admission letter from a university for the final two years of an undergraduate program that leads to a bachelor's degree. Admission letter must state that the applicant will begin studies between January 1 and December 31, 2023. The academic institution must also confirm that the student shall complete the program of studies within 2 academic years<sup>2</sup>.

**2. Graduate Scholarships** are offered to candidates from all OAS Member States to carry out graduate studies in a university of their choice (Master's, or Doctoral degree) between January 1 and December 31, 2023.

To apply for a graduate scholarship, an applicant must:

- Have obtained a first university degree (Bachelor's) by the time they submit their scholarship application.
- Be enrolled in the program of study and have at least one academic year left from the date of the scholarship offer or be accepted into the university where he or she plans to study.

### **Preselection Process**

A pre-selection process takes place in-country<sup>3</sup>.

1. Applicants apply online directly through the OAS online application form, which can be found at:

- Graduate Studies:  
<https://www.oas.org/fms/Announcement.aspx?id=1136&Type=1&Lang=Eng>
- Undergraduate Studies:  
<https://www.oas.org/fms/Announcement.aspx?id=1137&Type=1&Lang=Eng>

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<sup>1</sup> The OAS does not award scholarships for studies in the [Medical Sciences](#) or the learning of new languages.

<sup>2</sup> The candidate is responsible for the transfer of credits from previous post-secondary education to the host institution. If a candidate is selected to receive an OAS scholarship, he or she will need to provide the OAS with an official letter from the host institution attesting to the total number of credits successfully transferred and the expected graduation date. These requirements must be fulfilled before the scholarship award documents are issued.

<sup>3</sup> The OAS acts as National Liaison Office for the following countries: Honduras, United States, and Venezuela. Applicants from those countries only need to fill out the online forms and the OAS will conduct the pre-selection process.

2. Applicants print a copy of the application and submit it to their respective [National Liaison Offices \(ONE\)](#) in their sponsoring country.
3. Each ONE establishes its own application process and deadline for applicants to submit their scholarship applications.
4. Only completed applications are evaluated in-country by national authorities.

### **Scholarship Application Documents and Forms**

Applicants are required to submit the following documents to their ONE:

1. Online Application Form
2. Copy of the diploma for the highest degree obtained
3. Copy of transcript of grades for the highest academic degree completed and/or to be completed. If the applicant is currently enrolled in a program of study, he/she will also need to submit the current, unofficial transcript.
4. Proof of registration or unconditional admission letter to the program of study program.
5. Two (2) recommendation letters 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<sup>4</sup> of the applicant.
6. Curriculum Vitae (must not exceed 2 pages).
7. Copy of the Official Identification Card (ID) – Government issued ID by the Sponsoring Country or Passport
8. **For undergraduate studies applicants only:** copy of academic transcript for the Bachelor's degree program in which currently enrolled. Applicants that intend to transfer credits from previous studies to undertake only the last two academic years of a Bachelor's degree program must submit copies of the diploma and transcripts for the Associate's degree previously obtained.

### **Selection Process**

[ONEs](#) in the Member States submit to the OAS a list of three pre-selected candidates ranked in order of priority. The OAS convenes a selection committee meeting to evaluate scholarship applications.

### **Evaluation Criteria**

1. The objectives and priorities established in the [Comprehensive Strategic Plan of the Organization](#);
2. The academic and/or training priorities of the member states;
3. The merits and overall credentials of the applicant, including academic and/or professional experience which will be judged by:
  - the quality of the written essays and how well candidates explain a) the impact they believe their studies will have on their institution/community/sponsoring country, and b) their five-year plan upon returning to the sponsoring country

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<sup>4</sup> Relatives are defined as: spouse, son or daughter, stepson or stepdaughter, father or mother, stepfather or stepmother, brother or sister, half-brother or half-sister, stepbrother or stepsister, father- or mother-in-law, son- or daughter-in-law, and brother- or sister-in-law.

- the candidate's university grade point average (GPA) and class ranking should be considered superior by the country/institution from which the candidate has graduated -or is currently studying- in order to facilitate the placement of an awardee in a reputable university
  - the level of effort completeness and detail put forth into the preparation of the application
  - the quality of the recommendation letters which attest to the candidate's ability to perform and to succeed as a scholarship recipient and describe what contribution and impact the recommender believes the candidate will have on the institution/community/sponsoring country
4. Potential and commitment of the candidate to apply the knowledge and skills acquired to the development of the sponsoring country;
  5. Gender equality and equity as an important element in all scholarships programming.

### **Scholarship Award and Disbursement of Funds**

1. Scholarships are awarded for a minimum of one academic year and maximum of two. The OAS shall, therefore, issue an OAS Scholarship Contract for a maximum of US\$10,000 or US\$20,000 per scholarship recipient, upon establishment of length of program of study.
2. The OAS shall make the first US\$10,000 transfer directly to the scholarship recipient and/or the academic institution per academic year during the second half of 2023.
3. The OAS shall monitor the expenses of scholarship recipients to ensure compliance with signed OAS scholarship contract. The OAS shall communicate directly with OAS Scholarship recipients to provide instructions for monitoring.
4. Renewal of a scholarship for a second academic year shall be conditional to the student's good academic standing, the receipt of a transcript at the end of first academic year and demonstrated need for second academic year funding. The OAS shall communicate timely and directly with OAS Scholarship recipients to provide instructions for renewal.

### **IMPORTANT INFORMATION:**

- ✓ ONEs may have additional documents or forms required.
- ✓ Applicants who have questions regarding the status of their applications during the recruitment and in-country pre-selection process should contact their ONEs.
- ✓ Questions about eligibility/document requirements and the application process may be sent to [scholarships@oas.org](mailto:scholarships@oas.org).
- ✓ To learn more about the OAS Academic Scholarship Program please click the following link: [Frequently Asked Questions](#)