

## COMMUNIQUE

### OFFER OF SCHOLARSHIPS UNDER THE NEW ZEALAND COMMONWEALTH SCHOLARSHIP AND FELLOWSHIP PLAN 2016

Applications are invited from suitably qualified Mauritian nationals for the award of **two** scholarships (preferably one male and one female) offered by the Government of New Zealand through "Universities New Zealand" for Masters and/or PhD Level studies in New Zealand for academic year starting in **February 2017**.

The scholarships are open to **those working in the public sector, private sector or for civil society organisations**, and tenable at one of the following eight universities:

Auckland University of Technology <a href="http://www.aut.ac.nz">www.aut.ac.nz</a> (scholarships@aut.ac.nz)	NZ01
Lincoln University - <a href="http://www.lincoln.ac.nz">www.lincoln.ac.nz</a> (scholarships@lincoln.ac.nz)	NZ02
Massey University – <a href="http://www.massey.ac.nz">www.massey.ac.nz</a> (international@massey.ac.nz)	NZ03
University of Auckland – <a href="http://www.auckland.ac.nz">www.auckland.ac.nz</a> (int-questions@auckland.ac.nz)	NZ05
University of Canterbury – <a href="http://www.canterbury.ac.nz">www.canterbury.ac.nz</a> (international@canterbury.ac.nz)	NZ06
University of Otago – <a href="http://www.otago.ac.nz">www.otago.ac.nz</a> (international.admissions@otago.ac.nz)	NZ07
Victoria University of Wellington – <a href="http://www.victoria.ac.nz">www.victoria.ac.nz</a> (VUW-NZAID@vuw.ac.nz)	NZ08
Waikato University – <a href="http://www.waikato.ac.nz">www.waikato.ac.nz</a> (int.centre@waikato.ac.nz)	NZ09

Further information (including useful links) on the scholarships are available on the following websites:

- (1) <http://www.aid.govt.nz/funding-and-contracts/scholarships/types-scholarship/commonwealth-scholarships>
- (2) <http://www.universitiesnz.ac.nz/NZCommonwealthScholarships>

#### **Priority Sectors of study**

Preference will be given to candidates who apply to study in academic disciplines relating to one or more of the following:

##### **Agriculture Development**

- Agri-business management, agricultural economics, agricultural systems and management, rural development, domestic supply chains and distribution, Natural Resource and Environmental Management.

- Biology, vegetable production, livestock/animal husbandry, crop management, sericulture (silk production), forestry, fisheries, aquaculture, agricultural pest management.
- Phytosanitary, bio-security, biotechnology, agricultural trade.
- Food production, food sciences/technology, post-harvest processing, food storage and packaging, food safety.

### **Renewable Energy**

- Geothermal, solar, hydro engineering and wind energy, renewable energy distribution systems.

## **2. Eligibility Requirements**

### **2.1 Qualifications**

#### **A. For a Master's Degree**

- (i) SC/GCE 'O' level with credits in at least five subjects, including English Language, at one and same sitting;
- (ii) HSC/GCE 'A' level with three subjects at Principal level obtained at one and the same sitting and a Pass in General Paper; and
- (iii) A minimum standard of Second Class Bachelor's degree.

#### **B. For a PhD Degree**

- (i) SC/GCE 'O' level with credits in at least five subjects, including English Language, at one and same sitting;
- (ii) HSC/GCE 'A' level in three subjects at Principal level obtained at one and the same sitting and a Pass in General Paper;
- (iii) A minimum standard of Second Class Bachelor's degree; and
- (iv) A Master's degree.

#### **C. An alternative qualification equivalent to above.**

It is the responsibility of candidates to provide any relevant documentation relating to the equivalence of certificates.

**Note:** Candidates who are selected for the scholarship would need to provide evidence of International English Language Testing System (IELTS) or Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) scores which are no more than two years old and meet the minimum requirement for entry into their preferred programme of study. Candidates who do not have these tests are strongly advised to initiate arrangements to sit for these at the earliest available slots.

## 2.2 Age Limit

Candidates should not be more than 35 years of age for Master's and 40 years of age for PhD by the closing date for the submission of applications.

## 2.3 Important documents to be submitted with application form

In order to enable the New Zealand Selection Committee to ascertain the relevance of study to the country's development, **all candidates** are requested to submit the following:

- (a) A statement of no more than 500 words describing the specific skills and knowledge the applicant wants to gain from the proposed study and how this study will contribute to the role and responsibilities of his/her current and/or future job;

### **and**

- (b) A statement on a separate sheet of no more than 500 words describing specifically how the proposed study and/or research will enable the applicant to contribute to the social or economic development of their home country. Reference to any existing national skills shortages or labour needs in the home country will strengthen the application;

### **For Research Masters and PhD applicants**

In addition to 2.3(a) and (b) above, candidates for Masters by Thesis and PhD have to provide an outline of no more than 500 words of the proposed research topic, research question and objectives, methodology and timeline. Please note that most PhD and some Masters research students will be expected to undertake fieldwork in their home country (funded by the scholarship). The candidate should clearly demonstrate the significance, benefit and application of the proposed research topic to the development of his/her home country.

Candidates should, along with the application forms, also submit any examinations results, academic transcripts and References reports. Candidates are also expected to indicate in their application whether they have been recipient of any academic prizes and evidence of publications where appropriate.

Applicants are also encouraged to provide evidence of other relevant activities pertaining to their field of application.

### **3. Conditions of Scholarship**

- 3.1 The scholarship covers tuition fees, allowances and international airfares as approved by the New Zealand authorities.
- 3.2 Applicants must make an early application to a university. **A Commonwealth Scholarship cannot be considered without evidence that the applicant has received an offer of a place from one of the eight Universities listed above. The letter of offer must be submitted along with the application form.**
- 3.3 Beneficiaries of scholarships will be required to sign an undertaking, thereby committing themselves to return to Mauritius immediately after completion of their studies and work for at least two years in the public or private sector.
- 3.4 Only the best qualified candidates will be selected. Candidates who would not have been informed of their nomination within six weeks as from the closing date for application should consider that they have not been selected.
- 3.5 The final decision to award the scholarships rests with the New Zealand Authorities.

**Note:** Nominees who are offered a Commonwealth Scholarship must:

- (a) reside in their country of citizenship until taking up the scholarship in New Zealand;
- (b) be able to satisfy Immigration New Zealand requirements for international student entry to New Zealand (i.e. medical examination and police clearance/character checks, etc.);
- (c) not hold another scholarship during the period of the Commonwealth Scholarship;
- (d) agree in writing that they will return to their country of citizenship for a minimum period of two years following completion of their scholarship in order to contribute to their country's social or economic development.

### **4. Mode of Application**

- 4.1 Applications must be made on the prescribed form available at the Scholarships Section, Ministry of Education and Human Resources, Tertiary Education and Scientific Research, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor, MITD House, Phoenix, or downloaded from the Ministry's website:

**<http://ministry-education.govmu.org>**

- 4.2 Candidates should ensure that **certified copies** of both birth and academic certificates, transcripts of final university results/marksheets and all other relevant documents are submitted to the Scholarships Section **by the closing date. Non-submission of these documents on time will result in their elimination from the selection exercise.** Certification of documents can be done at the Scholarships Section of the Ministry of Education and Human Resources, Tertiary Education and Scientific Research or at the Careers Guidance Service, NPF Building, Rose Hill. Where original documents are not in English, certified true copies of official English translations should be provided at the time of application.
- 4.3 The completed Application Form along with all supporting documents should be submitted to the Scholarships Section of the Ministry by ***Tuesday 31 May 2016 at 14.00 hours at latest.***
- 4.4 Responsible parties of applicants not in Mauritius may apply on behalf of their wards.
- 4.5 Applicants already in employment, whether public or private, must fill in the application form in duplicate. One copy thereof along with the relevant supporting documents should be submitted to the Scholarships Section, and one copy to the applicant's employer who has to confirm, in writing, whether the applicant would be released for the course, and if so, on what terms and conditions. ***Such information should be made available by the closing date.***
- 4.6 A Communiqué will be placed on the website in due course to inform applicants that the selection exercise has been completed.

**16 February 2016**

**Scholarships Section  
Ministry of Education and Human  
Resources, Tertiary Education and  
Scientific Research  
MITD House, Phoenix 73544**