

OAS 2019-2020 SCHOLARSHIP INFORMATION

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs announces that applications for the captioned fellowship at the Undergraduate and Graduate levels are currently being accepted.

Below details the information relevant to applying for an OAS Scholarship through the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. As you read the information on the OAS' website, please keep in mind that the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Commonwealth of The Bahamas operates as a National Liaison Office for the Commonwealth of The Bahamas.

Candidates are required to be citizens or permanent residents of The Bahamas; produce transcripts directly from high schools/universities to the Ministry with a minimum of 3.00 cumulative GPA; copies of high school/university diplomas; copies of B.G.C.S.E. certificates for Bachelors' applicants; one (1) passport photo; current medical certificate; three (3) statements of recommendation from Professors/Lecturers/Teachers and Employers, where applicable; copies of valid passport pages along with US visa page, where applicable, and statement of purpose (1,000-1,500 words).

Applications must be completed electronically on the OAS website at <http://www.oas.org/en/scholarships/> (OAS Regular Scholarships), uploading only documents as requested by the OAS, and a copy of the application with all supporting documents as listed above should be emailed to meryldeveaux@bahamas.gov.bs. A hard copy of the same should be submitted to the Ministry.

Please note that the hard copy application for the OAS Scholarship is due by **Friday, 30th May, 2019**. Your application package should be attentioned to:

Ms. Meryl Deveaux
Technical Assistance and Honorary Consuls Division
Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Goodmans Bay Corporate Centre
P. O. Box N - 3746
Nassau, The Bahamas

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Kindly note that the OAS scholarships cover the last 2 years of the undergraduate programme, therefore applicants at the Bachelor's level should have already completed at least 1 year and 1 semester of college before applying.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs serves as the ONE for the Commonwealth of The Bahamas. Please note the following information relative to the Call for Scholarship Applications for Undergraduate and Graduate Academic Studies from the Department of Human Development, Education and Employment of the Executive Secretariat for Integral Development (SEDI) of the Organisation of American States:

1. While the deadline established by the OAS is 12th June, 2019, the Ministry establishes it deadline for **30th May, 2019** to receive applications.

2. Preference will be given to Applicant whose school is a part of the Consortium of Universities. <http://www.oas.org/en/scholarships/regularprogram/consortium.asp>
3. The OAS Scholarships have a monetary cap of US\$10,000 per academic year. The benefits vary and may include:
 - a. a round trip ticket,
 - b. tuition and mandatory fees,
 - c. a monthly complementary subsistence allowance,
 - d. medical insurance, and
 - e. a yearly book allowance.
4. Please note that the OAS **does not** provide scholarships for studies in **Medical Sciences** or for **the learning of new languages**.

A OAS Checklist is attached for ease of reference.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the Technical Assistance Division of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs at (242) 356-5956/9.

LATE AND INCOMPLETE APPLICATIONS WILL NOT BE PROCESSED



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Department of Human Development, Education and Employment (DHDEE)
ACADEMIC SCHOLARSHIPS PROGRAM 2019-2020

**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 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. Studies may begin between August 2019 and April 2020.

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 the obligation 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. Selected candidates will be required to provide proof that they have additional funds. The benefits vary and are assigned on a case-by-case basis, and may include in the following order of priority:

1. Tuition and mandatory fees
2. Medical insurance
3. Monthly complementary subsistence allowance
4. Round trip ticket
5. Yearly book allowance

Where to study

Scholarships are tenable at academic institutions at any [OAS member state](#) including those participating in the OAS Consortium of Universities. Candidates must apply directly for admission to their desired programs of study¹. The OAS Consortium of Universities <http://www.oas.org/en/scholarships/regularprogram/2019/Academic-Program-Consortium-info-for-applicants-2019.pdf> was created in 2000 to negotiate tuition waivers, reductions and additional scholarship benefits with educational institutions in the Americas. The Consortium presently comprises over one-hundred higher education institutions². Applicants are strongly encouraged to apply to institutions participating in the OAS Consortium of Universities because of lower tuition rates negotiated with them.

¹ The Academic Program does not award scholarships for studies in the [Medical Sciences](#) or the learning of new languages.

² As per OAS regulations, no Member State may host more than 40% of the total number of graduate scholarship recipients. The OAS will reserve the right to select a different country of study for selected candidates.

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 an undergraduate degree (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 from the date of the scholarship offer, or
- Accepted into the university where he or she plans to study for the last two years of an undergraduate program that leads to a bachelor's degree. Admission letter must state that the applicant will complete the program of studies within 2 academic years³.

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).

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.

Scholarship Application Documents and Forms

The online application form is available at:

- Graduate Studies: <https://www.oas.org/fms/Announcement.aspx?id=1028&Type=1&Lang=eng>
- Undergraduate Studies: <https://www.oas.org/fms/Announcement.aspx?id=1029&Type=1&Lang=eng>

Applicants are required to submit the following documents to their National Liaison Offices (ONE):

1. Online Application Form in PDF format
2. Copy of the diploma for the highest degree obtained
3. Copies of transcripts of grades for all academic degrees completed and to be completed. (If the applicant is currently enrolled in a program of study, he/she will also need to submit the current transcript).
4. Proof of enrollment in graduate program or admission to a program of study.
5. Two (2) recommendation letters from current or former, professor, supervisor, or business leader, stamped and/or signed.
6. 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 relatives⁴ of the applicant.
7. Curriculum Vitae (must not exceed 2 pages).
8. Official Identification Card (ID) – Government issued ID by the Sponsoring Country or Passport
9. **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

1. Applicants apply online directly through the OAS online application form: www.oas.org/scholarships

³ 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.

⁴ 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.

2. Applicants print a copy of the application and submit it to their respective ONEs in their sponsoring country.
3. Each ONE establishes a deadline for applicants to submit their scholarship applications.
4. Complete applications are evaluated in-country by national authorities.

Evaluation Criteria

1. The objectives and priorities established in the Comprehensive Strategic Plan of the Organization;
2. The 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 return to the sponsoring country
 - 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 completeness and detail put 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 partnership-for-development programming.
6. Complete applications.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION:

- ✓ ONEs may have additional documents or forms required.
- ✓ Applicants who have questions regarding the status of their applications during the recruitment and selection process should contact their ONEs.
- ✓ Only complete applications will be considered.
- ✓ Questions about eligibility/document requirements and the application process may be sent to scholarships@oas.org.

CHECKLIST FOR ORGANISATION OF AMERICA SCHOLARSHIPS

NAME OF APPLICANT: _____

DOCUMENTS	COMPLETED/INCLUDED
Citizen or Permanent Resident of OAS Member State (The Bahamas)	
Be in good physical and mental health to complete Degree.	
Passes language competency (Interview at superior English)	
Agree to return to The Bahamas for no less than 24 months after completion of Degree	
Online OAS Application Form (Either Undergraduate or Graduate)	
Highest Obtained Education Credential i.e. [High School Diploma] Degree. (Must be notarized)	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Copy of [High School] Degree Diploma • Official Transcript mailed directly to MOFA 	
1 Recommendation Letter from a Current or Previous Employer	
2 Recommendation Letters from Current or Former Professors or Community Leaders	
Curriculum Vitae (No more than 2 pages)	
Copies of Passport (Relevant Pages (Bio-data Page))	
Ask if Applicant is pursuing a Degree in Medical Sciences or Language Fields	
University Requirement	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bachelor's Degree, Applicant must have completed 2 years of undergraduate study • Master's Degree, Applicant must a Bachelor's Degree • PhD Degree, must be a Master's Degree 	
Is the Applicant a Student a part of the Consortium of Colleges/Universities?	