

Offer of Scholarships by the Government of the Republic of Cuba Undergraduate Studies

For Study Commencing Academic Year 2024

The Government of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago invites **ONLINE** applications from citizens of Trinidad and Tobago to pursue undergraduate degrees under the Cuba Scholarship Programme.

A. Characteristics of the Offer of Scholarship

Purpose of Scholarship	(i) To enhance the human resource capacity in the health sector. (ii) To strengthen bilateral relations between Trinidad and Tobago and Cuba. (iii) To offer scholarships to citizens coming from families with low economic resources.
Number of Scholarships available	Three (3)
Area of Study to be awarded	Undergraduate Scholarships in Human Medicine
Who Can Apply	Citizens of Trinidad and Tobago.
Tenability	Undergraduate degrees are to be pursued at the University as indicated by the Government of the Republic of Cuba. The scholarship is renewed annually subject to satisfactory performance as evidenced by the attainment of a Grade Point Average of 2.50 or having met the requirements of the institution for the student to be in good academic standing.
Deadline date for submission	May 10, 2024 @ 4 p.m.
Response to Application	The advertising and selection process must be completed and nominations made by the respective Governments between 60 to 90 days from the close of the application phase of the scholarship.
General Conditions of Scholarship	Applicants should be aware of the following general conditions of the scholarship: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Government of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago (GoRTT) reserves the right to publish the names of candidates selected for scholarships. By applying for a scholarship, the applicant gives consent for such publication in the event that his/her application is successful. • Recipients will be given a formal Notification of Scholarship, requesting that they indicate their acceptance of the scholarship. • Formal confirmation of the scholarship will be issued when all conditions have been met. • Scholars will be expected to take up the scholarship from the date stated by the GoRTT in its Notification of the Scholarship. • Scholars will be expected to reside in Cuba throughout their scholarship and to seek prior approval for any proposed visits abroad, except for visits to Trinidad and Tobago. Expenses for any such travel are not included in this scholarship. • Scholars may not undertake paid employment during their scholarship without prior consent from the GoRTT. • This scholarship will be used to fund the programme of study for the specified period.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scholarships are valid for one degree only and scholars are 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 permission from the GoRTT and/or the sponsoring agency. • Scholars must maintain satisfactory progress reports and good standing as stipulated by the academic institution, or the scholarship will be withdrawn and the recipient liable to repay the GoRTT for the expenditure on the scholarship. • Scholars 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 scholarship and can lead to termination of the scholarship. Allowances are not payable during suspension. • The Government of the Republic of Cuba will require an original medical report indicating that the nominee is not a carrier of HIV or other infectious diseases. In addition, the medical report must show that he/she does not suffer from any physical or mental impediment that will prevent the exercise of the relevant profession. The nominee must not be pregnant before a scholarship can be confirmed. • The Government of the Republic of Cuba requires documents certifying that nominees have no criminal record. • Recipients of scholarships will be required to sign a Master Scholarship Loan Agreement (MSLA) to return to Trinidad and Tobago and report in person to the Ministry responsible for the administration of this scholarship within one (1) month of completion of the requirements for the award of the degree. • The Government of the Republic of Cuba and the GoRTT will only consider requests to extend the scholarship or grant leave to remain in Cuba post scholarship in instances where it is absolutely necessary. Strict conditions will apply. • The Ministry responsible for the administration of this scholarship 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 the scholarship will be subject to the local law and practices in the country of study and sponsoring country. • Scholars will be required to adhere to the laws and practices in the foreign jurisdiction where they reside. • All regulations concerning immigration and visas are set by the Government of the Republic of Cuba and are outside of the control of the Scholarships and Advanced Training Division, the agency responsible for managing the scholarship. • Successful candidates will be required to take a Spanish Language course for one (1) year before starting their academic programme or demonstrate an acceptable proficiency in the Spanish Language. • The duration of studies for the Scholarship in Human Medicine is 7 years. This includes a remedial Spanish Language course if necessary. • On successful completion of the programme of study in Human Medicine, scholars will be required to sit the <i>Caribbean Association of Medical Councils (CAMC)</i> Examination for registration with the Medical Board of Trinidad and Tobago.
Scholarship Procedure	<p>Final award of scholarships will be made when the Cabinet approves the scholarship and the Government of the Republic of Cuba advises of the selected nominees.</p> <p>Applicants will be notified as indicated above. The scholarship will be governed by a legally binding MSLA. A duly executed Scholarship Agreement, along with other scholarship policies, shall be the binding authority between the scholar and the GoRTT. Additional scholarship information is available on the Ministry of Education’s website, www.scholarships.moe.gov.tt.</p>

	The application and award process will be managed in accordance with the policies and procedures of the Government of the Republic of Cuba.
The role of the Republic of Government of Trinidad and Tobago (GoRTT)	<p>The nominating Government is responsible for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Disseminating information on the scholarships; • Ensuring that all applications are completed according to requirements; • Ensuring that only qualified applicants are shortlisted; • Nominating only the best among applicants; • Assisting successful nominees in their preparations for taking up the awards; and • Monitoring the scholar's adherence to the conditions as stipulated in the Scholarship Agreement.

B. FUNDING

The under-mentioned payments will be made by the Government of the Republic of Cuba:

Tuition, compulsory fees and books
Accommodation & meals
Health care services
Monthly subsistence

The under-mentioned payments will be made by the GoRTT:

Monthly supplemental allowance
Round trip return economy air travel

C. ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

To be eligible for this scholarship, an applicant must:

- 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 eighteen (18) and twenty-five (25) years old. Applicants must not be turning twenty-five (25) years old within the year.
- iii. Be in good physical and mental health to complete the programme successfully;
- iv. Be able to take up his/her scholarship as indicated by the Government of the Republic of Cuba.
- v. Possess the following:

A minimum of two (2) CAPE subjects at both Units I and II with Grades I, II or III, or two (2) GCE A' Level subjects with Grades A, B, or C in a related Science subject such as Biology, Chemistry and/or Physics;

And

CAPE Caribbean Studies and Communication Studies with Grades I,II, or III or GCE General Paper with Grades A, B, or C.

Or

An Associate Degree with a minimum Grade Point Average (GPA) of 3.00 with a major in a related Science subject;

Or

A Bachelor's Degree with a minimum Grade Point Average (GPA) of 2.50 with a major in a related Science subject.

D. REQUIREMENTS

- (a) Applicants are required to submit two (2) recommendations electronically.
- i. One must be an academic recommendation, the other, personal or professional.

The recommendations must attest to the applicant's ability to perform and to succeed as a scholar by providing relevant and practical examples where applicable. They must also describe what contribution the applicant will make and the likely impact the applicant will have on the institution/community/country.

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

- (b) Applicants must:
- i. Prepare and submit an essay, 'online' of no more than 500 words, which includes:
 - A description/discussion of a developmental need in your chosen field of study (Human Medicine) that exists in Trinidad and Tobago; and
 - A description/discussion of how exposure to this field of study in Cuba will equip you personally in meeting the identified need and the benefits that will accrue nationally in Trinidad and Tobago.

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.

- (c) Applicants must provide proof of his/her socio-economic background as evidenced by completion of the Cuba Scholarship Programme Means Test Application Form which must be signed by the Applicant and his/her Parent or Guardian. The Cuba Scholarship Programme Means Test must be authorized by a Commissioner of Affidavits or a Justice of the Peace.

E. SELECTION METHODOLOGY

For all awards, candidates must first meet the standards set for academic merit. Those candidates will then be assessed and recommended for a scholarship based on the following:

Quality and Content of Essay

Interview

(Area A) – Work and Volunteer Experience/ General/Competencies

(Area B) – Awareness of Needs of Sector

(Area C) – Evaluation of Need

N.B:

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

The GoRTT is responsible for the nomination of suitable candidates and this does not in any way guarantee selection or placement for this scholarship.

Please note:

Applicants must upload the following documents to their 'Online' application:

- i. Copies of Academic Certificates, Degrees or Diplomas;
- ii. Copy of **New Polymer Birth Certificate** (with affidavit where necessary);
- iii. Copy of Proof of Change of Name (where necessary);
- iv. Copy of relevant biodata page from valid Trinidad and Tobago Passport. If this is not available, a copy of Electoral Identification Card (back and front);
- v. Persons born outside of Trinidad and Tobago must provide evidence of citizenship (copy) and residency;
- vi. 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;
- vii. Any further documents which you prepared and which provide greater insight into your research proposal;
- viii. Applicants are required to submit a **Police Certificate of Character dated no later than 3 months.**

Please Note:

- Applicants must meet all the requirements of this scholarship to be considered eligible.
- Candidates must attain a minimum score of 50% at the interview in order to be considered for the nomination of a scholarship.
- 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.
- 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.
- Successful candidates will be required to submit translated copies of all documents.

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
#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 on or 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 APPLICATIONS: May 10th, 2024 @ 4pm

For further information please go to our website at www.scholarships.moe.gov.tt or contact the office at telephone number 622-2181 ext. 1943; or e-mail scholarshipenquiries@moe.gov.tt.

[Click here to access the application](#)