About OAS Scholarships

The objective of the Organization of American States (OAS) Program of Scholarships and Training is to assist the member states with their domestic efforts in pursuit of integral development goals by supporting human resource development in the priority areas established by the Summits of the Americas, the Strategic Plan for Partnership for Integral Development of the Inter-American Council for Integral Development (CIDI), and the OAS General Assembly.

The OAS is committed to promoting and supporting human capacity development and the strengthening of bonds among the peoples in the Hemisphere by maximizing the number of scholarships awarded in reputable educational institutions in its member states with the resources available. To achieve this goal, the OAS Scholarship Program will place more scholarship recipients in universities which belong to the OAS consortium of universities or with which the OAS will make written agreements for the placement of students. Accordingly, the number of scholarships which will be awarded to individuals who have obtained their own admission to a university will be seriously reduced. Thus, applicants who elect the Self-placed Scholarship option only will have less of an opportunity to win an OAS scholarship.

The funds provided by the OAS are intended to serve as a complement to those funds which the scholarship recipient may already be receiving from other sources or to assist the recipient with general costs to make the completion of her/his studies feasible.

Types of Academic Scholarships

Academic scholarships: These are OAS-funded scholarships awarded to persons to undertake undergraduate or graduate studies (also “university” or “postgraduate” studies, as named in the Manual of Procedures for the Scholarship and Training Programs of the OAS) that lead to a degree and/or graduate research at a university or higher learning institution in a member State. Studies may be carried out by on-site or by distance education or a combination of both, and must always be undertaken on a full-time basis. The scholarship is awarded for a maximum of two academic years.

A. Graduate scholarships: Are offered for study towards a Master’s or Doctorate degree. They may also be used for graduate research, if required by a specific academic program. Scholarships are awarded for an initial period of one academic year and may be renewed subsequently for up to one additional year if funds remain available and if the renewal is necessary to complete the program of study or research for which the scholarship was initially awarded. The OAS does not offer scholarships for studies in the medical sciences. The total financial award from the OAS may not exceed US$30,000.00 per academic year which includes tuition, benefits, and administrative costs. There are two types of graduate scholarships:

1. Self-Placed: Candidates apply directly for admission to the universities or educational institutions of their choice and apply separately to the OAS for scholarships to assist in financing those studies. Consideration for a scholarship is contingent on receipt of proof of admission to the university by the deadline established by the OAS General Secretariat. The number of self-placed
scholarships the OAS will award among all member States is more limited than OAS-placed scholarships, averaging 1 self-placed scholarship per country.

2. OAS-Placed: Candidates do not apply directly for admission to universities or educational institutions. Instead, candidates apply to the OAS only for a scholarship. The OAS seeks admission for those candidates selected for scholarships to recognized and reputable universities or educational institutions determined by the OAS, taking into consideration the preferred countries, language(s), and the intended fields and levels of study stated by the candidates in their applications to the fullest extent practicable. Depending on the individual case, the OAS may negotiate additional resources with these institutions which often results in the scholarship recipient receiving a full scholarship.

B. Undergraduate Scholarships: Undergraduate scholarships are offered only to candidates from the English-speaking Caribbean member states, for the last two years of study leading to an undergraduate degree (Bachelor's degree or its equivalent). Scholarships are awarded for an initial period of one academic year and may be renewed subsequently for up to one additional year if funds remain available and if the renewal is necessary to complete the program of study or research for which the scholarship was initially awarded. To apply for this classification of scholarship, the student must already be 1) enrolled in the program of study and eligible to graduate within 2 academic years from the date of the award or 2) accepted into the university where he/she plans to study for the last two years of the undergraduate degree (admission letter must state that the applicant will complete the program of studies within 2 academic years). The total financial award (tuition and benefits) from the OAS may not exceed US$30,000.00 per academic year which includes tuition, benefits, and administrative costs.

Some Key Eligibility Requirements for Applicants

1. Applicants must be citizens or permanent residents of an OAS Member State.
2. Applicants must possess the necessary educational background and professional experience to be accepted into the academic program identified by him/her for placement.
3. Applicants must have completed the highest degree required to undertake further graduate, or undergraduate, studies at the time of the deadline set by the National Liaison Office of their sponsoring country.
4. Applicants must be in general good health condition to complete the program successfully.
5. Applicants for OAS scholarships must be endorsed by the ONE in their Member State. OAS Scholarships are awarded to study in an OAS Member State other than the sponsoring country.
6. United States citizens or legal permanent residents must apply directly to the OAS Department of Human Development, in Washington D.C. United States citizens or legal permanent residents must include proof of such legal status.
7. Applicants must possess the language competence to undertake studies in the country of study. Any applicant for an OAS-placed award will be required, as part of the placement process, to provide proof of proficiency in the language of instruction via a Language Certificate.
8. Applicants for an OAS-placed award to study in the United States or Canada will be required to take and provide satisfactory scores for any and all admission and standardized tests (GRE, GMAT, and/or TOEFL), if required by the institutions, at their own cost. Considering the importance of standardized tests scores for the technical evaluation of applications, we strongly recommend that these tests results be included in the application package. Candidates should check admission requirements for the program of studies that they are interested in.
9. If, after a reasonable period, the OAS or its third-party administrator is unsuccessful in negotiating your placement at one of three universities or educational institutions, then the OAS’ offer to provide you with an OAS Academic Scholarship will be cancelled with no right
of appeal by you, and if the offer is cancelled, you will not receive an OAS Academic Scholarship.

10. Applicants must agree to return to reside in the sponsoring country for a period of no less than twenty-four months after completing of the program of study covered by the scholarship if they are awarded an OAS scholarship.

Evaluation Criteria:

1. The objectives and priorities established in the Strategic Plan for Partnership for Integral Development 2006-2009 which takes into account individual country and hemisphere-wide developmental needs;
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/country, and b) their five-year plan upon return to the sponsoring country.
   - the candidate’s university grade point average (GPA) and class ranking which should be considered superior by the country/institution from which the candidate is graduated which will facilitate the placement of an awardee in a reputable university
   - the scores obtained in the standarized tests, if applicable
   - the level of completeness and detail put into the preparation of the application is and how complete the required documentation is. This will indicate the academic aptitude of the awareness that the OAS Academic Scholarship Program is one that is internationally-recognized and very competitive
   - 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/country.
4. A geographic distribution that takes into account the greater needs of smaller and relatively less developed economies;
5. Potential and commitment of the candidate to apply the knowledge and skills acquired to the development of the sponsoring country;
6. Gender equality and equity as an important element in all partnership-for-development programming; and,
7. The financial need of the applicant, as established by the ONEs and National Commissions.

Selection Process

1. Applicants apply for an OAS scholarship through their sponsoring country National Liaison Office (ONEs).
2. All applications which are complete, received on time, and which meet the eligibility requirements stated in the scholarship announcement are evaluated and ranked by the sponsoring country’s National Commission which is made up of individuals from academia, business, NGO’s and the National Liaison Office. The National Commission recommends a list of pre-selected candidates to the OAS.
3. The ONEs forward the application files of sponsored pre-selected candidates to OAS Headquarters which then reviews them for completeness, deadlines and eligibility requirements.
4. The OAS presents only complete applications of pre-selected candidates to an international committee -the Academic and Technical Studies Scholarship Selection Committee (ATSSSC)- chosen by the Secretary General of the OAS. This Committee reviews, evaluates and ranks candidates to recommend for OAS scholarships to the Secretary General of the OAS.
5. Based on available financing and using the ranked, selected candidates list prepared by the ATSSSC, the OAS determines how many scholarships can be financed and awarded, and presents the list of these to the OAS Secretary General for his approval.

6. The OAS notifies the Permanent Mission of the Member States to the OAS, the OAS Country Offices, and ONEs of the OAS scholarships awards, which in turn will notify the awardees of the selection results.

7. If an awardee has been accepted for admission to an educational institution (self-placed option), the OAS will provide the awardee with a contract specifying the terms of the scholarship. At the same time, the sponsoring country will enter into a separate contract with the awardee to ensure reimbursement of the scholarship cost to the OAS if the awardee fails to return to reside in his/her sponsoring country after completion of the program of study covered by the scholarship, or violates any of the terms and conditions set forth in the Scholarship Contract and the Manual of Procedures.

8. If an awardee will be placed by the OAS (OAS-placed option), a preliminary placement agreement will be issued by the OAS. The OAS Scholarship contract and accompanying materials and the contract agreement with the sponsoring country will be issued once the placement in the institution of higher learning has been completed and approved.

Application Documents

The OAS Scholarship Application Form is an electronic form which must be completed online and submitted to the OAS database:

Graduate Scholarships: https://www.oas.org/fms/Announcement.aspx?id=128&Type=1&Lang=Eng
Undergraduate Scholarships: https://www.oas.org/fms/List.aspx?Type=1&Lang=Eng

Only the on-line OAS Application Form (098/01/07) will be accepted.

In the event that applicants experience difficulties filling out or sending this application electronically, they may send an e-mail to: scholtechassist@oas.org

A copy of the completed application in PDF format will be sent automatically by electronic mail (e-mail) to the applicant at his/her e-mail address. The applicant can then print and sign the application and submit one original and one copy of the application along with the originals and copies of the required documents and forms to the ONE. All forms and documents must be uploaded in PDF format and cannot exceed 6MB.

Required Forms:

Required forms can be found on the last page of the Application Form. Double-click to open, download and save them on your computer. They must be completed electronically or in typewritten format, signed and dated and then scanned and attached to your on-line application form.

1. Recommendation Forms:

   ▪ Use only the Recommendation Statement Form (099/01/07) to obtain two (2) recommendations, one of which must be from a current or former professor. Each of the recommenders must prepare and sign the recommendation in 3 original sets.

   ▪ Use only the Recommendation Form for Employer/Institution (100/01/07) to obtain one (1) recommendation from a current or previous employer. The recommender must prepare and sign the recommendation in 3 original sets. If unemployed or never employed, obtain a third recommendation using the Recommendation Statement Form above.

   NOTE: Recommendation letters may not be submitted from relatives of the applicant. 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. Certificate of Language Proficiency Form: Complete this if you intend to study in a language other than your native language. If you intend to study in an English-speaking country, the TOEFL test scores replace this certificate.

Required Documents:

3. Standardized test results, if required by the academic institution for OAS-placed candidates (See deadlines for due dates). If intending to study in the U.S. or Canada, be advised that the vast majority of universities require the GRE or GMAT tests, as well as TOEFL to issue an admission letter. The OAS institutional code for the GRE is 2354. The OAS institutional code for the TOEFL is 9358. Be advised that if you are selected to receive an OAS-placed scholarship, you will be required to submit 2 additional original tests scores for placement purposes.

4. Copy of the diploma (notarized by Notary Public or stamped by the university that issued it) for the highest degree obtained. Be advised that if you are selected to receive an OAS-placed scholarship, you will be required to submit 2 additional notarized/stamped copies of your diploma for placement purposes.

5. Original transcript of grades obtained for the highest degree completed (1 original). Be advised that if you are selected to receive an OAS-placed scholarship, you will be required to submit 2 additional original transcripts for placement purposes.

6. Original transcript of grades –or a copy stamped by the university) for the current academic program in which enrolled, if applicable (1 original). Be advised that if you are selected to receive an OAS-placed scholarship, you will be required to submit 2 additional original transcripts for placement purposes.

7. Curriculum Vitae (must not exceed 4 pages; do not attach copies of publications, diplomas or certificates)

Applicants selected for an OAS-placed scholarship to study in a country where the curriculum is taught in a language other than the one in which he or she completed previous studies, the OAS will request an official translation of the diploma and transcripts of highest degree obtained at the time the award is announced.

To be awarded an OAS scholarship, all recipients must be in sufficiently good health to be able to undertake and complete the selected course of study successfully and in a timely fashion, as determined by GS/OAS based on information and/or examinations requested by GS/OAS, as a condition for receipt of the scholarship. If that condition is not satisfied, the Scholarship may be withdrawn or cancelled. Thus, if awarded a scholarship, and at the timely request of the OAS/DHD, selected candidates will be required to submit a Medical History Form that attests to the sound mental and physical health of the candidate to undertake and complete the program of studies. Please note that applicants do not need to include this form in the application package to be submitted to the ONE during the application process. All costs associated with complying with the medical examination requirement are the responsibility of the selected candidate.

Important Dates

OAS-graduate scholarships will be awarded to begin studies in January 2010 through March 2011.
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<td>Announcement to OAS Member States</td>
<td>Friday, March 13th, 2009</td>
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<td>Deadline for reception of applications at OAS Headquarters</td>
<td>Monday, June 15th, 2009</td>
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<td>Deadline for submission of application and supported documents for U.S. citizens or permanent residents at OAS Headquarters in Washington DC</td>
<td>Friday, May 29th, 2009</td>
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<tr>
<td>Deadline for submission to OAS Headquarters of language certificates and standardized test results (TOEFL, GRE and/or GMAT)</td>
<td>Friday, August 14th, 2009</td>
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<td>Deadline for submission to OAS Headquarters of letters of admission from self-placed applicants who will begin studies between January and April of 2010</td>
<td>Friday, October 30th, 2009</td>
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<td>Deadline for submission to OAS Headquarters of letters of admission from self-placed applicants who will begin studies later on in 2010</td>
<td>Friday, July 2nd, 2010</td>
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<td>Meeting of the ATSSSC at OAS Headquarters</td>
<td>September 7th – 11th, 2009</td>
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<td>Contacting of selected candidates whose start date is in early 2010 (January to April 2010) and preparation of contracts for early 2010 start date.</td>
<td>October 12th - November 30th, 2009</td>
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Applicants who have questions regarding the status of their applications during the recruitment and selection process for OAS academic scholarships should contact their National Liaison Offices (ONEs).

Member States that have appointed more than one National Liaison Office (ONE) will need to submit to OAS one unified list containing the names of the pre-selected candidates presented by a Member State.

Questions may be sent to the Department of Human Development, Academic Scholarships Unit, scholarships@oas.org. Please indicate in your e-mail if your question relates to the graduate or the undergraduate scholarship program.

**Glossary of Terms**

**Academic and Technical Studies Scholarship Selection Committee (ATSSSC)** is the committee which reviews and evaluates the OAS Scholarship applications of the pre-selected candidates presented by the National Commissions.

**Applicant** is an individual who applies for an OAS scholarship.

**Application, application form, OAS Scholarship Application Form** refer to the form to be used by applicants in seeking an OAS Scholarship.

**Awardee** or **OAS Scholarship Awardee** is a Selected Candidate who has been awarded an OAS scholarship.

**Bachelor’s degree or First Degree** refers to a post-secondary formal degree program which can run from 3 – 6 years resulting in a first degree.

**Cap per scholarship** – is the maximum total monetary amount set for any individual OAS scholarship that may be awarded by the OAS in any given academic year.

**Certificate, Professional Certificate, Specialized Professional Certificate** – See *Minor Professions degree*

**Class Rank** – The position of a student in his or her graduating class, expressed as the placement of the student out of the total number of students in the graduating class.
**Consortium of Universities and other educational institutions** – is a group of participating higher education institutions and other educational institutions which have signed agreements with the GS/OAS for the mutual benefit of the universities and other educational institutions of the OAS.

| **GMAT (Graduate Management Admissions Test)** | required for applicants to graduate business or management programs in the United States |
| **Grade Point Average (GPA)** | The average grade earned by a student, figured by dividing the grade points earned by the number of credits. (See Maximum Grade Point Average) |
| **Grantee** | same as “recipient” |
| **GRE (Graduate Record Exam)** | commonly required of applicants to graduate schools in fields other than business, law, and medicine in the United States. |
| **Host country** | refers to the country where the Recipient will pursue his/her studies, will conduct research and receive practical training, as applicable; |
| **Maximum Grade Point Average** | is the highest grade point average that the host institution awards. For example, a student GPA might be 3.4 out of 4.0. |
| **National Liaison Office (ONE)** | is the official channel determined by each Member State government for the processing of OAS Scholarships. |
| **National Selection Commission** | is the entity chosen by a member state government to review the completed application of OAS scholarship applicants who meet eligibility requirements and rank them in accordance with the criteria established in the Manual of Procedures. |
| **Native Languages** | In terms of that view, the person is defined as a native speaker of the first language, although one may also be a native speaker of more than one language if all of the languages were learned without formal education, such as through cultural immersion before puberty |
| **OAS-Placed Scholarship** | refers to an Academic or Technical Studies Scholarship where the OAS General Secretariat on its own or through an agent, negotiates admission of the OAS scholarship awardee at a university or other educational institution preferably within the OAS Consortium of Universities or other educational institutions. |
| **OAS website** | refers to the internet home page of the Department of Human Development of the Organization of American States (http://www.educoas.org/portal/); |
| **Permanent Resident** | Any person not a citizen of the United States who is residing in the US under legally recognized and lawfully recorded permanent residence as an immigrant. A person lawfully in the country as an immigrant but who is not yet a citizen. |
| **Pre-selected Candidate** | is an applicant who has been selected for consideration by the National Commission and presented by the sponsoring Member State to be considered for an OAS scholarship. |
| **Recipient** | is an awardee who has accepted the OAS scholarship awarded to him/her; |
| **Scholarship** | refers to a study grant; |
| **Selected Candidate** | is a candidates elected by the Academic and Technical Studies Scholarship Selection Committee or by the Ad-Hoc Professional Development Selection Committee, as the case may be. |
| **Self-Placed Scholarship** | refers to an OAS Academic Studies or Technical Studies Scholarship where the applicant applies directly for admission to a university or educational institution of his/her choice and applies separately for an OAS scholarship through the competent national institution in his/her sponsoring member country; |
| **Special Caribbean Fellowships (SPECAF)** | refers to scholarships granted to eligible persons for completion of the last two years of university study for a first or college degree. |
| **Sponsoring country or sponsoring member state** | refers to the OAS member state that endorses the pre-selected candidate; |
| **TOEFL (Test of English as a Foreign Language)** | language proficiency exam often required of applicants to U.S. universities |