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(TELEGRAM)

New Zealand Government Scholarship for Africans

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Background Information

The New Zealand Government gives scholarships to individuals from developing countries to study for undergraduate or postgraduate courses, of which Africans are only eligible for PG courses. Also, amongst the different kinds of New Zealand scholarships, Africans are only eligible for two namely: **New Zealand Aid Development Scholarship** and **New Zealand Commonwealth Scholarship**.

The mode of application differs for the two scholarships. The New Zealand Commonwealth Scholarship is applied for through the Ministry of education of eligible countries; in Nigeria, it is handled by FSB and they select just two candidates for this scholarship. The New Zealand Aid Development Scholarship, still and all, can be applied for via the internet. It is important to know about the strict conditions of the scholarship before you decide to apply. You can read about the conditions on the web page. But the most important to take note of is that after your studies, you are not allowed to stay in New Zealand for more than two years—being a developmental scholarship. It is required of scholars to return to their home countries and implement what has been learned.

Application Process

The first step to take is to open a realme account, and then fill an eligibility form. Before you fill the eligibility form, please read the eligibility criteria; generally, the most important criteria are that: you must currently be living in your home country, you must have work experience, and be less than 39 years of age. Please note that not all courses are available for study; they give priority to certain courses

depending on the country. For most African countries, eligible Fields/Courses fall under the following development areas: Renewable Energy, Agriculture/Food Security, Good Governance.

Candidates will be required to write about 7 essays—the essay prompts change every year. As with every other scholarship application, these essays are crucial. More importantly, certain traits are to be showcased. Details about this can be found via the link: <https://www.mfat.govt.nz/en/aid-and-development/new-zealand-government-scholarships/new-zealand-scholarships-for-international-tertiary-students/how-we-select-scholars/>

After reviewing the applications, the committee carries out an eligibility check in order to streamline the number of applicants. They then invite successful candidates to write two tests—psychometric and personality tests. The psycho testing is not so difficult, it is just abstract reasoning, but it can be tricky and complicated if you have no idea of it, so it might be necessary to learn about such test—probably via google—before even being invited for the test. As for personality test, please do read about it. After the tests, the essays are reviewed, and successful candidates are shortlisted for skype/phone interviews.

Nota bene: PhD applicants are meant to seek supervisors, so you are to apply to your university of choice beforehand. As for Diploma and MSc applicants, you do not have to apply to your university, MFAT will do that if you're successful, but you have to research thoroughly for requirements, the University that offers your courses, and ensure that you choose the best for your courses. You will also have to explain why you have chosen that course, so choose courses that are relevant to your previous studies/experience. The only documents that is required at the application stage is your transcript. If you don't have it, you have the option of inputting your scores, but you have to provide it for admission.

Benefits of Scholarship

The Scholarship is completely full and it covers your flight expenses. There is a stipend of about US\$330 weekly. You will also have an establishment allowance, Living Allowance and Insurance. Research associated costs are covered as well. You will, however, have to take responsibility for your Visa Associated cost. In addition, some schools will also require a standardized test result such as IELTS. The good news is that they reimburse you for your visa cost and IELTS fee (if applicable).

Questions and Answers

Q. is it only MFCA that select university for us or we select university of our interest?

A. You get to select the university of choice (2 choices).

Q. Does it mean management students cannot apply for this scholarship'?

A. You can if it will develop Energy, Agriculture or Governance

Q. At what stage is recommendation letter required?

A. at admission stage, your chosen university will contact you to submit that.