



The Government of Trinidad and Tobago

Ministry of Tertiary Education and Skills Training (TEST)

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FOR UNDERGRADUATE STUDIES

The Government of Trinidad and Tobago invites citizens to apply for financial assistance pursuing post-secondary or undergraduate studies.

A. ELIGIBILITY

Applicants must:

1. Be a citizen of Trinidad and Tobago and **MUST NOT** be a permanent resident of any other country
2. Be **ENROLLED** in an accredited and post-secondary, university or tertiary level institution;
3. Have a minimum GPA of 2.00 if they have been enrolled in the programme of study for more than one academic year.
4. **NOT** hold a previous bachelor's degree;
5. Programme of study **MUST** be accredited by the Accreditation (ACTT) Council of Trinidad of Tobago

Programmes eligible for financial assistance:-

1. Approved/Accredited programmes available locally and regionally; or
2. Accredited/Recognised programmes at foreign institutions provided that:
 - i. The programme of study is not available locally or regionally and is relevant to the current development needs of the country
 - ii. Financial assistance is needed to complete **final year of study**.

B. CHARACTERISTICS OF THE FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAMME

Financial Assistance (Studies) Programme is specifically established to provide **SUPPLEMENTARY** financial support in circumstances of need and is not intended to be a student's main source of funding and is a **ONE TIME ONLY** assistance

1. The programme of study **MUST BE** at the post-secondary or undergraduate level;
2. **Recipients of scholarships** offered by and through the Government of Trinidad and Tobago are **NOT ELIGIBLE** for funding under this programme;

3. The recipient of financial assistance must enter into an agreement with the Government of Trinidad and Tobago and sign an undertaking to serve and undertake employment within Trinidad and Tobago for a period as determined by the agreement upon successful completion of the programme of study.
4. Financial assistance will only be provided for programmes of study with a duration of nine (9) months and over;
5. Financial assistance will only be provided for **ONE** programme of study;
6. Financial assistance approved is **NOT TRANSFERABLE** to another programme of study or academic institution;
7. Financial assistance for **pre-requisite or qualifying courses WILL NOT be considered**;
8. In evaluating applications, the Financial Assistance Selection Committee shall accord priority to applicants undertaking studies within the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago and to applicants undertaking studies in areas identified as a high priority for national development within the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago ;
9. The Government of Trinidad and Tobago reserves the right to publish the names of applicants selected for financial assistance. By applying for financial assistance, the applicant gives consent for such publication in the event that his/her application is successful.
10. Applicants will be given a formal Notification of Financial Assistance and will be required to acknowledge the notification, indicating his/her interest in the financial assistance as notified. Applicants must consider and accept the terms and conditions of the financial assistance being provided.
11. Applicants may be required to attend an interview;
12. The Financial Assistance Selection Committee may conduct an official visit to the applicant's home to verify information;
13. Submission of an application **DOES NOT** guarantee financial assistance.

C. ASSESSMENT CRITERIA

Applicants are assessed based on the following:

1. The applicant's need for financial assistance as evidenced by the analysis of the applicant's overall income (including the sources), expenditure and commitments;

2. The applicant's overall financial need in terms of the quantity required to pursue the programme of study;
3. The applicant's source of funding and ability to source other forms of financial assistance;
4. The applicant's area of study and its alignment with the priority areas for national development; (See website)
5. The Grade Point Average (where applicable);
6. Outcome of the interview;
7. Official visit to the applicant's home (where applicable).

For further information on the Policy governing the award of Financial Assistance please visit the websites at:

www.TEST.gov.tt
www.scholarships.gov.tt

Application forms can also be collected at:

The Secretariat

**Financial Assistance (Studies) Programme
Ministry of Tertiary Education and Skills Training (TEST)
The International Waterfront Complex, Levels 16, Tower C
#1a Wrightson Road Port of Spain
Telephone: (868) 625-1380
Fax: (868)623-8585**

Please note:

1. **COMPLETED APPLICATION FORMS, ALONG WITH ALL THE SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS, MUST BE RETURNED TO THE SECRETARIAT AT THE ABOVE ADDRESS. APPLICATION FORMS ARE NOT TO BE COPIED**
2. **LATE APPLICATIONS AS WELL AS INCOMPLETE APPLICATIONS WILL NOT BE CONSIDERED.**

**DEADLINE DATE FOR SUBMISSION:
Friday 20th June, 2014**