



Scholarship & Educational Loan Division
Shirley Street
P. O. Box N-3913
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THE NATIONAL MERIT SCHOLARSHIP

The Commonwealth of The Bahamas is committed to providing scholarships for as many of its citizens as possible in disciplines based on our country's labour and development needs. Award recipients are selected on the basis of academic success at the high school or college level, AND financial need.

The **National Merit Scholarship** is awarded annually to Bahamian candidates who have completed an approved secondary education curriculum or syllabus in The Bahamas AND/OR have completed at least one year of post-secondary education in The Bahamas at an approved local tertiary institution. The scholarship will be given for a maximum of four (4) years of undergraduate study tenable at approved local tertiary institutions, and accredited Universities or Colleges abroad. Each scholarship award will have a maximum value of up to \$25,000.00* per annum. The recipient must maintain a 3.00 G.P.A for the first year and subsequent years of study. Upon completion, the recipient of the National Merit Scholarship will be expected to return to The Bahamas and serve in the area for which he/she was trained.

***Value of award subject to change without notice.**

APPROVED PROGRAMMES

Merit Scholarships are awarded for any course of study approved by the National Scholarship Committee as they are based mainly on the academic achievements of the applicant.

At the time of application, the candidate must:

- a) be a citizen of The Commonwealth of The Bahamas;
- b) be a graduate of or expect to graduate from a Bahamian secondary school, having completed a minimum of three (3) consecutive years of secondary education in The Bahamas (see note below);
- c) be under the age of twenty (20);
- d) have a minimum secondary school cumulative GPA of 3.50 or equivalent at the end of the term prior

to application;

e) have sat a minimum of seven (7) BGCSE's including English Language and Mathematics, and achieved a minimum of seven "A" passes, prior to the time of application;

f) have applied to or been accepted to an accredited international College or University;

g) have a minimum SAT score of 1220 or higher.

NOTE: Applicants who have already graduated from secondary school must apply within one year of graduation. Students currently enrolled in College/University abroad will NOT be considered.

SELECTION CRITERIA

1. Academic Merit - based on high school GPA, BGCSE grades, test scores (including SAT I's, SAT II's, AP's, IB's, COB GPA, etc.), rigor of academic programme, honours, awards and recommendations;
2. Quality and reputation of the proposed College / University;
3. Leadership and contributions to school and community;
4. Candidate's personal qualities including leadership skills, maturity, independence, sense of direction, motivation, self-expression, and enthusiasm;
5. Ability to perform as an Ambassador for The Bahamas.

Note: all short listed candidates will be interviewed by the Selection Committee.

SCHOLARSHIP RULES AND REQUIREMENTS

1. **Notification of Candidates:** The National Scholarship Committee will inform each applicant by telephone, e-mail or post of its decision. The decision of the Committee is FINAL.
2. **Continuation of Scholarship:** Scholarship recipients must submit college transcripts to the Scholarship and Educational Loan Division, The Ministry of Education, Shirley Street at the end of each semester. For continuation of the scholarship, candidates must earn the minimum grade point average required for their award in each semester.
3. **Reinstatement:** If a recipient must discontinue his or her education temporarily or fails to meet the required grade point average to maintain the award, he or she must submit, in writing to the National Scholarship Committee, a full explanation of the circumstances leading to the withdrawal, or fall in academic standing, supported by documentary evidence. These will be carefully weighed and considered before a decision is made regarding reinstatement.
4. **National Merit Scholarships provide financial assistance** only and **will NOT cover** the entire cost of your educational expenses. Recipients **MUST** show proof that they can cover the full cost of tuition and lodging **BEFORE** funds are granted.
5. All scholarships are for a **FULL-TIME COURSE LOAD** (at least 12 credit hours per semester) & recipients **MUST BE ENROLLED** at the time of the award.
6. **SCHOLARSHIPS CANNOT BE DEFERRED FOR MORE THAN ONE (1) SEMESTER**

The selection of scholarship recipients is entirely in the hands of the National Scholarship Committee. However, if there are any questions as to the policy concerning the programme, or the selection process, they may be directed to The Chairman, National Scholarship Committee, and delivered to the Scholarship & Educational Loan Division, Ministry of Education, Shirley Street, Nassau, Bahamas or mailed to P. O. Box N-3913, Nassau, Bahamas. Candidates may also email; allbahamasmerit@moe.edu.bs.

CONDITIONS OF ACCEPTANCE

1. I have additional resources available to cover all remaining expenses for my first year AND subsequent years of college including travel to and from college.
2. I agree that if at any time I obtain other awards or scholarships which cover my education cost, I will notify the Scholarship & Educational Loan Division immediately in writing.
3. I understand and agree to submit to the Scholarship & Educational Loan Division an official transcript, from the institution in which I am attending, at the END of EACH semester.
4. I understand and agree that I must take a **FULL-TIME COURSE LOAD** (at least 12 credit hours per semester) and that I must be currently enrolled in order to receive funding from this programme.

I understand that if I fail to provide complete and true information, fail to promptly notify the Scholarship & Educational Loan Division of any changes in any information provided, or fail to comply with the rules, regulations, and obligations of the scholarship programme, my scholarship can be cancelled or revoked immediately and legal action may be taken that may require me to repay any financial assistance that I received. I further understand that it is an offense to knowingly provide false information for the purposes of obtaining or receiving financial assistance.

*If **LETTER OF ACCEPTANCE** from a college or university or technical institution is not available at closing date for submission of this application, please **submit the application** with all required information before the deadline date. You can submit the acceptance letter at a later date. If you are selected, you will have to present the acceptance letter.

THE NATIONAL MERIT SCHOLARSHIP is a FINANCIAL assistance programme and is NOT intended to cover all of your educational expenses

5. Before completing the designated online application you will need to have scanned and saved the following documents, **in PDF format**:

- ✓ COPY OF THE FIRST FOUR PAGES OF A VALID BAHAMIAN PASSPORT
- ✓ A COPY OF A NATIONAL INSURANCE CARD
- ✓ A COPY OF THE ACCEPTANCE LETTER
- ✓ A SCHEDULE OF TUITION AND FEES
- ✓ AN OFFICIAL TRANSCRIPT FROM YOUR LAST INSTITUTION
- ✓ COPIES OF CERTIFICATES (BGCSE/SAT/ACT/AP/DIPLOMAS, ETC)
- ✓ THE REQUIRED ESSAY(S) AS STIPULATED FOR A PARTICULAR AWARD
- ✓ THE REFERENCE LETTERS REQUIRED FOR YOUR PARTICULAR AWARD
- ✓ DOCUMENTS INDICATING (1) LEVEL OF STUDY AND (2) ANTICIPATED GRADUATION DATE
- ✓ A SCHEDULE/BILL OF TUITION AND FEES

Please Note: Incomplete and late applications will not be considered.

APPLICATIONS MUST BE COMPLETED AND ALL REQUIRED SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS MUST BE UPLOADED ON OR BEFORE THE DUE DATE SPECIFIED BELOW.

**APPLICATION DEADLINE: LAST FRIDAY IN APRIL
IN THE YEAR YOU ARE APPLYING**