



**Scholarship & Educational Loan Division**

**Shirley Street**

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## **NATIONAL ACADEMIC 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 Academic Scholarship** is awarded annually to Bahamian students who have completed secondary education in The Bahamas and who wish to pursue professional or academic training. Recipients of the National Academic Scholarship award must maintain an overall grade point average (G.P.A.) of at least 3.0 out of a possible 4.0 in each semester to retain the scholarship. Each award will have a maximum value of up to \$10,000.00\* per annum and will be given for no more than four (4) years of study at approved accredited Universities or Colleges abroad. Upon completion, the recipient of the National Academic Scholarship will be expected to return to The Bahamas and serve in the area for which he/she was trained.

### **GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS**

The following documents **must** be submitted with this application:

- Copies of relevant examination certificates and test scores (AA, GCE, BGCSE, SAT, etc.)**
- Two (2) letters of reference: one (1) from a high school teacher/lecturer or an employer and one (1) from a community leader**
- A copy of the acceptance letter**
- Official up-to-date transcripts from high school(s), and or University of The Bahamas or other institutions**
- A copy of the first four (4) pages of your passport or certificate of citizenship**
- A copy of your valid National Insurance Card**
- A brief statement of no more than 150 words outlining your career plans, intension to return to The Bahamas and the contribution you would like to make after completing your programme of academic training.**

- ❑ **Proof of Parent/Guardian income(letter of employment from both parents/guardians or salary slip)**
- ❑ **Certificate of medical fitness(can be submitted after notification that you have received the award)**

### APPROVED PROGRAMMES

Academic 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. Academic Scholarships are awarded by the National Scholarship Committee for any approved course of study considered important for national development. (See [Approved course listing \(Link\)](#))

### SELECTION CRITERIA

To apply for the awards, you must meet the following requirements:

- Applicant must be a **Bahamian citizen**.
- **Minimum required GPA** of 3.0 (or equivalent) for consideration for the **National Academic Scholarship**
- (5 ) BGCSEs with "A" passes
- **Financial Need:** Analysis of family earned income, other awards, scholarships or loans
- Exhibit good leadership qualities/contribution to school and community.
- **Acceptance** in an approved accredited institution pursuing an approved course of study.
- Must not be in possession of another **Ministry of Education award/scholarship at the time of application.**
- Pursue a **minimum of 12 credits** per semester

### 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 Academic 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.

### 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 ACADEMIC 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

**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: APRIL 30TH**

**IN THE YEAR YOU ARE APPLYING**