



**Ministry of Education
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THE PUBLIC SCHOOLS SCHOLARSHIP IS OFFERED ONLY TO ELIGIBLE STUDENTS GRADUATING FROM A PUBLIC SCHOOL IN THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE BAHAMAS IN THE YEAR OF WHICH THEY PLAN TO ATTEND COLLEGE.

OVERVIEW

The Public Schools Scholars Programme is a scholarship initiative that was designed to motivate, elevate and transform the lives of Bahamian public school graduates by leveraging the existing Ministry of Education scholarship budget and partnering with international colleges and universities in the Caribbean, US, Canada, and Europe to increase the financial capacity for more Bahamian public high school graduates to obtain a college education.

The Programme seeks to promote college access and awareness while assisting students through the college admissions and scholarship application process. Students are selected, coached and mentored during their transition from high school throughout their college completion.

GENERAL INFORMATION

The Ministry of Education partners with the institutions that have robust international scholarship initiatives and desire to foster agreements that will diversify their student pool. The Ministry of Education will offer guaranteed scholarship awards for each Bahamian high school graduate enrolled in the programme. The award will range from US \$7,500 but will not exceed US \$15,000 per academic year and the institution is required to offer a matching grant of equal or higher value. Additionally, students have the ability to vie for any additional awards that are available based on the students' merit, need and interests.

Eligible candidates must meet the admissions requirement of the institution, have a genuine interest in a career of national need, outstanding leadership and character traits, proof of extra-curricular involvement and contributions to their school community along with a demonstrated financial need and a genuine desire to pursue a college education. Priority is given to students who will be the first in their families to obtain a college education.

Qualified Bahamian public high school candidates may openly apply to the institutions that have established an official agreement with the Ministry of Education. However, the institution and a representative from the SELD- Scholarship Resource Centre will collaborate to identify and select the successful candidates through a formal interview and selection process.

SCHOLARSHIPS CANNOT BE DEFERRED FOR MORE THAN ONE (1) SEMESTER

SELECTION CRITERIA

To be eligible as a candidate for a Public Schools Scholars Award, a student must meet the following criteria:

- ❑ Be a Bahamian citizen.
- ❑ Be a first generation college students (first preference).
- ❑ Be enrolled in a public senior high school.
- ❑ Be eligible to graduate in June of the year of high school completion.
- ❑ Have a GPA of 3.00 or higher for Academic Students and 2.75 GPA for Technical & Vocational Students.
- ❑ Have a SAT score of at least 1000 or an ACT score of at least 22.
- ❑ Have at least five (5) BGCSE (Bahamas General Certificate of Secondary Education) Examinations with grade of a “C” or above inclusive of Mathematics and English Language (Academic Student Requirements).
- ❑ Adhere to the Public School Scholars Code of Conduct
- ❑ Be willing to serve an ambassadorial role for the college and the country.
- ❑ Be eligible for a Student Visa.
- ❑ Complete all Visa requirements and fees.
- ❑ Register each semester for a minimum of 15 hours/credits.
- ❑ Be pursuing one of the **outlined** careers of national need.

SCHOLARSHIP RENEWAL GUIDELINES:

- ❑ Maintain a minimum 2.75 GPA for Technical and Vocational Programmes and a 3.00 GPA each semester based on full time enrollment
- ❑ Pursue a minimum of 15 credits per semester
- ❑ Submit official transcript and course selection form at the end of each semester to the Ministry of Education Tertiary Section
- ❑ Complete a one-page reflective personal evaluation at the end of each semester
- ❑ Promote college readiness as a PSSP ambassador at your former high school, through a coordinated annual visit scheduled via the Guidance Department.
- ❑ Inform the Ministry of Education of any change(s) while you are attending college /university

GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS

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

- ❑ Copies of relevant examination certificates and test scores (AP, BGCSE, ACT, SAT, etc.)
- ❑ Three (3) letters of recommendation:
 - Two (2) from teachers at your school
 - One (1) from a guidance counselor at your school
- ❑ A copy of the college/ university acceptance letter
- ❑ An up-to-date official school transcript
- ❑ A copy of the first four (4) pages of your passport or certificate of citizenship
- ❑ A copy of your valid National Insurance Card
- ❑ A valid Police Character Certificate
- ❑ A medical certificate (Required before the issuance of the award)
- ❑ One (1) original compulsory essay on the topic below:

Compulsory Essay

What does a College Education mean to me? (If you are the first in your family please indicate the value this opportunity will bring to you and your family.)

***NB - You will need to have scanned and saved the required documents in PDF format.**

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

**ABSOLUTELY NO LATE APPLICATIONS
WILL BE CONSIDERED**

APPLICATION DEADLINE: MARCH 31st

**THE PUBLIC SCHOOL SCHOLARS PROGRAMME
is a FINANCIAL assistance programme and is NOT
intended to cover all of your educational expenses.**