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OFFER OF SCHOLARSHIPS UNDER THE NEW ZEALAND COMMONWEALTH SCHOLARSHIP AND FELLOWSHIP PLAN 2013/2014

Applications are invited from suitably qualified Mauritian nationals for the award of two scholarships (one male and one female) offered by the Government of New Zealand through “Universities New Zealand” for Masters and/or PhD Level studies in New Zealand. The Programmes are due to start in February 2014.

Preference will be given to applicants opting for studies in one of the following priority fields as identified by the New Zealand Government:

- Leadership and Governance
- Economics
- Public sector governance and reform
- Environmental studies
- Education
- Health
- Agriculture and Fisheries
- Biosecurity and Food Safety
- Infrastructure and utility
- Human Rights and Gender

Candidates are also advised to consult the List of Indicative Priority Fields of Study available for consultation on the Notice Board, Ground Floor of the Ministry of Education and Human Resources, MITD House, Phoenix, or on the following website:

http://ministry-education.gov.mu

For more information the following website may be consulted:

http://www.aid.govt.nz/funding-and-contracts/scholarships

2. Eligibility Requirements
2.1 Qualifications

A. For a Master’s Degree

(i) SC/GCE ‘O’ level with credits in at least five subjects, including English Language, at one and same sitting;
(ii) HSC/GCE ‘A’ level with three subjects at Principal level obtained at one and the same sitting; and

(iii) A minimum standard of Upper Second Class Bachelor’s degree.

B. For a PhD Degree

(i) SC/GCE ‘O’ level with credits in at least five subjects, including English, at one and same sitting;

(ii) HSC/GCE ‘A’ level in three subjects at Principal level obtained at one and the same sitting;

(iii) A minimum standard of Second Class Bachelor’s degree; and

(iv) A Master’s degree.

C. An alternative qualification equivalent to above.

2.2 Age Limit

Candidates should not be more than 35 years of age for Master’s and 40 years of age for PhD by the closing date of submission of applications.

2.3 Eligibility Criteria

To be eligible to be considered for a New Zealand Commonwealth Scholarship, applicants must:

(a) not have citizenship or permanent residence status of New Zealand or Australia, or another developed country;

(b) not be married or engaged to be married to a person who holds, or who is eligible to hold, citizenship or permanent residence status of New Zealand, Australia or another developed country;

(c) be residing and working in Mauritius for at least two years prior to application. Relevant evidence to that effect must be submitted;

(d) be applying to commence a new qualification and not be seeking funding for one already commenced at Master’s or PhD Level;

(e) satisfy the admission requirements of the New Zealand education institution in which the studies are to be undertaken, including its criteria pertaining to English language;
(f) be available to commence their academic studies in New Zealand by the start of the New Zealand academic year in February 2014;

(g) not hold or have held, a New Zealand Government or Australia Government scholarship in the 24 months preceding the scholarship start date; and

(h) Applicants cannot:

convert another tertiary scholarship (either in New Zealand or in another country) to a Commonwealth Scholarship in New Zealand;

Note: Students who choose to have their immediate family members join them in New Zealand will be responsible for their financial support.

3. **Conditions of Scholarship**

3.1 The scholarship covers tuition fees, allowances and international airfares as approved by the New Zealand authorities.

3.2 **Candidates should have secured admission to their preferred New Zealand education institution. Evidence of such admission or even a conditional offer should be attached to the application form.**

3.3 The proposed level of study should be at a higher level than qualifications already earned.

3.4 Candidates having already benefited from a scholarship through the Government of Mauritius will not be eligible to apply for this scholarship.

3.5 Beneficiaries of scholarships must enter into a bond, thereby committing themselves to return to Mauritius immediately after completion of their studies and work for at least five years in the public or private sector.

3.6 Only the best qualified candidates will be selected. Candidates who would not have been informed of their nomination within six weeks as from the closing date for application should consider that they have not been selected.

3.7 The final decision to award the scholarships rests with the New Zealand Authorities.

4. **Mode of Application**

4.1 Applications must be made on the prescribed form available at the Scholarships Section, Ministry of Education and Human Resources, 1st Floor, MITD House, Phoenix, or downloaded from the Ministry’s website:

http://ministry-education.gov.mu
Applicants may also submit applications on-line on the following website:

http://www.gov.mu

However, applicants should submit **originals along with copies** of all supporting documents after the online application which should not be later than the closing date specified below.

4.2 Three references (not more than 24 months old) on official letterhead, supporting the scholarship application to study in New Zealand, and relevant to their proposed study programme or research topic should be submitted. References should be provided from the **applicant’s current employer and a former lecturer or academic supervisor** (in an area of study relevant to the application), and where possible, a **relevant government or community based organization**.

4.3 Candidates should submit:

(i) A 500-word statement describing the specific skills and knowledge the applicant wishes to gain from the proposed study and how this will contribute to the applicant’s current and/or future job;

(ii) a 500-word statement describing how the applicant’s proposed area of study will enable them to contribute to the social or economic development of their home country; and

(iii) A 500-word statement outlining the proposed research topic.

4.4 Candidates should ensure that **originals along with certified copies** of certificates, transcripts of final university results/marksheets and all other relevant documents relating to their qualifications are submitted to the Scholarships Section **by the closing date**. **Non-submission of these documents on time will result in their elimination from the selection exercise**. Certification of documents can be done at the Scholarships Section of the Ministry of Education and Human Resources or at the Careers Guidance Service in Rose Hill.

4.5 The completed Application Form along with all supporting documents should be submitted to the Scholarships Section of the Ministry by **Friday 5 July 2013 at 14.00 hours at latest**. Where original documents are not in English, certified true copies of official English translations should be provided at the time of application.

4.6 Responsible parties of applicants not in Mauritius may apply on behalf of their wards.
4.7 Applicants already in employment, whether public or private, must fill in the application form in duplicate. One copy thereof along with the relevant supporting documents should be submitted to the Scholarships Section, and one copy to the applicant’s employer who has to confirm, in writing, whether the applicant would be released for the course, and if so, on what terms and conditions. Such information should be made available by the closing date.

4.8 Candidates who have applied following the first Communiqué should re-apply.

4.9 A Communiqué will be placed on the website in due course to inform applicants that the selection exercise has been completed.

Ministry of Education and Human Resources

6 June 2013

MITD House, Phoenix