

2. ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

Competition for the New Zealand Commonwealth Scholarship is always very high. ***You should only nominate candidates of a sufficiently high calibre whose applications are complete in every respect.*** If candidates cannot satisfy these criteria, then please do not nominate them.

Applicants for a Commonwealth Scholarship must satisfy the general eligibility criteria listed below before their application will be considered further against any pre-determined country or region-specific selection criteria set by the New Zealand Government and/or the nominating agencies.

To be eligible to be considered for a Commonwealth Scholarship, an applicant must:

- a. have citizenship of a participating developing Commonwealth country (i.e. permanent residents of a participating country are not eligible to apply);
- b. be residing in their country of citizenship, preferably for at least two years prior to application;
- c. not have citizenship or permanent residence status of New Zealand or Australia, or another developed country¹, except where their country does not issue passports and they hold a New Zealand passport (i.e. the Cook Islands, Niue or Tokelau);
- d. 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, except where their country does not issue passports and they hold a New Zealand passport (i.e. the Cook Islands, Niue or Tokelau);
- e. be applying to commence a new qualification and not be seeking funding for one already commenced at the PhD level;
- f. satisfy the admission requirements of the New Zealand education institution in which the qualification is to be undertaken, including English language criteria;
- g. have been working in their country of citizenship, preferably for at least two years prior to application;
- h. hold a first degree of upper second Honours class standard (or above); or a second class degree and a relevant postgraduate qualification, which will normally be a Master's degree; and
- i. be available to commence their academic studies in New Zealand by the start of the New Zealand academic year in February 2011.

¹ A developed country is defined as a country not included on the OECD's Development Assistance Committee's list of aid recipients.

