



OAS | Scholarships



THE UNIVERSITY
OF THE
WEST INDIES
OPEN CAMPUS

2020 Scholarship Opportunity by the Organization of American States and The University of the West Indies Open Campus

SCHOLARSHIP OVERVIEW

PROGRAM:	Early Childhood Development and Family Studies Undergraduate Certificate
MODALITY:	Online, The UWI Open Campus Platform, with in-country face-to-face practical component.
LANGUAGE:	English
DURATION:	1 year
CALENDAR:	<u>Scholarship application:</u> August 30th, 2020 <u>Classes begin:</u> September 14th, 2020
BENEFIT:	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Full tuition scholarship offers to citizens of OAS English-speaking Caribbean Member States.2. Access to the Inter-American Teacher Education Network (ITEN) - UWI STREAM Virtual Community (VC) of Practice, for which an additional certificate will be provided upon completion.

▼ THE EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION CARE AND DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME

The UWI Open Campus is offering its undergraduate certificate in Early Childhood Development and Family Studies. The primary purpose of the programme is to provide an alternative learning pathway for early childhood workers and others who wish to pursue an undergraduate degree in early childhood education. It also designed to expose individuals who are new, or are already working in the field, to the fundamentals of early childhood care and education.

Upon completion of the programme participants will be able to:

1. Provide general care to children from birth to eight years, based on child development theories which promote holistic development of the child.
2. Prepare and carry out activities that stimulate and enhance children's learning experiences.
3. Understand and apply the basic principles of operating an early childhood institution.
4. Communicate effectively with children, families and communities.
5. Develop the right attitude in caring for children.
6. Provide a safe, healthy, comfortable and pleasant environment for children to learn, play and rest.
7. Provide the basic needs to children in respect of the Articles of the Convention on the Rights of the Child.
8. Demonstrate a professional attitude and strong work ethics in carrying out their responsibilities as early childhood practitioners.

This programme targets:

1. Individuals in the early childhood environment (pre-schools, day-care centres, etc.) with no formal training or are seeking to upgrade themselves in the field.
2. Untrained individuals with at least three years' experience working in an early childhood setting
3. Individuals who have completed Caribbean Vocational Qualification (CVQ) Levels I and II or the equivalent training in Early Childhood Development.
4. Individuals who are desirous of embarking on a career in early childhood care and education but do not have the lower level entry requirements to matriculate.

▼ ADMISSION INFORMATION

- Applicants who have a firm or provisional admission offer from The UWI Open Campus are encouraged to apply for scholarships consideration and may contact The UWI Open Campus admissions office with questions or concerns.

▼ OAS SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION PROCESS

- To apply for an OAS – The UWI Open Campus scholarship, applicants must register with the OAS by providing the following documents:
 1. ID – scan or photo of passport page that contains the applicant’s full name, date of birth, and country of citizenship.
 2. Admission Letter – a copy of the firm or provisional admission letter from The UWI Open Campus.
 3. Recommendation Letter – one recommendation letter provided by a current employer that includes the letterhead of the Organization, Employer’s position within the Organization, email address and telephone number, date, signature and stamp.
 4. Curriculum Vitae – no more than 2 pages.
 5. Essay – a 300-500 word essay that responds to the following:
 - a. If selected as a scholarship recipient, you will be expected to participate in the Inter-American Teacher Education Network (ITEN) - UWI STREAM Virtual Community (VC) of Practice, for which you will receive a certificate from the OAS for 30 hours of participation during the fall 2020 semester. This VC will introduce you to ways to incorporate STREAM (science, technology, research, engineering, arts, and mathematics) into teaching young children. The VC will also become a professional community of supporters as you complete your certificate program. Ultimately, the goal of this VC is to help you become a confident teacher so that you can lead your students, your community, and your fellow teachers.

Considering the above, describe how you hope to take advantage of the ITEN-UWI VC and the certificate program to become (or continue to grow as) a change-maker for your students, your community, and your fellow teachers.
 - b. If selected for the Scholarship, you will be required to cover the additional costs not included in this scholarship. Describe your financial need to successfully complete the Course and how you will cover the additional costs not covered by this Scholarship.

- **ALL** documents must be combined into **one (1) single PDF file (no larger than 5MB)**. If the file is larger than 5MB, you will not be able to submit the online form. The application system does not allow for more than one document to be uploaded. Do not include any additional documents besides those indicated.
- **Scholarship application deadline is August 30, 2020**
- **Scholarship application link:**
<https://www.oas.org/fms/Announcement.aspx?id=1098&Type=4&Lang=Eng>
- Questions about this scholarship opportunity should be sent to scholarships@oas.org with the subject “OAS-The UWI Open Campus Scholarship Program.”

▼ **EXPENSES NOT COVERED BY THIS SCHOLARSHIP**

Expenses not covered by the scholarship, and which are the sole responsibility of the scholarship recipients, are:

FINANCIAL RESPONSIBILITY OF SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

The Scholarship Recipient is responsible for any and all additional costs, including, but not limited to:

- ✓ Remaining University fees, including:
 - ID Card - \$5.00;
 - Guild Fees - \$20.00;
 - Technology Fee - \$70.00;
 - Application fees; and
 - Books and study materials.
- ✓ Any additional costs not included in the OAS-The UWI Open Campus Scholarship.

▼ **ELIGIBILITY**

To be considered for this scholarship opportunity, an applicant must:

- Have a firm or provisional admission letter from The University of the West Indies Open Campus.
- Submit a complete scholarship application with all required supporting documents.
- Be a citizen and/or permanent legal resident from one of the following countries:

1. Antigua and Barbuda
2. Barbados
3. The Bahamas
4. Belize
5. Dominica
6. Grenada
7. Guyana
8. Jamaica
9. Saint Kitts and Nevis
10. Saint Lucia
11. Saint Vincent and the Grenadines
12. Trinidad and Tobago

The following applicants are ineligible:

- ⊗ Current OAS scholarship holders
- ⊗ GS/OAS staff and their immediate relatives or GS/OAS consultants
- ⊗ OAS Permanent officials and their immediate relatives.

▼ **SCHOLARSHIP SELECTION CRITERIA:**

1. The merits and overall credentials of the candidate, including his/her academic and professional background;
2. Geographical distribution of the applicants, taking into account the greater needs of the smaller and relatively less developed economies, and financial need;
3. Applicants whose essay portray the highest potential for impact upon completion of the Certificate; and
4. Gender diversity.

▼ SCHOLARSHIP SELECTION PROCESS:

Selection Committee The UWI Open Campus and the OAS will select the scholarship awardees. The names of the scholarship awardees will be published in September 2020 at www.oas.org/scholarships.

Notification of selected candidates The OAS will contact selected candidates by email with the scholarship offer and instructions for the scholarship acceptance. **Applicants who are not selected will not be contacted.**

▼ DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITY OF THE SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT:

- ✓ The scholarship will be formally awarded only after the selected awardees have signed an OAS/The UWI Open Campus Acceptance Form, in which the awardees formally accept the scholarship and agree to its terms and conditions.
- ✓ Refrain from activities that are inconsistent with the status of an OAS Scholarship recipient, abiding by the regulations referred to in this Acceptance Form.
- ✓ Comply with all the academic guidelines and admission requirements requested by The UWI Open Campus and submit to the updates of these guidelines and requirements made by the academic authorities at The UWI Open Campus.
- ✓ Comply with the provisions indicated in the "Financial responsibilities of awardees."
- ✓ To retain the scholarship, Scholarship recipients should remain in good academic standing.
- ✓ Scholarship Recipient may not fail to start the Course or drop-out of the Course after accepting the Scholarship offer, absent compelling and unforeseeable reasons, and shall give written notice and submit supporting proof to the OAS of such reasons immediately upon them being foreseen by, or becoming known to, the Scholarship Recipient. Whether a reason is sufficiently compelling shall be left to the discretion of GS/OAS.
 - In the event that GS/OAS concludes that no compelling reasons were present, Scholarship Recipient shall directly reimburse the OAS and/or The UWI for the scholarship funds. Failure to do so will result in the Scholarship Recipient being barred from any future consideration for OAS or UWI scholarships, and shall constitute grounds for the GS/OAS to pursue legal action.
- ✓ Upon registration for the Course, each OAS-UWI Scholarship Recipient shall take part in a minimum 15-week "STEM Community of Practice," an approximately weekly gathering of scholarship recipients with Teacher Fellows of the Inter-American Teacher Education Network (ITEN) who have been trained in STEM integration in early childhood. In total, this community of practice will include approximately 10-15 synchronous virtual gatherings, as well as online discussions and peer coaching to support curriculum coursework, for a total of 30 hours maximum. Upon successful completion of the STEM Community of Practice, OAS-The UWI Open Campus Scholarship Recipients will receive a certificate from ITEN.

▼ FOR MORE INFORMATION:



www.oas.org/scholarships



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