

Frequently Asked Questions

OAS Academic Scholarships Program (Regular Program)

How long does the selection process take place?

Approximately 10 months. Usually the call opens in December and closes in March or April of the following year. Consult with your National Liaison Office ([ONE](#)) on specific terms, since they vary from country to country. The results are usually announced in October or November.

What is a National Liaison Office ([ONE](#))?

A National Liaison Office ([ONE](#)) is the official channel, determined by the government of each [member state](#), for the processing of [OAS](#) scholarship applications of the OAS Regular Program.

What are the documents submission deadlines?

Deadlines are determined independently by each [member state](#) National Liaison Office ([ONE](#)). Please contact the [ONE](#) for more information.

Why do I need to contact my [National Liaison Office \(ONE\)](#) to find out about application submission deadlines?

You need to contact your [ONE](#) because applications must first be evaluated by the National Selection Committee in each [member state](#). The OAS receives from each [ONE](#) the list of pre-selected candidates by the National Selection Committee.

What is a National Selection Committee?

A National Selection Committee is an entity chosen by a [member state](#) government to review, rank, and forward applications submitted by citizens or permanent residents of the respective country for the OAS Scholarship Program.

What if the [ONE](#) requests application requirements that are additional to those required by the OAS?

Sometimes the [ONE](#) will set requirements additional to those required by the [OAS](#). In these cases, the [ONE](#)'s requests must be followed.

If I am a citizen of an OAS [member state](#) and a permanent resident of another, or if I have dual citizenship, which country should be my sponsor country?

An applicant's sponsor country should be the country in which they currently reside and plan to return to after the completion of their studies.

If I am not a citizen of an OAS [member state](#) can I apply for an [OAS](#) scholarship?

Citizens of countries other than the OAS [member states](#) may only apply for OAS scholarships if they are a permanent resident of one of the OAS [member states](#).

Are citizens or permanent residents of Cuba eligible to receive [OAS](#) scholarships?

No. Cuban citizens and permanent residents are ineligible to benefit from OAS scholarships at this time, given resolution [AG/RES-2438E](#).

If I have received a Regular Program scholarship in the past, how long must I wait to be eligible to apply for another one?

Two years. A beneficiary must complete his or her obligation to return to the sponsoring country for at least 24 months after the scholarship completion date.

Can I apply for a Regular Program scholarship if I have already begun my studies?

Yes. It is possible to apply for and be awarded a scholarship after having begun your studies. However, the OAS does not make retroactive payments, i.e., it will not cover any expenses incurred before the scholarship is granted.

When will my OAS scholarship funding begin?

Funding will begin after the OAS scholarship contract has been signed and the scholarship recipient is in the country of study. For scholarship recipients taking online programs, proof of registration in a program of study must be presented.

Am I guaranteed to receive \$30,000US per year if I am awarded an OAS Academic Scholarship?

The OAS Regular Academic scholarships have a maximum funding of \$30,000US per year, but that does not mean that you will receive that amount annually. The benefits generally granted are: tuition, subsistence monthly allowance, annual contribution for books or study materials, medical insurance and travel to and from the sponsoring country of study. The benefits are assigned on a case by case basis.

Can I use this scholarship for a degree program offered by an institution in my country of citizenship or permanent residence (sponsor country)?

No. The Regular Program requires beneficiaries to study towards degrees to be issued by institutions outside of their sponsor country.

Can I use this scholarship to study in a country that is not an OAS [member state](#)?

No. The Regular Program only supports studies in universities and higher education institutions in the OAS member states.

If I have applied for a self-placed scholarship, will the OAS get me admitted to a university of the Consortium?

No. Applicants are responsible for their own admission.

What is the difference between applying for a self-placed scholarship within the Consortium or applying to a university that is not part of the Consortium?

The OAS will grant only one self-placed scholarship in a university which is not part of the Consortium, per country. Therefore, applying to a university of the Consortium will increase the probabilities of obtaining an OAS scholarship.

As a self-placed applicant to a university within the Consortium, can I choose only one country for admission?

No. Self-placed applicants to universities within the Consortium must identify at least two possible countries of study. All applicants are responsible of obtaining admission in the universities of their preference.

As a self-placed applicant in the OAS [Consortium](#), can I choose several universities in the same country?

Yes, the applicant can choose several universities in the same country of study. The applicants will be responsible for obtaining admission in the universities of their interest.

What is the OAS [Consortium](#) of Universities?

The OAS Consortium of Universities includes over 130 universities throughout the OAS member states that have signed partnership and scholarship cost-sharing agreements with the General Secretariat of the OAS in support of the OAS Academic Scholarship Program.

How can a university become part of the OAS [Consortium](#)?

If your university or higher education institution is interested in exploring the possibility of becoming a member of the OAS [Consortium](#) of Universities, please contact us at scholarships@oas.org.

What benefits are included in this scholarship?

Regular Program funding can include the following benefits: tuition, partial monthly subsistence, books or study materials, health insurance, and international round-trip airfare. Funds are assigned on a case by case basis.

Do the OAS scholarships finance online studies?

Yes. Applicants can choose whether they prefer an onsite program or an online program. The benefits for scholarships for online programs vary and are considered on a case by case basis.

If my online degree program involves brief onsite sessions abroad, will the scholarship cover this expense?

The OAS will, in most cases, cover the cost of international travel and provide a small stipend to help defray the costs of up to two trips per year in cases where these trips are a mandatory part of the online degree program curriculum.

Is supplementary funding available for the applicant's family?

No. The scholarship does not include any type of benefits for the applicant's family.

Can I apply for a scholarship to carry out research leading to a university degree?

Yes, as long as the research is a requirement for obtaining a university degree: Master or PhD.

Can I conduct research in my country of citizenship or permanent residence (sponsor country)?

Research can be conducted in the beneficiary's sponsor country only if this research is a degree requirement for a program being offered by a university outside of the sponsor country, in another OAS member state.

Can I stay in the country of study after I finished my program?

One of the central objectives of OAS scholarships programs is to facilitate the transfer of knowledge among the OAS member states. Therefore, it is a common requirement in nearly all OAS scholarship programs that beneficiaries return to their country of citizenship or permanent residence upon completing their studies and reside there for no less than two years.

Is there any other way for my requirement to return home after the scholarship ends to be waived or postponed?

Scholarship recipients are required to return home no later than three months after the date of completion of the scholarship. However, the OAS may postpone the return date if the scholarship recipient must conduct research or carry out practical training as a requirement for graduation. Additionally, the OAS may postpone the return date to allow the beneficiary to continue studying or to conduct research, or to undertake practical training, provided that such training is not available in the sponsor country. In both cases, the beneficiary must initiate the process by obtaining the written approval of his or her National Liaison Office.

Can I apply for another scholarship besides the Regular Program scholarship?

Yes. OAS scholarships are complementary in nature and not intended to cover 100% of all expenses a beneficiary might incur, so you can apply for another scholarship to supplement your income. However, when a beneficiary receives a non-OAS scholarship that covers equal or greater amounts of the same types of benefits as the OAS scholarship, the beneficiary will not receive any OAS benefits.

Will the OAS pay for my flight to return home during an extended break in my program?

No. The OAS will cover the cost of only one round-trip flight between the sponsor country of the beneficiary and the country of study.

Does the OAS give scholarships for undergraduate studies (Bachelor's Degree)?

The SPECACF undergraduate scholarships are available for citizens and permanent residents of the English-Speaking Caribbean OAS member states and Suriname. These scholarships are awarded to cover the last two years of an undergraduate degree program.

Which OAS member states are eligible for SPECACF scholarships?

Citizens or permanent residents of the following OAS Member States are eligible: Antigua & Barbuda, Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Dominica, Grenada, Guyana, Jamaica, St. Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Suriname, and Trinidad and Tobago.

Are there age limits for those who wish to apply to OAS scholarships programs?

No. There are no age limits for applicants.

How long must OAS Staff or Consultants wait after terminating employment with the OAS before they are eligible to apply for OAS scholarship programs?

OAS Staff and Consultants must have terminated their employment or contractual obligation to the OAS six months prior to applying for any OAS scholarship program.

Can OAS interns apply for OAS Scholarship Programs?

Yes. OAS interns are eligible to apply for all OAS Scholarship Programs.

What is LASPAU?

LASPAU is the agency that administers the OAS scholarships. LASPAU monitors the academic progress of each individual scholarship recipient from the moment recipients have submitted their signed OAS Scholarship and arrived in his or her country of study.