

## Frequently Asked Questions OAS Academic Scholarships Program (Regular Program)

### **In response to the COVID-19 crisis, the 2020 Call for Applications will prioritize scholarship applications for online studies**

1. How long does the selection process take place? The 2020 Call for Application is open and the selection process will begin in July 2020. Please consult with your National Liaison Office (ONE) on the application timeframe, since they vary from country to country. The results are usually announced starting in July.
2. 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.
3. **Important note for citizens of Venezuela and the USA only:** the OAS acts as the ONE for citizens and permanent residents of Venezuela and the United States of America, therefore, filling out the application and attaching the supporting documents online completes their application process. No need to submit paper documents.
4. 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.
5. 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.
6. 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.
7. 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.
8. 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.
9. 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.
10. 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, as per OAS Resolution AG/RES-2438E. Cuba is an inactive member state.
11. 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

12. Can I apply for an Academic 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 cover expenses retroactively, i.e., it will only begin its coverage in August 2020.
13. When will my OAS scholarship funding begin? Funding will begin after the OAS scholarship contract has been signed.
14. Am I guaranteed to receive US\$10,000 per year if I am awarded an OAS Academic Scholarship? OAS Academic scholarships have a monetary cap of US\$10,000 per academic year, but that does not mean that you will receive that amount annually. Benefits are assigned on a case by case basis.
15. 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 Academic Scholarship Program requires beneficiaries to study towards degrees to be issued by institutions outside of their sponsor country.
16. 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.
17. 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.
18. 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.
19. 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.
20. 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.
21. 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](mailto:scholarships@oas.org).
22. What benefits are included in this scholarship? Academic Scholarship Program funding may be destined to cover tuition, partial monthly subsistence, books or study materials, health insurance, and international round-trip airfare. Funds are assigned on a case by case basis.
23. 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.
24. If my online degree program involves brief onsite sessions abroad, will the scholarship cover this expense? The OAS may award up to US\$10,000 per academic year prioritizing payment of tuition and mandatory fees. Any remaining funds shall be transferred directly to grantees.

25. Is supplementary funding available for the applicant's family? No. The scholarship does not include any type of benefits for the applicant's family.
26. 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 graduate degree: Master or Doctorate.
27. 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.
28. 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 requirement of this 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.
29. 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.
30. 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.
31. Does the OAS give scholarships for undergraduate studies (Bachelor's Degree)? The SPECAF 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.
32. Which OAS member states are eligible for SPECAF 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.
33. Are there age limits for those who wish to apply to OAS scholarships programs? No. There are no age limits for applicants.
34. 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.

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