**Prime Minister’s Scholarships for Asia**

The Prime Minister’s Scholarships for Asia (PMSA) is a programme funded by the New Zealand government and administered by Education New Zealand. The scholarship aims to:

* Strengthen New Zealand’s ability to engage with key Asian trading partners
* Improve the international skills of the New Zealand workforce
* Improve the internationalisation of New Zealand tertiary institutions
* Increase international understanding of the strength and quality of New Zealand’s education system
* Establish connections between New Zealand and other countries through participants building   
  lifelong friendships and networks
* Strengthen New Zealanders’ understanding of other cultures.

The scholarship is awarded to individuals and currently covers specified costs relating to study, internship or research in Asia. Programmes must be a minimum of 6 weeks and not exceed 24 months.

1. **Individuals on exchange, internship or other independent programmes**

* tuition fees of Asian institutions (not NZ fees)
* internship brokerage fees
* return economy class flights NZ-Asia - NZ$2,500
* contribution to living and accommodation costs of $250 per week on study programme  
  ~ a one-semester exchange or study abroad programme is supported for 18 weeks: $4,500  
   ~ a two-semester exchange or study abroad programme is supported for 36 weeks: $9,000  
   ~ a full-year academic programme is supported for 40 weeks: $10,000  
   ~ a two-year academic programme is supported for 80 weeks: $20,000
* medical and travel insurance (mandatory – see website for types of acceptable cover)  
   ~ up to and including a one-semester programme insurance contribution is: $400  
   ~ a two-semester or one-year programme insurance contribution is: $600  
   ~ a two-year programme insurance contribution is: $1,200
* visa and/or vaccine fees of NZ$200

1. **Individuals on Group programmes**
   1. TEOs and approved organisations may apply to the PMSA to fund a group (3+) to travel together to Asia on a specified programme that meets PMSA goals
   2. Group programmes are applied for separately under the PMSA, and have their own application and reporting requirements. Individuals on a group programme must meet specified criteria
   3. An individual’s costs are covered as above, plus additional funding of up to $20,000 per group application may be applied for to cover group-related costs.

**WHERE?**

Preference is for applicants undertaking study at:

* Top educational institutions in ASEAN[[1]](#footnote-1) countries and other territories, including China, India, Sri Lanka, Taiwan, Hong Kong, Japan, Korea, OR
* Educational institutions in the above countries and territories with whom a New Zealand educational institution has a formal agreement/partnership.

**WHAT?**

Applicants must propose programmes that they **can demonstrate is linked to New Zealand’s economic or trade agenda in Asia.** Programmes must be full-time and can be:

1. An undergraduate or postgraduate part or whole programme in a relevant subject area at an appropriate institution in a target country.   
   *OR*
2. Trade or economic-related research to target countries, including cooperative or independent research at educational institutions, libraries and other facilities. Applicants undertaking research-only programmes must be enrolled at a New Zealand tertiary institution.   
   *OR*
3. A full-time (or part-time with study) internship.

**WHO CAN APPLY?**

At the date of commencing the scholarship,candidatesmust be at least 18 years old and New Zealand citizens or Permanent Resident holders.

**SELECTION CRITERIA**

Applicants who meet the eligibility criteria and whose study programme clearly meets the goals of the scholarship, will additionally be expected to display academic strengths and personal attributes such as independence, initiative, maturity, and confidence . . . plus

* The potential to succeed in academic study abroad
* The ability to represent New Zealand (and, where relevant, their home institution) positively; particularly   
  the quality of a New Zealand education experience
* And most importantly - be willing and prepared to put into practice the aims of the scholarship.

Applicants on an institutional group programme may be subject to additional criteria.

Recipients are expected to take primary responsibility for their own health, safety and welfare while overseas.  Recipients must have regard to the risks and dangers specific to their destination country and must not unnecessarily place their health, safety or welfare at risk.

**SELECTION ‘ROUNDS’**

Education New Zealand holds two *Selection Rounds* annually.   
**March Round:** Scholarship applications close **30 March.**

**September Round:** Scholarship applications close **30 September**

**APPLICATION PROCESS**

## Candidates access the online application site from <http://www.enz.govt.nz/support/funding/scholarships/>

**PMSA – GENERAL NOTES**

All PMSA applicants:

1. Must undertake the programme stated on their application. Changes are not encouraged and in all cases must be notified in writing to ENZ and are approved on a case-by-case basis.
2. May hold other scholarships, awards or grants in addition to the PMSA (if those other awards allow).   
   The PMSA amount awarded will take this into account.
3. May apply more than once for a PMSA scholarship, and may be awarded (at different times), more than one PMSA scholarship. However, the maximum funded period over all PMSA awards is twenty-four months.
4. Cannot apply to study at a campus or delivery site of a New Zealand institution in Asia.
5. Must propose a course of study in Asia that starts **no earlier** than 8 weeks after the application closing date:

* Round One closes on 30 March, your selected programme must start **after** 30 May
* Round Two closes on 30 September, your selected programme must start **after** 30 November

1. Please check with ENZ if the preferred destination institution is not listed as having a formal relationship with a New Zealand institution. It may still meet requirements.

1. Indonesia, Malaysia, Viet Nam, Singapore, Thailand, Brunei Darussalam, Laos, Philippines, Cambodia, Myanmar. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)