

Prime Minister's Scholarships for Latin America¹

The Prime Minister's Scholarships for Latin America (PMSLA) is a programme funded by the New Zealand government and administered by Education New Zealand. The scholarship aims to:

- strengthen New Zealand institutions' connections with their counterparts in key Latin America countries
- promote understanding of the strength and quality of New Zealand's education system and raise awareness in Latin America of New Zealand as a preferred education destination
- improve the international skills of the New Zealand workforce
- strengthen people to people connections between New Zealand and countries in Latin America through participants building lifelong friendships and networks.
- strengthen New Zealand's ability to engage with key Latin American trading partners
- improve New Zealanders' understanding of Latin American business practice and culture

Long-term outcomes of the scholarship – we want Prime Minister's Scholarship recipients

- Applying their skills, knowledge and abilities; embracing different cultural contexts and developing as genuine, respectful global citizens, and
- Using their skills, knowledge and networks to contribute to engagement and cooperation between New Zealand and key trading partners

The scholarship is awarded to individuals and covers specified costs relating to study, internship or research in Latin America. Programmes must be a minimum of 4 weeks and not exceed 24 months. Maximum funded weeks over 24 months is 72.

The value of the scholarship

1. Individuals on exchange, internship or other independent programmes

- tuition fees of Latin American institutions (not NZ fees)
- internship brokerage fees
- return flights NZ-Latin America - NZ\$2,500
- contribution to living, accommodation, visa, insurance etc costs of \$270 per week on study programme
 - ~ a one-semester exchange or study abroad programme is supported for 18 weeks: \$4,860
 - ~ a two-semester exchange or study abroad programme is supported for 36 weeks: \$9,720
 - ~ a full-year academic programme is supported for 36 weeks: \$9,720
 - ~ a two-year academic programme is supported for 72 weeks: \$19,440

2. Individuals on Group programmes

- New Zealand Tertiary providers/institutions may apply to the PMSLA to fund a group (3+) to travel together to Latin America on a specified programme that meets PMSLA goals
- Group programmes are applied for separately under the PMSLA, and have their own application and reporting requirements. Funding for individuals on group programmes is as above.

Where?

Preference is currently for applicants undertaking appropriate programmes in **Colombia and Brazil**. Other Latin American countries such as Mexico, Chile, Argentina and Peru are also included. The destination institution should have a formal relationship with a New Zealand institution.

¹ Latin America refers to territories in the Americas where the Spanish or Portuguese languages prevail.

What?

Applicants must propose programmes that can be demonstrated to be linked to New Zealand's education, economic or trade agenda in Latin America, and may include business, social sciences, the creative arts and culture, indigenous studies, ICT/new media.

Programmes must be full-time and can be:

1. An undergraduate or postgraduate (including language programmes) part or whole programme in a relevant subject area at an approved institution. Exchange programmes are included here.
2. A full-time internship (or part-time with additional study). Internships for longer than 12 weeks may be considered.
3. Education, trade or economic-related research or development including development/research for intending or existing teachers of Spanish and Portuguese, to target countries, including cooperative or independent research at educational institutions.

Research applicants other than existing language teachers, must be currently enrolled at a New Zealand tertiary institution in a master's or PhD programme.

Who can apply?

Candidates must be:

- at least 18 years old at the date of applying for the scholarship, *AND*
- a New Zealand citizen or hold Permanent Resident status and in all cases be ordinarily resident in New Zealand, i.e., be domiciled or residing in NZ, having done so for the immediately preceding 12 months.

Selection Criteria

Applicants who meet the eligibility criteria and whose 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.

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 and must not unnecessarily place their health, safety or welfare at risk. Medical and travel insurance is mandatory – see website for types of acceptable cover.

Application 'Rounds'

Education New Zealand holds two ONLINE Application Rounds annually. Applications are online from

<http://www.enz.govt.nz/support/funding/scholarships/>

August Round: Scholarship applications must be received by 11.59 pm **30 August**.

March Round: Scholarship applications must be received by 11.59pm **30 March**.

PMSLA – GENERAL NOTES

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 PMSLA (if those other awards allow). The PMSLA amount awarded will take this into account.
3. Applicants may apply for a second Prime Minister's scholarship only if their first award was as a member of a group PMS programme. However, the maximum funded period over all PMS awards is 72 weeks over twenty-four months.
4. Cannot apply to study at a campus or delivery site of a New Zealand institution in Latin America.
5. Must start their programme at least 8 weeks **after** the deadline of this scholarship application.
6. 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.