**Prime Minister’s Scholarships for Latin America[[1]](#footnote-1)**

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

The scholarship is awarded to individuals and currently 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.

1. **Individuals on exchange, internship or other independent programmes**
* tuition fees of Latin American institutions (not NZ fees)
* internship brokerage fees
* return economy class flights NZ-Latin America - NZ$3,500
* 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 PMSLA to fund a group (3+) to travel together to Latin America on a specified programme that meets PMSLA goals
	2. Group programmes are applied for separately under the PMSLA, 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 currently for applicants undertaking appropriate programmes in **Colombia and Brazil.** Other Latin American countries such as Mexico, Chile, Argentina and Peru are also included. Individuals or groups may check with ENZ if preferred destination institution is not listed as having a formal relationship with a New Zealand institution. It may still meet requirements.

**HOW LONG?**

Recipients must spend 4 weeks actively on programme in Latin America, up to a maximum of two years.

**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 can be either:**

1. An undergraduate or postgraduate part or whole programme in a relevant subject area at an approved institution (check ENZ website for the list). Exchange programmes are included here.
Study programmes must be a minimum of 20 hours per week
2. A full-time or part-time internship of between 4 to 12 weeks. If the internship is part-time, it must be combined with a concurrent programme of study [eg language study] that brings total hours to 30 hours per week. 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, libraries and other facilities.
*Research applicants other than existing language teachers, must be currently enrolled at a New Zealand tertiary institution*.

**WHO CAN APPLY?**

At the date of applicationcandidatesmust be at least 18 years old and be New Zealand citizens or Permanent Resident holders.

**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.

**SELECTION ‘ROUNDS’**

Education New Zealand holds two *Selection Rounds* annually.
**April Round:** Scholarship applications must be received by 5 pm **30 April.
October Round:** Scholarship applications must be received by 5 pm **30 October.**

**APPLICATION PROCESS**

## Applications are online from https://enzscholarships.communityforce.com/Login.aspx

**PMSLA – GENERAL NOTES**

All PMSLA applicants:

1. Must get faculty sign-off from their New Zealand institution on their proposed course of study if they want to count the academic credit for ANY study in Latin America towards their NZ qualification.
2. 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.
3. May hold other scholarships, awards or grants in addition to the PMSLA (if those other awards allow).
4. May apply more than once for a PMSLA scholarship, and may be awarded (at different times), more than one PMSLA or PMSA scholarship.
5. Must propose a course of study that starts **no earlier** than 8 weeks after the application closing date:
* Round One closes on 30 April, your selected programme must start **after** 30 June
* Round Two closes on 30 October, your selected programme must start **after** 30 December
1. Will report to ENZ and participate in promotion and alumni activities.
1. Latin America refers to territories in the Americas where the Spanish or Portuguese languages prevail. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)