



ALL BAHAMAS MERIT SCHOLARSHIP



GENERAL INFORMATION

The All Bahamas Merit Scholarship is awarded on an annual basis in a joint effort between the Bahamas Ministry of Education, the Lyford Cay Foundation, Inc. and the Central Bank of The Bahamas. The Scholarship is awarded to the single most outstanding Bahamian student graduating from a Bahamian Secondary School and starting College in that year. The total award is not to exceed \$35,000 per annum. The scholarship is a renewal award for up to four (4) years of undergraduate study tenable at an accredited University or College in the Caribbean, United States of America, United Kingdom, Canada or The Bahamas. The award will provide, in order of priority, for tuition, on-campus room and board (or equivalent), clothing, book, and personal allowance, and one round trip economy class ticket. The recipient must maintain a 3.25 GPA in the first year of study and a minimum of 3.50 cumulative GPA in subsequent years. Scholars will be required to complete a minimum of 30 hours of volunteer service to projects of their choice each and every academic year.

CRITERIA FOR ELIGIBILITY:

The candidate must be:

1. A citizen of The Bahamas;
2. A graduate from a Bahamian Secondary School having completed a minimum of three consecutive years of Secondary education in The Bahamas;
3. Between the ages of 16 and 19 years;
4. Completed secondary school in the year of application but not later than one year after graduation. Students enrolled in College or University abroad will NOT be considered;
5. A minimum secondary school cumulative GPA of 3.50 or equivalent;
6. Have sat a minimum of seven (7) BGCSE including English Language and Math;
7. A minimum combined SAT 1 score of 1200 in Critical Reading and Math;
8. Accepted at an accredited College or University;
9. Should intend to return to The Bahamas to pursue his/her career;
10. Unmarried and childless;
11. Have a strong moral character.

The award is automatically forfeited if any of the conditions at items 10 and 11 above are breached before expiration of the award.

SELECTION CRITERIA - *Short listed candidates will be interviewed by the Selection Committee*

1. Academic Merit – based on grades, test scores, rigor of academic programme, honours, awards and recommendations;
2. Quality and reputation of the proposed College/University;
3. Leadership and contributions to school and community;
4. Candidate's personal qualities including leadership skills, maturity, independence, sense of direction, motivation, self-expression, and enthusiasm;
5. Ability to perform as "an Ambassador" of The Bahamas.

APPLICATION PROCEDURES AND TERMS OF AWARDS

- **DEADLINE:** Completed application forms with all supporting materials must be submitted to The All Bahamas Merit Selection Committee, Ministry of Education by the **LAST FRIDAY OF APRIL** for the following fall semester. **THERE WILL BE NO EXCEPTIONS.**
- Only complete applications will be considered by the Selection Committee.
- **Notification of Candidates:** The Selection Committee will inform each applicant as to its decision.
- **Changes in Field of Study or College:** If a scholar should change his or her field of study or College at any point after the date of the award, he or she must inform the All Bahamas Merit Selection Committee in writing before making any changes as to the reason(s) for such a change. A decision will then be made regarding the status of the award.
- **If a scholar must discontinue** his or her education temporarily, or fails to meet the required minimum GPA to maintain the award, he or she must submit in writing to the All Bahamas Merit Selection Committee a full explanation of the circumstances leading to the withdrawal or fall in academic standing, supported by documentary evidence. This will be carefully weighed and considered before a decision is made regarding reinstatement.

CONTINUATION OF SCHOLARSHIP

Each year, scholars must provide the following documentation in order to be eligible for scholarship renewal:

- **An official college transcript** after each semester and no later than June 15 of each academic year completed verifying that they are maintaining the minimum GPA of 3.25 out of a possible 4.0 or equivalent for the first year of study abroad and a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.50 out of a possible 4.0 or equivalent for each subsequent year.
- **A completed Volunteer Service Verification Form** confirming their contribution of a minimum of **30 hours of volunteer service** to projects and/or service organizations of their choice each year, either while enrolled in college or during vacation periods.
- **A Cost of Attendance Worksheet** verifying their tuition, fees and other expenses associated with their study as well as their financial resources, including other scholarship awards, grants or gift.
- Submit a signed statement verifying that they remain unmarried and childless.

Scholarship awards will be calculated annually up to \$35,000. Scholarship funds will be applied to tuition and residence fees first. Personal, book, clothing, and travel allowances, miscellaneous student fees, medical insurance, transcript charges and the like are considered only as funding allows. Other merit based scholarship awards will be deducted from tuition and residence fees.

The selection of scholarship recipients is entirely in the hands of an Independent Selection Committee. If there are any questions as to the policy of the Ministry of Education concerning the programme, they may be directed to The Permanent Secretary, The Ministry of Education, Nassau, Bahamas.

ALL BAHAMAS MERIT SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION FORM

Please type or print in black or blue ink only

PERSONAL INFORMATION

Name Mr. Miss Ms. Mrs.
First Middle Last

Physical Address/Area

P. O. Box Island

Home Tel Cell Work Tel

Email Address(es)

Place of Birth Date of Birth Citizenship

Mo. Day Year

PARENTS' INFORMATION

Parents' marital status Single Married Separated Divorced Widowed

FATHER/MALE GUARDIAN

Name

(If Guardian) Relationship to you

Home Tel Cell Work Tel

Occupation

Employer

MOTHER/FEMALE GUARDIAN

Name

(If Guardian) Relationship to you

Home Tel Cell Work Tel

Occupation

Employer

AWARDS, HONOURS, EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES, CONTRIBUTIONS TO YOUR COMMUNITY:

.....
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....

ACADEMIC INFORMATION

Secondary School

Graduation date
Mo. Year

TESTS: Please indicate your scores and the dates on which you sat or will sit the tests listed below. If you have not yet received your results, please check the box in the 'Pending' column.

SAT I			SAT II		
Subject	Score	Test Date	Subject	Score	Pending
Critical Reading	<input type="checkbox"/>
Math	<input type="checkbox"/>
Writing	<input type="checkbox"/>
SAT I Total Score <i>Mo. Year</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>

BGCSEs					
Subject	Score	Pending	Subject	Score	Pending
.....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
.....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
.....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
.....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
.....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

AP					
Subject	Score	Pending	Subject	Score	Pending
.....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
.....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

IB					
Subject	Score	Pending	Subject	Score	Pending
.....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
.....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
.....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
.....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
.....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

THE COLLEGE OF THE BAHAMAS

Have you attended COB? Yes No

Major

Current Cumulative GPA

EDUCATIONAL PLANS

PROPOSED FIELD OF STUDY

PROPOSED COLLEGE OR UNIVERSITY (FIRST CHOICE)

Name of institution

Address of institution

Have you been accepted? Yes No

Anticipated graduation date

Have you been offered financial aid? Yes No

If yes, is your aid Need-based Merit-based

Cost of Attendance per Year

Tuition and Fees \$

Room and Board \$

Health Insurance \$

Books and Supplies \$

Personal Expenses \$

Travel Costs \$

Miscellaneous \$

TOTAL \$

PROPOSED COLLEGE OR UNIVERSITY (SECOND CHOICE)

Name of institution

Address of institution

Have you been accepted? Yes No

Anticipated graduation date

Have you been offered financial aid? Yes No

If yes, is your aid Need-based Merit-based

Cost of Attendance per Year

Tuition and Fees \$

Room and Board \$

Health Insurance \$

Books and Supplies \$

Personal Expenses \$

Travel Costs \$

Miscellaneous \$

TOTAL \$

FINANCIAL RESOURCES PER YEAR

Please submit copies of relevant award letters.

Government Grants	\$
Government Educational Loans	\$
Government Scholarships	\$
College Scholarships	\$
Work-Study	\$
Other Scholarships	\$
Savings	\$
Other Loans	\$
TOTAL	\$

OTHER SCHOLARSHIPS

Please list any other scholarships you have been awarded

Name of scholarship	Amount
.....	
.....	
.....	
.....	

PERSONAL ESSAY

Please write an essay (minimum 1,000 words, maximum 2,000 words).

Please type using double space or neatly print in black or blue ink only. Make sure your name is clearly marked on each page.

- a) Why should you be selected as the All Bahamas Merit Scholar? Explain your career aspirations, your educational plan to meet these goals and the contribution you would like to make to the development of The Bahamas after graduation.

CONDITIONS OF APPLICATION:

By signing this application, I certify the accuracy of this completed form and all accompanying documents and agree to provide additional information on request.

I pledge to return to The Bahamas upon successful completion of my professional training to assist with the development of my country.

I certify that I have additional resources available to cover all remaining expenses for my first year and subsequent years of college including travel to and from school.

I certify that I will notify the All Bahamas Merit Selection Committee in writing if at any time I obtain other awards or scholarships that help defray the cost of my education. I understand that such awards may affect the All Bahamas Merit Scholarship.

I understand that if I am awarded the All Bahamas Merit Scholarship I must maintain a minimum GPA of 3.25 out of 4.0 (or equivalent) in my first year of study and a minimum of 3.50 cumulative GPA in subsequent years for my scholarship to be considered for renewal.

I understand that if I am awarded the All Bahamas Merit Scholarship, a change in Field of Study and/or College or University without the prior approval of the All Bahamas Merit Selection Committee may affect the status of my award.

I understand that if I am awarded the All Bahamas Merit Scholarship, I am required to complete a minimum of 30 hours of volunteer service to projects and/or service organizations of my choice each and every academic year.

Applicant's Signature

Date

Parent or Guardian's Signature (if applicant is under the age of 18)

Date

SUPPORTING MATERIALS

You must submit **all** of the following along with this completed and signed form:

- Copies of relevant examination certificates or scores (BGCSE, SAT, AP, IB, Pitman, RSA, City and Guilds, etc.).
- Up-to-date official transcripts from previous and present high schools.
- A copy of your letter of acceptance from your college or university of choice.

If this letter is not available by the application closing date, please submit your application without it and provide us with a copy as soon as possible. *Please note that an acceptance letter must be on file in order for your application to be considered.*

- Two letters of recommendation:
 1. One from a responsible person (not a relative) who knows you well and can attest to your character, leadership ability, service to your school and community and your extracurricular experiences.
 2. One from your High School Guidance Counselor or a Class Teacher.
- A current resume that clearly outlines your work, school, leadership, community and extracurricular experiences.
- Verification of Bahamian citizenship, i.e., a copy of the relevant pages of your valid Bahamian passport.
- Documentation of any financial aid you are receiving from other sources, including your college or university, other scholarships and grants.
- Essay as described above.

SUBMITTING YOUR APPLICATION:

By Mail: All Bahamas Merit Selection Committee
The Ministry of Education – Scholarship & Educational Loan Division
P.O. Box N 3913/14
Nassau, Bahamas

By Hand: All Bahamas Merit Selection Committee
The Ministry of Education – Scholarship & Educational Loan Division
Thompson Blvd., Nassau, Bahamas

**DEADLINE IS THE LAST FRIDAY OF APRIL OF EACH YEAR
THERE WILL BE NO EXCEPTIONS**

Only complete applications will be considered by the Selection Committee