**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.

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

* Applying their skills, knowledge andabilities; embracing different cultural contexts and developing as genuine, respectful global citizens, and
* Using their skills, knowledge andnetworks 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 Asia.

**Programmes must be a minimum of four weeks and not exceed 24 months (maximum funded weeks is 72).**

**The value of the scholarship**

1. **Individuals on exchange, internship or other independent programmes**
* tuition fees of Asian institutions (not NZ fees)
* internship brokerage fees
* return flights NZ-Asia - NZ$2,000
* 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
1. **Individuals on Group programmes**
	* New Zealand Tertiary providers/institutions may apply to the PMSA to fund a group (3+) to travel together to Asia on a specified programme that meets PMSA goals.
	* 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
	* Individuals on a group programme are funded as for individuals above.

**Where?**

Preference is currently for applicants undertaking appropriate programmes in: China (greater China including Hong Kong and Taiwan), India, Viet Nam, Thailand, Indonesia, South Korea, plus Japan and Malaysia and Singapore. The destination institution should have a formal relationship with a New Zealand institution.

**What?**

Programmes must be full-time and can be:

1. An undergraduate or postgraduate part or whole programme (including language programmes) in a relevant subject area at an appropriate institution in a target country, *OR*
2. Education, trade or economic-related research to target countries, including cooperative or independent research at educational institutions. Applicants undertaking research-only programmes must be enrolled at a New Zealand tertiary institution, in either a master’s or PhD, *OR*
3. A full-time internship (or part-time with additional study). Internships for longer than 12 weeks may be considered.

**Who can apply?**

Candidatesmust 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 New Zealand, having done so for the immediately preceding 12 months.

**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.

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

**August Round:** Scholarship applications close **11.59 pm 30 August
March Round:** Scholarship applications close **11.59 pm 30 March**

**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 72 weeks over 24 months.
4. Cannot apply to study at a campus or delivery site of a New Zealand institution in Asia.
5. Must start their programme at least 8 weeks **after** the deadline of their 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.