



Tertiary Scholarship and Loans Board

“Building a Smarter Fiji”

APPLICATION FOR THE FIJIAN GOVERNMENT NATIONAL TOPPERS SCHOLARSHIP SCHEME (NTS) FOR LOCAL STUDIES FOR 2021

Applications are now invited from Fijians for one of the 600 Fijian Government National Toppers Scholarships to undertake full time undergraduate studies from term one of 2021 in one of the priority areas. These are full scholarships funded by the Fijian Government in line with its vision of “Building a Smarter Fiji”.

Table 1: Fijian Government Priority Areas 2021 and Minimum Cut Off Mark

Category of Award	Programs	No. of Awards	Qualifying Minimum Entry Requirements (MER)
Engineering	Bachelor of Engineering, Civil Engineering, Electrical/Electronic Engineering, Energy Engineering and Mechanical Engineering.	90	Aggregate Score of 320/400 in Year 13 with a pass in English, Mathematics and Physics and one more subject meeting the HEI’s requirements.
Medicine and Health	Bachelor’s Degree in: Dietetics, Nursing, Public Health, Medical Lab Sciences, Physiotherapy, Pharmacy and Medical Imaging Science.	90	Aggregate score of 320/400 in Year 13 with a pass in English and the area specialization subjects.
Agriculture, Fisheries & Forests	Bachelor’s Degree in: Agriculture, Agricultural Engineering, Agribusiness, Veterinary Sciences, Forestry, Fisheries, Aquaculture, Fish Technology and Food Technology.	50	Aggregate Score of 300/400 in Year 13 with a pass in English and Agriculture.
Technology	Bachelor Degree in: Telecommunications Networking, Cyber Security, Networks and Security, Software Development, Programming, Library Sciences, Media and Journalism, Information System, Computing Science, Information Technology and Applied Computing.	35	Aggregate Score of 320 /400 in Year 13 with a pass in English and at least 65/100 in Computer studies
Social Sciences	Bachelor’s Degree in: Social Work, Social Policy and Policy Administration.	5	Aggregate score of 300/400 in Year 13 with a pass in English
Environment / Marine Science	Bachelor’s Degree in: Environmental Science, Environmental Management, Climate Change and Marine Management.	30	Aggregate Score of 300 /400 in Year 13 with a pass in English
Land/Town Planning	Bachelor’s Degree in: Land Surveying, Urban and Regional Planning, Real Estate and Property Management, Geo-Spatial Engineering, GIS/Land Acquisition, Real Estate and Property Valuation.	20	Aggregate Score of 300 /400 in Year 13 with a pass in English
Commerce	Bachelor of Commerce in: Accounting, Economics, Finance, Official Statistics, Project Planning & Management, Property Management and Valuation, Occupational Health and Safety, Information Systems, Professional Accounting, HRM and Industrial Relations, Public Administration and Management.	120	Aggregate score of 330/400 in Year 13 with a pass in English and Mathematics for Accounting, Economics, Finance and Official Statistics. Aggregate Score of 330/400 with a pass in English for all other priority commerce areas.
Education	Diploma in Counselling (50 Awards)	150	Diploma in Counselling: Minimum aggregate score of 250/400 in Year 13 with a pass in English.

	Bachelor's Degree in Special and Inclusive Education (50 Awards)		Bachelor's Degree in Special and Inclusive Education: Aggregate score of 250/400 in Year 13 with a pass in English.
	Bachelor of Education Secondary(Mathematics & Physics, Industrial Arts (50 Awards))		Aggregate score of 300/400 In Year 13 with a pass in English and the subject area specialization.
Special Areas –Diploma and Certificates	Marine Studies (Nautical Sciences & Engineering), Culinary Arts, Mining, Land Surveying, Early Childhood Education, Forensic Science and Fashion, Social and Community Work, Project Management, Geospatial Science, Organic Farming, Aquaculture, Horticulture, Animal Health and Husbandry and Small Business Management.	10	Aggregate score of 300/400 in Year 13 with a pass in English
	TOTAL	600	

It is important to note that any program not included in the national priorities areas list does not qualify for the NTS Scholarships for 2021.

Also when applying if a program is not listed in the online application drop down menu or the same is not listed under an institution, it means that the program or the program offered by the institution does not qualify for NTS Local Scholarship.

Eligible Higher Education Institutions for NTS Local Scholarships:

- Fiji National University (“FNU”).
- The University of the South Pacific (“USP”).
- University of Fiji (“UOF”).
- Corpus Christi Teachers College (“CCTC”).
- Fulton Adventists University College (“FAUC”).
- Sangam Institute of Technology (“SIT”).

Application Eligibility Criteria

Applicants must satisfy all of the following criteria to be eligible to apply for NTS local scholarship:

- i. Must be a Fijian Citizen;
- ii. Must be an ordinarily resident in Fiji for at least three years before the award commencement date;
- iii. Must be either in Year 13 or such Equivalent Studies as determined by the Board in 2020 and is applying for the scholarship for commencement of studies from academic term 1 of the new academic calendar (2021);
- iv. Foundation Studies and Students who repeat Year 13 are not eligible to apply for NTS;
- v. Must be applying for one of the Fijian Government priority area as per the list provided in this communication; and
- vi. Must secure a place at a Higher Education Institution by means of a final offer letter before the application processing closing date.

Other General Application Rules

- i. Applicants must apply for NTS Scheme and list three choices **in the order of priority** from the most preferred to the least preferred choice.
- ii. Applicants must list their 3 choices carefully as priority will be given to the first stated choice. Second and third listed choices will only be considered if there are scholarships available in the category after all first choices have been processed.
- iii. All NTS Local Scholarship applicants also have an option to fill 3 program choices under the Tertiary Education Loans Scheme (“TELS”). In case the NTS application is not successful, the application will

then be moved to TELS and processed accordingly. As such there is no need for an NTS applicant to apply for TELS separately.

Required Documents for Application

1. A completed online application form. Visit www.tslb.com.fj to access the online application portal.
2. An official academic transcript for Year 12 and 13 or equivalent Studies (*Students must apply without Year 13/Foundation Studies before the application closing date but need to submit the same as soon as the results are released, however no later than the application processing closing date*).
3. Final Offer letter from the Higher Education Institute. Do not attach provisional offer letters to your application. (*Students must apply without the final offer letter from the Higher Education Institutions, but need to submit the same as soon as the offer letters are received, however no later than the application processing closing date*).
4. Original or Certified true copy of the Birth Certificate.
5. Copy of Student's TIN Letter/FRCA-FNPF Joint Card.
6. Evidence of Parents'/Guardians' Income (Salary Slip for working parents/guardians or Statutory Declaration prepared and signed by the parents/guardians and witnessed by a Justice of Peace (JP) or Commissioner of Oaths for parents/guardians who are not working or are in self-employment. Parents /Guardians running a business must submit the most recent tax assessment by FRCS).
7. Copy of Parents'/Guardians' TIN Letter/FRCA-FNPF Joint Card.
8. Copy of bank statement with account under the applicant's name.
9. Recent passport size photo.

Application Process

1. Scan and get all the required documents ready before starting the process of applying online in the pdf, png, or jpg format.
2. Visit www.tslb.com.fj and register for TSLB online application. Applicants cannot apply online unless registered first.
3. Once registered fill in the appropriate information.
4. Upload all the required documents.
5. Submit the online application.
6. Students will not be able to submit the form unless all mandatory fields are filled (With the exception of Year 13 results and final program offer letter from the institutions).

Application Assessment and Selection Criteria

1. The following assessment and selection criteria will apply:
 - i. Provisional Year 13 Results from Ministry of Education, Heritage and Arts will be obtained by TSLB after the release of the results.
 - ii. Results for all other examinations deemed equivalent of Year 13 as determined by the Board will also be obtained from the applicants;
 - iii. All results will be converted to a common denomination (percentage of the total aggregate score) for ease of comparison.
 - iv. Aggregate scores for each student will be calculated based on the Minimum Entry Requirement as per Schedule Table 1.
 - v. After converting all results to a common unit of measurement, the applicants would be ranked in a descending order (highest to lowest) for each category and sub-category of awards. This will form part of the national ranking of all applicants based on academic merit.
 - vi. Only complete applications will be ranked. All incomplete applications will miss out on the ranking.
 - vii. After the national ranking, ranking of applicants for each priority category and sub-category will be done in a descending order. For example, if Category Infrastructure has 90 awards, the top 90 applicants for this category will be identified and ranked in the descending order. In a similar way, ranking for each category will be completed.
 - viii. Preference by TSLB for ranking by category will be given to the first indicated choice of the applicants in the application form.
 - ix. Only if the quota for a category or sub-category is not filled based on the first indicated choice of the applicants, second choice would be considered. Third choice will only be considered if the quota for a category or sub-category is not filled after all first and second choices have been considered and exhausted in the ranking process;

- x. After the ranking for the shortlisted applicants for each category is completed, all other applications for the scheme for an academic calendar would be moved to TELS and processed as per the eligibility criteria.
- (2) Shortlisted and ranked students may be required to attend an interview if deemed necessary before the final decision is made.
 - (3) In case interviews are conducted by TSLB, the final ranking and decision will be based on the total weighted scores of the applicants for each category.
 - (4) All shortlisted applicants for each category would be ranked in the descending order and the top ranked students would be made an offer until the predetermined quota as per Table 1 is filled.
 - (5) All decisions of TSLB in relation to the awarding of scholarships shall be final and shall not be subject to an appeal as stipulated under Section 13(2) of the Act.
 - (6) All successful applicants must complete, sign and upload the provisional offer scholarship letter and bond agreement within 7 days from the date stated on the offer letter. Failure to do so will result in the cancellation of the offer by TSLB.
 - (7) Scholarships will only be confirmed after TSLB has issued the scholarship confirmation letter after assessing the completed offer letter and bond agreement.
 - (8) In case where two or more applicants are tied for a scholarship for any category and there is only one scholarship available to be awarded, the date of application will be considered. The applicant submitting the application earlier will be considered over the remaining applicants with the same ranking.

Application and Processing Opening and Closing Dates

Particulars	Date	Comments
Application Opening Date	23 rd November 2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Applications for 2021 opens and student can commence applying online.
Application Closing Date	24 th January 2021 (Extended till 7 th February 2021)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Last date for the students to apply. Applications close at 11.59p.m on 24th January 2020 (Extended till 7th February 2021). • Students must apply, even without the Year 13 provisional results and offer letter from the Institutions by the due date.
Application Processing Opening Date	27 th January 2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • TSLB processing of applications commences. • No new applications will be possible as the online application portal will close on 24th January 2021 (Extended till 7th February 2021). • Students can update their Year 13 results and upload the provisional results and Final Offer letter. • TSLB will commence sending the NTS Provisional Offer letter and Bond Form to successful applicants (subject to the completion of the interview process) and declining the unsuccessful applications and processing the same for TELS.
Application Processing Closing Date	19 th February 2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Last date for the processing of applications by TSLB. • All incomplete applications after 11.59p.m on this date will be declined and processed for TELS.

Late and incomplete applications will STRICTLY not be considered.

Provision of False Information is a serious offence under the False Information Act 2016.

Full information on the schemes eligibility criteria, and a step by step guide on how to apply online is available on the TSLB website www.tslb.com.fj. Answers to most of the student queries can be found under the NTS Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ's) on the TSLB Website. Applicants are also advised to download and make reference to the "New Students Handbook" available on the TSLB website. Live Online Chat Service facilities are also available on our website www.tslb.com.fj and can also be used for any queries between 8.00a.m to 5.00p.m from Mondays – Fridays.

For any issues with the online application, applicants are requested to email to it@tslb.com.fj with full particulars of the issue. All applicants must state their TIN in any queries emailed to TSLB.

Bobby Maharaj
Chief Executive Officer
Tertiary Scholarship and Loans Board