



## MINISTRY OF EDUCATION, YOUTH & INFORMATION

### TERTIARY STUDENT ASSISTANCE PROGRAMME

The Ministry of Education, Youth and Information's (MoEYI) Tertiary Students Assistance Programme has a suite of funding options available to Jamaican students pursuing tertiary programmes of study. Eligible students may access support to fund their higher education programmes through one of three avenues available under the Tertiary Students Assistance Programme: -

- **Scholarships;**
- **Grants** (The Financial Assistance for Tertiary Education Programme);
- **JAMVAT** – a work/study programme.

## Scholarships

There are two (2) sets of scholarships available at the Ministry.

1. **Traditional National Awards** (Annual Jamaica Scholarships, Emancipation Undergraduate Scholarships, Emancipation Post Graduate Scholarship, U-Tech Open Scholarship, Elias A. Issa Scholarship, Jamaica Technical High School Scholarship, John. J. Mills Scholarship & Jamaica Government Exhibition Scholarship);
2. **MSTVET Awards** (specific education specializations and engineering)

## **Traditional National Awards**

These Scholarships may be made available to persons employed to the central Ministry or its Regional Offices or teachers employed to government funded schools who need to upgrade their qualifications.

### **Benefits may include funding for: -**

- tuition;
- annual book allowance;
- annual maintenance allowance.

### **Eligibility for the Traditional National Awards**

To be eligible to benefit from a Traditional National Award an applicant MUST be:

- A Jamaican national who has resided in Jamaica continuously for no less than three consecutive year prior to the commencement of the programme of study. Students must therefore have been born in Jamaica or were born overseas to Jamaican parent(s) or have been naturalized (Students living in Jamaica holding a student visa are NOT eligible);
- Must be a registered full-time student or have applied to a tertiary institution to pursue a first degree;
- Successful candidates are required to enter into a bond to work in Jamaica for a period not exceeding five (5) years. Scholarship applicants must satisfy all special conditions applicable to the stated award;
- Students applying for scholarships who are already registered in a programme of study must have a minimum GPA of 3.0 for the courses completed at the time of application in order to be considered for an award;

- Applications for scholarships must be submitted between April 1 and June 30 of each calendar year.

**General list of requirements, Applications should include: -**

- A recent passport sized photograph;
- A certified copy of birth certificate;
- A letter of domicile signed by:
  - Justice of the Peace;
  - Minister of Religion; or
  - Other reputable member of the community
- A Certificate of fitness from a Registered Medical Practitioner;
- A Character letter signed by one of the persons mentioned above;
- A letter of Academic or Professional Reference;
- A Certified copy of TRN;
- Certified copies of educational records and current progress report if attending University;
- Evidence of acceptance/application at U.W.I. or U-Tech;
- Letter of approval from Chief Personnel Officer (in case of applicants in the Civil Service).

***Supporting documents are to be submitted when shortlisted applicants present themselves for an interview or prior if required to support the shortlisting process.***

### **Maintaining Scholarship Awards**

- Once a student's benefit falls in the category of a scholarship, the student will be required to maintain a **3.0 GPA**;
- Students will be required to ensure that transcripts providing details of their academic progress are presented to the Tertiary Unit of the MoEYI each semester;
- Scholarship students whose GPA falls between 2.9 and 2.2 may be placed on probation for one Semester. Failure to improve their performance may result in the award being revoked;
- Scholarship beneficiaries whose GPA falls below 2.2 will have their award revoked with immediate effect;
- Students who have had their awards revoked for which there is independent documentary evidence of a personal or medical crisis, which would have affected performance, or attendance at school (death in the family, personal illness etc.) may appeal to the FATE Committee within two weeks of receiving the revocation notice for a review of their case. The decision of the committee on the request for appeal is final.

***NB. Please see information below on how to apply for the following Scholarships:***

- **John J. Mills Scholarship**  
Kindly contact the Principal of your Teachers' College and request that you be nominated for the scholarship. The nomination is based on merit.
- **Jamaica Government Exhibition Scholarship**  
Kindly contact the University of the West Indies, Mona (Office of Student Financing).
- **Emancipation Post Graduate Scholarship**  
To access the application form, please click on the link <https://moey.gov.jm/scholarships>

**You may apply for the other scholarships using our new application platform via the link below.**

<https://tsap.moey.gov.jm/Home/AvailableScholarships>

**Where additional information is required, please contact:**

Scholarships  
Ministry of Education, Youth & Information  
5<sup>th</sup> Floor, Building One  
2-4 Heroes Circle  
Kingston 4  
Tel: (876) 612-5886 or 612-6050  
Email: [scholarships@moey.gov.jm](mailto:scholarships@moey.gov.jm)

# **MSTVETT SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAMME**

## **Background Information**

The Ministry of Education, Youth & Information (MoEYI) will annually advertise available scholarships for persons who wish to specialize in varying areas of teaching, and in recent times the non-teaching specialized area of Engineering has been added.

The terms of each scholarship will be detailed in the yearly advertisements.

The value of scholarships will vary across individual scholarship programmes.

The list of available awards will be published annually at the start of each financial year.

## ***Benefits may include funding for: -***

- tuition;
- boarding (the student must be accessing housing on the campus of the institution to which he/she is registered);
- an annual book grant.

## **Eligibility for Scholarships**

To be eligible to benefit from a MoEYI Tertiary scholarship or grant, an applicant MUST be:

- A Jamaican national who has resided in Jamaica continuously for no less than three consecutive year prior to the commencement of the programme of study. Students must therefore have been born in Jamaica or were born overseas to Jamaican parent(s) or have been naturalized (Students living in Jamaica holding a student visa are NOT eligible);

- A registered FULL – TIME student (must be engaged in face to face teaching programme offering not less than 450 contact hours per year or a minimum of 30 credit points per year – one credit point being equivalent to 15 contact hours),
- Registered in a locally accredited (UCJ) tertiary programme at the associate, diploma or undergraduate degree level;
- Aged 30 years or below.

### **Conditions of the Scholarship**

- Applicants must satisfy all special conditions applicable to the stated award;
- Applicants MUST sign a bond and be bonded to the Government of Jamaica according to the terms of the individual award. The length of the bond will be determined by the total value of the award as outlined in the Bonding Policy of the Ministry of Finance and the Public Service;
- Students applying for scholarships who are already registered in a programme of study must have a minimum GPA of 3.0 for the courses completed at the time of application in order to be considered for an award;
- Applicants must have a minimum of 5 CSEC Subjects including Mathematics, English Language and area of specialization.

### **Required Documents include:**

- A completed application form;
- Two (2) passport sized photograph;
- A certified copy of their birth certificate;
- Valid Taxpayer Registration Number (TRN);
- Proof of existing qualifications (certified copies of certificates where available);

- An acceptance letter or letter verifying that the student is registered in a programme of study;
- Students who are in the second year of a four-year programme applying for a scholarship should also provide a copy of a transcript;
- Contact information – this should include, email address and telephone contact numbers;
- Two (2) References:
  - Justice of the Peace;
  - Pastor;
  - Senior Police Office;
  - Principal;
  - Guidance Counsellor.

### **Maintaining Scholarship Awards**

Once a student benefit falls in the category of a scholarship, the student will be required to: -

- maintain a 3.0 GPA;
- sign a bond with the Government of Jamaica;
- complete 40 hours of community service over the life of their programme of study.

Students will be required to ensure that transcripts providing details of their academic progress are presented to the relevant unit of the MoEYI each semester.

### **Community Service**

All beneficiaries of grants and/or scholarships are required to give back to country through community service.

Community service can be completed in:

- children's homes;
- hospitals;
- churches and



- other service organizations that provide assistance for a community or persons in need.

**Where additional information is required, please contact:**

Scholarships

Ministry of Education, Youth & Information

3<sup>rd</sup> Floor, Building One

2-4 Heroes Circle

Kingston 4

Tel: (876) 612-6031 or 612-6082

Email: [scholarships@moey.gov.jm](mailto:scholarships@moey.gov.jm)

# Tertiary Grant Information

## **Background Information**

The Tertiary Grant seeks to provide financial assistance to vulnerable students who are experiencing challenges to continue or pursue their first degree at a locally certified tertiary institution.

- The total benefit to be given to a student will not exceed \$299,999 in value for any given academic year;
- Once a student's total benefit exceeds \$300,000, the student will be considered a beneficiary of a scholarship and the terms and requirements of bonding and other arrangements as in a scholarship award will apply.

## **The Application Process**

- Applications must be thoroughly completed;
- Incomplete applications will NOT be processed;
- Personal documents (birth certificate, copy of PATH reference Number, passport photo, copy of TRN), must be certified as true copy of original by a Justice of the Peace, Minister of Religion or Attorney- at- Law.

## **Eligibility Requirements**

To be eligible to benefit from a MoEYI Tertiary Grant, an applicant MUST be:

- A Jamaican national who has resided in Jamaica continuously for no less than three consecutive year prior to the commencement of the programme of study. Students must therefore have been born in Jamaica or were born overseas to Jamaican parent(s) or have been naturalized (Students living in Jamaica holding a student visa are NOT eligible);

- A registered FULL – TIME student (must be engaged in face to face teaching programme offering not less than 450 contact hours per year or a minimum of 30 credit points per year – one credit point being equivalent to 15 contact hours);
- Registered in a locally accredited (UCJ) tertiary programme at the associate, diploma or undergraduate degree level;
- Aged 30 years or below (the candidate must not celebrate their 30<sup>th</sup> birthday on or after September 1 of the academic year for which the grant is being made) except in instances where scholarships make allowances for older students or where the award is being made in line with an upskilling or upgrading of qualifications;
- Able to declare that he/she is not benefitting from any other government funded student financial assistance programme (EXCEPT in the case of PATH beneficiaries and Wards of the State);
- Students applying for grants must have a minimum **GPA of 2.2** to be considered for funding.

### **Requirements**

Requirements for new entrants to tertiary institutions:

- Completed application form;
- Letter of Acceptance from a local tertiary institution;
- *See general list of requirements.*

### **Returning tertiary students:**

- Completed application form;
- Transcript or Progress Report (not older than 3 months);
- Status/Tuition Letter (no older than 3 months);
- *See general list of requirements.*

**General list of requirements, Applications should include: -**

- A recent passport sized photograph (certified copy);
- A certified copy of their birth certificate (certified copy);
- Valid TRN (Certified copy);
- The area of study/specialization;
- the need for support;
- the other areas for support which have been explored;
- (e.g. has the student applied for funding from the Student's Loan Bureau or other government scholarship/grant);
- A letter from two references verifying the student's need for financial support. These letters may be submitted by a: -
  - a) Teacher or institution leader;
  - b) Pastor;
  - c) Member of Parliament; or
  - d) Justice of the Peace.

*Supporting documents are to be submitted when making the application, except for transcripts and Tuition fee letters that may be presented at interview if shortlisted.*

***Applications for grants will be accepted between April 1 and June 30 of each calendar year.***

**Consideration of Award**

A committee will review the documents submitted along with the interview details to consider and make award to each shortlisted student.

### **Accessing Additional Grant Awards**

To benefit from a second grant, students are required to: -

- Submit a stamped and signed community service card indicating that the required hours for the previous year had been completed (The form must be independently validated by the Tertiary Unit of the MoEYI);
- Provide a transcript from the institution to which they are registered to account for the progress made in the previous academic year for which funding was provided. Applicants for additional grant funding must have a minimum GPA of 2.2 to benefit

### **Community Service**

All beneficiaries of grants and/or scholarships are required to give back to country through community service.

- ❖ Community service can be completed in
  - children's homes,
  - hospitals,
  - churches and
  - other service organizations that provide assistance for a community or persons in need.
- ❖ Students may be required to do their community service in programmes or initiatives developed and being implemented by the MoEYI or any other government Ministry or agency;
- ❖ Students are required to submit signed and stamped official community service log sheets by June 30 of each academic year to the Tertiary Unit of the MoEYI. Failure to comply, will affect the student's ability to access additional funding in subsequent years of study;
- ❖ The supervisor must sign and seal each timecard completed by the student. Timecards not bearing the seal of the placement site will not be accepted.

- ❖ Where the Placement site does not have an official stamp, the supervisor must provide a written declaration as verification for the Timecard details.

***Where additional information is required, please contact:***

Financial Assistance - GRANTS  
Ministry of Education, Youth & Information  
5<sup>th</sup> Floor, Building One  
2-4 Heroes Circle  
Kingston  
Tel: (876) 612-6054 or 612-6093  
Email: [grants@moey.gov.jm](mailto:grants@moey.gov.jm)

# **The ABC's of the Jamaica Values and Attitudes Trust Programme (JAMVAT) for Tertiary Students**

## **Background Information**

The Jamaica Values and Attitudes (JAMVAT) Programme provides assistance to tertiary students who qualify for admission, but are financially challenged to cover their tuition cost. Access to this programme provides the opportunity for students to participate in the development of the nation's social capital through their contribution of 200 hours of public service. The Government of Jamaica (GOJ) pays 30% of the students' tuition cost, which should not exceed \$350,000.00 per annum. The financial aid objective of the programme is two-fold. JAMVAT promotes the participating students' awareness of his/her civic responsibility while simultaneously encouraging the positive values and attitudes necessary for community development and nation building.

## **JAMVAT Benefits**

1. JAMVAT pays 30% of **TUITION ONLY** for approved participants.
2. A stipend of \$10,000.00 is also paid to each student who successfully completes the required 200 hours of voluntary service (**Note that this is conditional and will only be disbursed on the basis of availability**).
3. Students contribute to community and national development through volunteerism.
4. Students also benefit from real world professional experience.

## **The Application**

Applicants are advised to READ all instructions carefully. Where additional information is required, please contact:

### **JAMVAT**

**Ministry of Education, Youth & Information**

**Building Three, Tertiary Unit**

**2-4 Heroes Circle**

**Kingston**

**Tel: (876) 612-6046 or 612-6050**

**Email: [jamvat@moey.gov.jm](mailto:jamvat@moey.gov.jm)**

JAMVAT will not accept any responsibility for the misinterpretation or incorrect application of programme rules.

Applications must be thoroughly completed. Incomplete applications will not be processed. The placement section must be appropriately signed and stamped as required. It is the responsibility of the applicant to seek out a suitable placement facility to complete his/her voluntary hours.

Applicants are required to submit the details of two (2) persons who may provide reference on his/her behalf. Suitable referees are: Justices of the Peace, Ministers of Religion, Academic Dean, Heads of Faculty, Guidance/Career Counsellors, JCF Officer at the rank of Inspector or above, Attorneys-at-law, Medical Doctors.



### **Eligibility Requirements**

To be eligible to benefit from JAMVAT, an applicant MUST be:

- A Jamaican national who has resided in Jamaica continuously for no less than three consecutive year prior to the commencement of the programme of study. Students must therefore have been born in Jamaica or were born overseas to Jamaican parent(s) or have been naturalized (Students living in Jamaica holding a student visa are NOT eligible);
- A registered FULL – TIME student (must be engaged in face to face teaching programme offering not less than 450 contact hours per year or a minimum of 30 credit points per year – one credit point being equivalent to 15 contact hours);
- Registered in a locally accredited (UCJ) tertiary programme at the associate or undergraduate degree level;
- Aged 35 years or below (the candidate must not celebrate their 35<sup>th</sup> birthday on or after September 1 of the academic year for which the benefit is being made);
- Able to declare that he/she is not benefitting from any other government funded student financial assistance programme (EXCEPT in the case of PATH beneficiaries and Wards of the State);
- Students applying for JAMVAT must have a minimum **GPA of 2.5** to be considered for funding;
- Must not have benefitted JAMVAT for a maximum of three (3) awards.

### **Requirements**

Requirements for new entrants to tertiary institutions:

- Completed application form;
- Letter of Acceptance from a local tertiary institution;
- *See general list of requirements.*

**Returning tertiary students:**

- Completed online application form;
- Transcript or Progress Report (not older than 6 months);
- Status/Tuition Letter (no older than 6 months);
- *See general list of requirements.*

**General list of requirements, Applications should include: -**

- A recent passport sized photograph (certified copy);
- A certified copy of birth certificate (certified copy);
- Valid TRN (Certified copy).

***Applications for JAMVAT will be accepted between April 1 and June 30 of each calendar year.***

**APPROVAL**

- Approvals are done in batches & the lists of approved applicants are sent to participating schools. An email will also be sent to approve applicants;
- Applicants who have accepted Student Loan Bureau (SLB) are now eligible to receive JAMVAT within the same academic year;
- All approved students will be contacted advised of their approval through the receipt of an official approval letter (emailed or otherwise) from the JAMVAT office.

**Appeal**

Applicants who do not meet the stated requirement but who believe there are compelling reasons for them to be considered MUST submit a written request for further consideration. These will be treated as SPECIAL CASES whereby the FATE Committee will consider each request on its own merit.

### **Community Service**

- Students SHOULD NOT commence voluntary hours for the JAMVAT programme without written approval from the JAMVAT office;
- The official start date for voluntary service for each student is the student's DATE OF APPROVAL, which is stated in the commencement letter;
- Any service initiated before the student's official approval date will not qualify for JAMVAT assistance;
- Students are required to download documents in the Commencement Package email with the relevant forms needed to conduct the 200 hours of voluntary service. Before starting the voluntary hours, students should sign and submit the JAMVAT agreement form;
- Voluntary service must be done at a governmental, non – profit or community – based organisation. Private companies are not included;
- Voluntary service done at unapproved sites does not qualify for payments. If the participant is uncertain about the suitability of a Placement site, he/she must seek approval from the JAMVAT office BEFORE serving. Clarifications pursued after the fact will not be facilitated;
- Each Placement site must appoint a supervisor who will monitor the student(s) work over the given period and sign the student's timecard in the slots indicated each day;
- Students who are given conditional approval must communicate any change in registration status to the JAMVAT office, as unregistered students will not benefit from 30% tuition assistance;
- JAMVAT participants must complete 200 or more voluntary hours before or at the close of the programme to qualify for the 30% of tuition grant;

- Students who do not complete the required service on or before the stated deadline will not qualify for payment;
- JAMVAT accepts no responsibility for miscalculations or errors committed in the calculation of total service hours. Allowances for these errors will be considered on a case by case basis and according to the discretion of the programme administrators;
- **\*\*\*A student may complete a minimum of 1 hour and a maximum of 9 hours per day of voluntary work done;**
- The supervisor must sign and seal each timecard completed by the student. Timecards not bearing the seal of the placement site will not be accepted;
- Where the Placement site does not have an official stamp, the supervisor must provide a written declaration as verification for the Timecard details. This letter must be on the organization's letter head;
- Close/Immediate relatives of students **SHOULD NOT** act as supervisors for JAMVAT participants to avoid the obvious conflict of interest. Voluntary service conducted under these conditions will not be accepted for payment;
- Examples of organizations are public: School, Hospital, Clinic, Food for the Poor, Fire Brigade etc.

### **Submission of Timecards**

- The supervisor must sign and seal each timecard completed by the student. Timecards not bearing the seal of the placement site will not be accepted;
- Where the Placement site does not have an official stamp, the supervisor must provide a written declaration as verification for the Timecard details.
- Participants are required to submit the following documentation in the number order given:

1. Time Card(s) – Signed & stamped;
  2. Work/Study Agreement - completed;
  3. Bank Return Form – with seal of Branch that provided verification;
  4. JAMVAT Job Description- signed & stamped;
  5. JAMVAT Essay;
  6. JAMVAT work/study Participants’ Performance Review;
  7. JAMVAT work/study participant’s appraisal form
- To minimise the opportunity for lost documents, incomplete submissions **will not** be accepted;
  - Where a student is required to complete voluntary service in fulfilment of requirements to be awarded a certificate at the tertiary institution, such hours **WILL NOT** qualify to be used as JAMVAT hours;
  - Student workers must complete the required 200 hours at a location outside of the locale of the tertiary institution which they attend.

### **Payment of Tuition & Stipend**

- Each tertiary institution is required to confirm the correct sum to be paid for each student;
- Where there is a discrepancy with the stated amount for a student, JAMVAT will pay to the lesser amount until the appropriate rate is determined;
- Once the student’s Timecard has been verified and it is confirmed that 200 hours of voluntary service have been completed, JAMVAT may provide a COMMITMENT LETTER to the institution to confirm the student’s eligibility for payment with Seven (7) working days of the request. (Conditions apply)

- Participants are required to provide bank account information for the payment of the stipend. Payments are made to accounts held at a COMMERCIAL BANK (NCB or BNS) in Jamaica;
- Stipend will only be paid if the participant has satisfied all the conditions for JAMVAT support. No payments will be made for incomplete service or for persons who receive approval but are deemed to be not eligible on reassessment of their information;
- Please note that JAMVAT payments are non – transferable across academic years.

### **Grievance Procedures**

Kindly refer to the Work/Study Agreement which details the appropriate steps to be taken in such matters.