

Scholarship policy for MRRD/AIRD



AIRD

Scholarship policy for MRRD Employees for post
graduated and Short term course

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DRAFT SCHOLARSHIP POLICY

1. Introduction

The Islamic Republic of Afghanistan keeps receiving scholarships/fellowships from various countries like India, Japan, Australia, Korea, Malaysia, Thailand, Pakistan, Germany, Saudi Arabia, Indonesia etc though their embassies located in the country. These scholarships are of short duration training, undergraduate courses and post graduate studies. While some requests/announcements are sent directly to the Ministries, most requests are routed through Afghanistan Civil Services Commission to respective Ministries. The current practices of selecting candidates for such scholarship at MRRD follows the method of circulating the scholarship announcement by AIRD among the concerned departments and screens the candidates by a small committee after an interview and recommend the names to the concerned agencies. It is felt that well laid procedures have to be evolved to make the selection of candidates quite open and transparent so that the best candidates are selected. It is also felt that the post-scholarship commitments of the candidates to serve the interest of MRRD also need to be spelt out clearly. Keeping the above in mind the following policy and procedures have been evolved.

2. Goals /Objectives/purpose

To build the professional capacity of MRRD employees so that they contribute to a sustainable and effective system of governance and public administration facilitating better delivery of services by the MRRD.

3. Subject/Courses/location

3.1. Subject: As may be specified/offered by the sponsoring governments/donors/agencies

3.2. Course:

- Short term: training programmes or certificate courses of duration not exceeding three months
- Medium term: Diploma programmes/courses of 3-12 months duration
- Long term: Courses(undergraduate/post graduates/doctoral programmes)of one to three years duration

3.3. Country /University: As may be specified/offered by the sponsoring governments/donors/agencies

4. Eligibility Criteria

This scholarship is available for all employees of MRRD working in Kabul and as well as in the provinces subject to fulfilling the listed criteria. Eligibility Criteria specified by the sponsoring government/donor/agency will be followed. However, the following general guidelines will be adopted.

- Permanent Afghan citizen
- Educational Qualification (at least degree in relevant field)
- Experience (at least 2 years working with MRRD)
- Adequate competence to read and write English (Some donors may specify the level of proficiency like IELTS/Topel)
- Age between 25 -50 years
- Must be a civil servant belonging to the MRRD(In exceptional cases when suitable candidates are not available from the government staff or interest of the project demands, some deserving candidates on contract service may also be considered)
- Not availed scholarship under any of the programmes in last two years
- **Preference for women candidates and first timers (the % reserved for women by some donors will be adhered to)**

5. Amount of Scholarship

As may be specified/offered by the sponsoring governments/donors/agencies; generally this will include travel cost from home country to selected institutions/universities, tuition fees, subsistence allowance and some incidental charges

6. Selection process

- Circulate the scholarship among MRRD programs
- Application format. A general format is prescribed. However, applications as specified by the sponsors will be followed)
- Screening the application will be done by Training Planning and Review Committee of the AIRD and a short list will be prepared
- Initial interview with short listed candidates will be done by selection committee constituted for the purpose
- Written test and final interview as per the requirement of sponsor

7. Post Scholarship Commitment

All the candidates selected for the scholarship should execute a bond/ written commitment to return to Afghanistan and serve a Minimum period at MRRD as follows;

- Two years in respect of long term courses
- One year in respect of medium term courses
- Six months in respect of short term courses

In case of breach, the candidates will refund the travel expenses and 50% of the remaining amount of scholarship to MRRD.