

NOAA-CERMES Climate Resilience Enhancement Programme (NCCREP) Scholarships  
Request for Applications for the 2022-2023 Academic Year

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## 1.0 Introduction

The Centre for Resource Management and Environmental Studies (CERMES) at The University of the West Indies (UWI) has entered into a 2- year partnership with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) to provide 3 scholarships (two in the first year and one in the second) to high performing CERMES MSc students who wish to contribute applied research towards a low carbon and resilient development pathway for the region. This partnership is the NOAA-CERMES Climate Resilience Enhancement Programme (NCCREP), with support from the U.S. Department of State. The scholarship programme will allow talented students, who previously would have been unable to pursue postgraduate studies due to economic circumstances, to fulfill their academic potential.

NOAA is an institution recognised around the world for its scientific endeavours related to climate science, including adaptation and resilience, and coastal and marine resource management and protection. NOAA’s mandate is compatible with that of CERMES, which is “*applying science to sustainability*”. Launched under the auspices of the US- Caribbean Resilience Partnership, the aim of the NCCREP is to help connect science to critical societal needs related to climate change and variability for a resilient future. Students will be supported for an applied research experience that will benefit them while developing regional capacity in water resource, land, coastal, marine and other climate-related areas.

## 2.0 NCCREP Scholarship Overview

The NCCREP Scholarships provide up to US\$20,000 in funding for eligible students for a maximum of 12 months. This funding is meant to cover:

- Tuition fees & University Fees

Note: Once the above fees have been removed for the academic year, the remaining funds will usually be disbursed in quarterly payments to the student on submission of a signed UWI emolument form (<https://www.cavehill.uwi.edu/gradstudies/resources/forms-students/graduate-scholarship-emolument-form-en.aspx>).

Candidates will be chosen from the applications received by the MSc programme for all four of its specialisation streams and on receipt of expressed interest, in writing, in pursuing the scholarship. Candidates and recipients of the scholarship cannot be co-financed from additional external sources of funding, including other scholarships, unless this funding is minimal and agreed to upon application.

Country eligibility (candidate nationality/citizenship): students from Dominica, Dominican Republic, Grenada, Guyana, Haiti, Jamaica, St. Lucia, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Suriname, Antigua and Barbuda, the Bahamas, Barbados, St. Kitts and Nevis, and Trinidad and Tobago are eligible.

Gender equality and non-discrimination will apply to all aspects of candidate selection in keeping with UWI and NOAA policies.

### 3.0 Application and Selection Process

Candidates for the NCCREP scholarships must apply in writing by 1 June, 2022. The application letter should be addressed to the Director of CERMES. The letter should specify why the candidate believes that they should be awarded a scholarship and how they would intend to use the knowledge gained from the MSc programme. The application letter should not exceed 1,000 words.

A committee comprised of NOAA and CERMES staff and faculty will select suitable candidates.

Scholarship candidates have to meet the criteria for entry into the University's postgraduate programmes. A Bachelor's degree in a discipline appropriate to the MSc with a minimum Grade Point Average of 2.8 (Lower-Second Class Honours or its equivalent) is required. The minimum level of the degree required may be re-assessed for candidates with years of relevant professional experience.

In addition to the above academic requirements other factors are also considered in the CERMES MSc selection process including the economic circumstances of the candidate, practical experience, extra-curricular activities, non-academic qualifications and, for those taking leave to return to a substantive post, the relevance of the degree to discharge of the responsibilities of the post.

Continuity criteria will be agreed upon by NOAA and CERMES to ensure that only scholarship recipients who maintain a high standard of academic performance continue to receive the scholarship. Those who do not perform well (maintaining a GPA of at least 3.0) may need to relinquish their scholarship after due process following the rules and procedures of the UWI Cave Hill Campus and any other process specific to the scholarship. Specific action trigger criteria will be determined before each academic year but may be modified by mutual agreement on a case-by-case basis.