



EAST-WEST CENTER
COLLABORATION • EXPERTISE • LEADERSHIP



UNITED STATES–TIMOR-LESTE SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM 2009

INFORMATION FOR APPLICANTS

The East-West Center is pleased to announce the 2009 United States–Timor-Leste Scholarship Program competition. The Program, authorized by the U.S. Congress and funded by the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs of the U.S. Department of State, is a competitive, merit-based scholarship program open to East Timorese who meet specific selection criteria. **Five (5) scholarships will be awarded to begin in January 2010.**

The objective of the Program is to identify and support the education of academically talented East Timorese who are expected to assume leadership roles in their communities. This Program will ensure that this group has the opportunity to pursue intensive English language preparation followed by undergraduate degree study in fields that are directly relevant to the needs of Timor-Leste and to obtain a broader understanding of the United States. The scholarship program will include a summer internship in Washington, D.C. as well as a four to five week community service project in the students' home country.

Eligibility and Selection Criteria

The eligible fields of study emphasize certain critical development needs in Timor-Leste. Students admitted to this Program will pursue undergraduate degree studies in fields related to agriculture, business, communication, computer science, economics, education, environmental sciences, international relations, political science, psychology, urban planning or other fields considered valuable to Timor-Leste's development.

Selection will be made by an academic review committee including representatives from the East-West Center, University of Hawai'i, and the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs of the U.S. Department of State.

Please note the following important eligibility and selection criteria:

- Applicants must be citizens of Timor-Leste. Applicants with dual citizenship, one of which is United States citizenship, are not eligible.
- Applicants must have graduated from secondary school in good academic standing.
- Applicants with no prior college/university experience are invited to apply.
- Applicants who have completed some undergraduate (S1) study from an accredited tertiary institution are also invited to apply. Applicants must provide documented evidence of this course work for admissions and transfer credit consideration.
- Preference will be given to applicants who have a strong academic record as evidenced by a grade point average of 2.5 or above.
- Applicants must demonstrate English proficiency equivalent to a TOEFL (Test of English as a Foreign Language) score of at least 425. An English language exam – the Test of English Language Proficiency (TELP) – will be administered in conjunction with the USTL competition. A score of 425 indicates that applicants should be able to attain the listening, speaking, reading and writing skills necessary to succeed at an English-only, U.S. university within the length of study funded by the scholarship.
- Applicants must be available for English language testing in Dili on September 2 – 3, 2009.

- Applicants who obtain an English score of at least 425 will be invited to attend an interview September 9 or 10, 2009 in Dili.
- Applicants must submit a completed application form in English and write three (3) essays outlining their educational goals and future objectives (See the three essay questions with the scholarship Application form).
- Applicants must demonstrate a strong commitment to contribute to Timor-Leste's development.
- Applicants must submit two (2) letters of reference, completed on the official Reference forms included in the application packet:

1. The Academic Reference Form should be completed by a university lecturer, instructor or school official.

2. The Personal Reference Form should be completed by an employer, a second instructor, a supervisor, a religious leader, or someone who can vouch for the applicant's character and abilities.

NOTE: It is recommended that applicants choose their referees carefully, and encourage them to provide as much information as possible about the applicant.

- Applicants must submit copies of official academic records from secondary school and university. An official record bears the actual signature of the registrar and the embossed seal or official stamp of the issuing institution.
- Scholarship recipients must be able to obtain an Exchange Visitor (J-1) visa. J-1 exchange visitor students are expected to contribute to the scholarly exchange of information between the U.S. and Timor-Leste, and are required to return to the home country following study for a period of at least two years before being eligible to apply for an immigrant visa or a non-immigrant H or L visa.
- Scholarship finalists will be required to undergo a health screening.

Finalists will be interviewed and selections made according to the following criteria:

- (1) Motivation to fulfill the goals of the program – by completing their studies and returning to Timor-Leste to make their contribution to their country's development.
- (2) Ability to communicate clearly.
- (3) Expected adaptability to a new environment.
- (4) Demonstrated ability to engage in rigorous academic work.
- (5) Leadership experience and/or potential.

Program Description

Award Description. Scholarships are available on a competitive basis to individuals interested in completing a bachelor's degree at a university in the United States. The program normally consists of a "bridge" year of intensive English language preparation followed by Bachelor's degree program of study.

Educational Component. During breaks between semesters, program activities will allow students to become familiar with research and educational activities at the East-West Center and other locations within the U.S.

Award Provisions and Conditions. Scholarship recipients will receive the following:

- Tuition and fees payable to the U.S. university at which the student is studying.
- Monthly maintenance allowance for housing, food, and incidental expenses. The exact amount will vary and depends on the location of the recipient's program.
- Health insurance in accordance with the Exchange Visitor (J-1 visa) regulations.
- An initial settling-in allowance.
- An annual book allowance.
- Air transportation to all official activity sites.
- A summer community service assignment in Timor-Leste in the second year of the scholarship.
- A summer internship in Washington, D.C. in the third year of the scholarship.

Visa. Scholarship recipients are required to come on the Exchange Visitor (J-1) visa and are subject to all provisions of the Exchange Visitor Program.

The intent of the Exchange Visitor Program is to have participants return to their home countries upon program completion to share and apply the knowledge and experience gained during their program in the U.S. After completing their academic programs, Exchange Visitors must fulfill a two-year home residence obligation.

Policy on Dependents. The program is unable to provide the level of financial support that comfortably meets the needs of a family budget. Awardees may request to have a family member join in the final year of study if certain program, academic, and financial conditions are met, and the request is approved by the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs and the East-West Center.

Application Procedures and Deadlines

In Timor-Leste. An application packet may be obtained from the United States Embassy, Praia dos Coqueiros, Dili.

For more information in Timor-Leste, please contact the East-West Center's representative in Dili, Ms. Emma Coupland, by telephone: (+670) 735 8477 within the country, or e-mail: USTLScholarship@gmail.com.

East-West Center. Application materials may also be obtained by contacting the Award Services Office, East-West Center, 1601 East-West Road, Honolulu, Hawai'i 96848-1601, USA; telephone: 1-808-944-7735, fax: 1-808-944-7730, email: USTL@EastWestCenter.org.

Internet. All application documents contained in the application packet may also be found at the following Internet site: <http://www.eastwestcenter.org/studentprograms>

A complete application must consist of:

1. The completed application form.
2. Three essays (see the essay topics accompanying the Application Form) – total: 750 words.
3. Two letters of reference completed on the two attached official Reference forms. The Academic Reference should be from a lecturer, instructor or school official, and the Personal Reference should be from an employer, a second instructor, a supervisor, a religious leader or from a responsible member of the community who can vouch for the applicant's character and abilities.

The person completing each Reference form must seal it in an envelope and sign the back of that envelope prior to giving it to the applicant for submission with their application. English translation must be provided if the original letter of reference is in another language.

4. A copy of official academic records from secondary school and university or college. An official record bears the actual signature of the registrar and the embossed seal or official stamp of the issuing institution. If official documents are in Indonesian or Portuguese, the institution must provide a certified English translation.

[NOTE: Failure to obtain these academic records may result in disqualification.]

5. If official high school records are unavailable because they were destroyed, please write an explanation and prepare a written statement for the high school with the following information clearly printed or typed:
 - Applicant's full name
 - Name and location of the high school
 - Years attended
 - Date of graduation
 - Names of instructors
 - Brief description of all courses taken
 - Final grade

[NOTE: An official of the institution or an official from the Ministry of Education must sign this written statement.]

SUBMISSION OF APPLICATIONS:

COMPLETED APPLICATIONS MUST BE SUBMITTED TO THE U.S. EMBASSY, PRAIA DOS COQUEIROS, DILI, BY 6pm, on AUGUST 21, 2009.

It is strongly recommended that all applicants arrange to meet with Ms. Emma Coupland before they submit their applications to ensure that those applications are complete and satisfy all eligibility and selection criteria stated in this application packet.

Applicants may contact Ms. Emma Coupland to discuss their applications.

Telephone: (+670) 735 8477 **or e-mail:** USTLScholarship@gmail.com

Applicants please note these important dates:

- **CLOSING DATE FOR APPLICATIONS:** Submit completed applications to the U.S. Embassy, Praia dos Coqueiros, Dili, **by 6pm, Friday, AUGUST 21, 2009.**
- **ENGLISH TESTING:** On **Friday, August 28, by 4:00 p.m.**, a notice will be posted at the U.S. Embassy in Dili listing the names of people who will be invited to English testing. This notice will also provide information about the time and place of testing.
 - English testing will take place on **September 2 - 3** in Dili. [NOTE: Applicants must achieve an English test score of *at least 425* to be eligible for an interview.]
- **INTERVIEWS:** On **Saturday, September 5, by 4:00 p.m.**, a notice will be posted at the U.S. Embassy in Dili listing the names of those applicants who are invited to be interviewed. This notice will also provide information about the time and place of each candidate's interview.
 - Interviews will be held on **September 9 and 10** in Dili. [NOTE: **All interviewees** will be requested to sign a University of Hawai'i 2009-10 application form provided on site in the event that they become finalists. The form will be completed by EWC staff in Honolulu, should the applicant become a USTL scholarship recipient.]
- **PROVISIONAL SCHOLARSHIP AWARD DECISIONS** will be announced by **September 22.**
- **AWARDS** will begin in **January, 2010.**

Any questions regarding the application, the English test, the interview, or any other aspect of the selection process may be addressed to the EWC representative in Dili, Ms. Emma Coupland. Mobile: (+670) 735 8477 (within Timor-Leste) or e-mail: USTLScholarship@gmail.com.

Selection Process

Please note that facilitation of the selection process is the responsibility of the East-West Center in Honolulu, Hawai'i.

Written Inquiries

Written inquiries should be directed to USTL Scholarship Program Coordinator, East-West Center, 1601 East-West Road, Honolulu, Hawai'i 96848-1601, USA. E-mail inquiries may be addressed to: USTL@EastWestCenter.org. In order to facilitate a quick response, please refer to the 2009 United States–Timor-Leste (USTL) Scholarship Program Competition when inquiring.