

Possible FAQs for PRP Scholarship

General Questions

Q1. What is the Poverty Reduction Programme (PRP)?

The PRP is a European Union funded project within the Jamaica Social Investment Fund (JSIF) which was established to support the Government's Community Renewal Programme (CRP) which is slated to provide assistance in several of the country's poorest and most volatile communities across the island. The project seeks to achieve:

1. Transformation and Development in the eligible communities
2. Social Inclusion: Community Empowerment, Involvement and Participation
3. The engendering of an environment that is violence free, fostering economic viability

The programme is funded jointly by the European Union and the Government of Jamaica.

Q2. When is the application deadline for the scholarship?

A. July 15, 2016 at 4:00pm.

Q3. How do I apply?

- Access the JSIF website – www.jsif.org
 - Download a copy of the application form from the website
 - Read the Guidelines
 - Complete the application form in its entirety (Kindly put Not Applicable in the corresponding spaces)
 - Collect the supporting documents
 - Make three (3) copies of the application along with three (3) copies of each supporting document and place them in a **SEALED** envelope addressed to the **Poverty Reduction Programme – JSIF, 11 Oxford Road, Kingston 5.**
 - Drop your envelope in the box provided at JSIF or if it is more convenient, at the Social Development Commission (SDC) office in Albion St. James.
- Visit the following SDC Parish Offices to collect hard copies of the application documents

SDC Clarendon
8B Manchester Avenue
May Pen, Clarendon

SDC St. James
Albion Community Centre
1 Albion Road
Montego Bay
St. James

SDC St. Catherine
1 Port Henderson Road
Spanish Town
St. Catherine

Q4. Is the application form available on the website?

A. Yes. A downloadable copy of the application form will be available online. Please note that all applications must be dropped off at either : 1) the JSIF office,11 Oxford Road or 2) the St. James Parish Office of the Social Development Commission - Albion Community Centre, 1 Albion Rd Montego Bay, St James.

Q5. How do I qualify for your scholarship?

A. In order to qualify, you must:

- Be between the ages of 17 and 25
- Be a student of a government assisted tertiary institution.
- Be a resident of one of the listed PRP communities (see list of communities online)
- Be in financial need
- Be actively involved in community work through community-based organization/s and/or other voluntary programmes
- Have confirmed acceptance in an accredited government assisted Tertiary Institution (including teacher’s college)
- Be in good academic standing
- **Not be in arrears for your previous academic year(s) tuition or any other fees**

Q6. Who decides on the awardees?

A. A panel of experienced evaluators will make the decision based solely on the information provided with your application.

Q7. When will I get the results?

A. You will receive a notification whether or not you have been successful approximately two and a half weeks after the closing date. Please do not contact the JSIF office about the decisions. You will receive the results as soon as they are available.

Financing Questions

Q8. What do you mean by “Be in financial need”?

A. You must provide evidence that you are experiencing hardship and are in need of financial assistance. Proof of family/household income may come in the form of:

1. A letter from a Justice of the Peace
2. A letter from the employer of your parent/guardian
3. Copy of Parents/Guardians pay slip

Q9. Could you explain the contribution of the scholarship recipient?

A. The scholarship will fund 90% of the total cost of your programme up to a maximum of \$350,000. The recipient will be required to fund the remaining 10% of the total cost of the programme of study.

Q10. When and where would I get the scholarship funds?

A. Once you have been awarded, you and your institution will be notified. At this juncture, provisions will be made for funds to be disbursed directly to your institution of study. You will also need to make the co-payment.

Q11. Are maintenance fees charged by the institution (e.g. lab fees) covered?

A. The award covers tuition and maintenance fees (Auxiliary, miscellaneous).

Q12. Does the award cover fees for previous years or programmes of study?

A. No. It does not cover retroactive fees or charges

Q13. Can the funds be used to pay off/down my student loan?

A. No

Q14. Can you benefit from this and another scholarship at the same time?

A. No. The PRP scholarship award is only for persons who are not receiving any other type of assistance

Selection Criteria Questions

Q15. Why is it only the age group - 17 and 25?

A. This is in keeping with the mandate of the Programme as studies have shown that this is an area of great need.

Q16. What is a community-based organization?

A. A community-based organization is a group of individuals organized by and established for a particular community of people based on shared interests or attributes or for a particular purpose or cause. It tends to be grass roots in nature, working from the ground level upward to address common community issues. Participation on community-based organizations is generally voluntary and open to any individuals with interest in the particular issue. Many community-based organizations will hold regular meetings for a specific period of time where they discuss the issues of common concern.

Q17. You said that the applicant must participate in community work through community-based organization/s and/or other voluntary programmes; does volunteering at church count?

A. Yes. Volunteer work at church or any other place that serves the public is considered to be “community work through community-based organization/s”

Q18. Is there a minimum GPA required to apply for the scholarship?

A. Yes. Applicants must have a minimum GPA of 2.5 (based on the 4.0 grading scale)

Q19. Why doesn't the scholarship cover studies in Law, Dentistry, Medicine or Nursing? What if I can find the balance?

A. Unfortunately, the fee of these programmes per annum exceeds the range that the programme can cover.

Q20. Why is it only for one year?

A. This is based on availability of funds.

Q21. If I were a previous beneficiary, can I apply again?

A. Yes

Q22. Can I defer the scholarship to post – graduate studies?

A. No. The scholarship has to be taken up for the academic year awarded -2016/2017.

Q23. Which universities/institutions are eligible?

A. Government assisted tertiary institutions are eligible, some of which are:

- Teachers' colleges
- University of the West Indies
- University of Technology
- Edna Manley College for the Visual and Performing Arts
- Mico University College

Q24. Does the award cover associate degrees?

A. Yes