

Early Childhood Scholarship and Education Grant Policy

1 The Policy

1.1 Objective:

There are approx. **5600** early childhood practitioners in 3000 basic schools and **404** registered Day Care Centres. Of this number only approximately 900 are college-trained.

The specific objective is to provide scholarships for candidates to pursue early childhood professional training leading to an Undergraduate or Associate Degree in Early Childhood; a Post Graduate Degree as well or specialised short courses.

1.2 Annual Allocation/Distribution of Scholarships

The CHASE Scholarship is awarded each year to applicants who have enrolled in full-time or part-time study at an accredited institution.

The allocation is capped at 20% of the sector's annual receipts. The scholarships are awarded for the duration of the programme of study to a maximum of four years.

1.3 Coverage

Students can apply for either one of the following categories:

1. Associate's Degree
2. Bachelor's Degree
3. Post Graduate Degree
4. Specialized Short Courses or to attend conferences locally and abroad

1.4 When and How to Apply

Scholarships are advertised in April/May each year. Application forms are available at the Office of the Early Childhood Commission located at 8-10 Ocean Boulevard, Kingston and on the CHASE Fund's website at www.chase.org.jm.

1.5 Application Requirements

- Be a Jamaican Citizen
- Applicants must demonstrate exceptional performance in key areas of academic achievement, contribution to community, school and workplace.
- Complete an application form
- Provide an official transcript
- Must have achieved at least a B average (GPA of 3.0) in the previous academic year
- Preference will be given to applicants who are employed to an Early Childhood Institution

- Provide an acceptance letter from the Institution/College.
- Provide a recommendation from the Education Officer/Development Officer and Parish School Board

1.6 Value of Scholarships

Scholarships will provide support for tuition only. A maximum of 80% of tuition per annum will be covered.

1.7 Bonding

Recipients receiving scholarship awards in excess of \$300,000 will be bonded according to the Ministry of Finance (MOF) policy.

1.8 Maintenance of Scholarship

Applicants are required to maintain a “B” average during the full term of the programme.

1.9 Scholarship Selection Committee:

The Scholarship Committee comprises of a representative from the CHASE Fund; the Early Childhood Commission (ECC); the Tertiary Unit (Ministry of Education) and the Teachers’ Colleges.