



## **CALL FOR SCHOLARSHIPS 2022 – 2023: INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS FOR THE ENGLISH AS A SECOND LANGUAGE PROGRAM (ESL) AT THE UNIVERSITY OF BELIZE (UB)**

### **The University of Belize ESL Scholarship Program**

The University of Belize, in partnership with the Ministry of Education, Cultural Science Technology, offers an Intensive English as a Second Language Program for nine months, from April to November. The University offers this program on behalf of the Government of Belize, which remains the scholarship program sponsor. The government of Belize covers all tuition, fees, books and provides a monthly stipend to defray housing and university expenses. The University is pleased to host these students and has a long history of providing them with individualized services and a learning environment that maximizes their chances for cultural immersion, language practice, and personal development. This information document will list several of these services and programs to which scholarship students can access.

### **The ESL Program at the RLC**

The University of Belize is proud to house Belize's Regional Language Center (RLC) in the Garden City, Belmopan. RLC is Belize's mechanism for bridging the Caribbean and Central America language barrier. The RLC offers many specialized second language courses in English and other languages to meet the needs of our national and international clients. The nine (9) month English as a Second Language Program is designed to advance the English competency of those who enter the program regardless of their current proficiency. Students study in homogenous groups next to each other's competency levels.

All students are given a placement test upon arrival to determine which language competence level is most appropriate for them. The scholarship students join private students from all over the world who also study at the Regional Language Center. It is typical for a class to be comprised of scholarship students from Cuba, Panama, Columbia, and Mexico, along with private students from Mainland China, Taiwan,

Korea, Japan, Russia, countries in Africa, and countries in Central and South America. The nine-month immersion program focuses on strengthening students' proficiency in reading, writing, listening, and speaking skills in English. The faculty members emphasize practice and design the coursework to encourage a practical application of knowledge; this includes a mandatory 60 hours language internship program for illegible students.

During the first week of courses, all new students will be given a detailed orientation of the expectations and methodology of the new curriculum for the course. Each student will have an academic advisor. At the end of the nine-month program, after successfully completing the course, students will receive a certificate of completion from the University of Belize.

The scholarship, which includes students' tuition, fees, and books and contributes partially towards housing, there are some financial responsibilities that students are expected to finance during the program. Students will be required to have an English dictionary in hard copy or digital format, and its recommended to have a translator /translation dictionary, recording devices, headphones, and a laptop.

### **Eligibility**

- Applicants must be 18 years old upon application.
- Must commit to 9 months of living in Belize from April 2023 to December 2023.
- Applicant must have a minimum of a High-School Certificate.
- Commit to studying full-time in Belize without the possibility of employment or part-time studies.

### **Entry Requirement**

1. Complete a UB/RLC application form and an application fee of US \$15.00 (this fee may be waived for some applicants depending on their country of origin).
2. Basic to Intermediate competence in English as a Second Language.
3. Able to commit to the program.

### **Documentation requirement**

1. Completed UB/RLC application form (original and copy)
2. Updated Curriculum Vitae
3. Transcript and/or certificate of most current completed studies.
4. Two recommendation letters, either academic or from a previous or current employer.
5. Copy of passport and birth certificate.
6. 6 passport-size pictures

## **Important Dates**

- Application: From January 02, 2023, to March 15, 2023
- Expected date of arrival: April 11, 2023
- Expected date of departure: December 15, 2023

## **BENEFITS OF THE SCHOLARSHIP**

### **Stipend**

Each scholarship recipient is paid a monthly stipend of \$600.00 BZ (US\$300.00) to help defray the cost of living expenses. This stipend is a gift from the Government of Belize and is disbursed by the University of Belize to the students on the first Wednesday of each month. The first stipend in April will be disbursed after registration. Students who accept the scholarship must do so with the full responsibility of meeting all their living expenses. If they spend beyond the stipend, the university cannot add to the students' monthly stipends or waive or reduce any university costs. This stipend is only for students from outside of Belize; recipients living in Belize are not eligible for the monthly stipend, only tuition and textbook payments.

### **Expected behavior**

Students are expected to abide by the rules of the University and the country of Belize.

### **Transportation, Housing, and Student Life**

For detailed information about housing, student life, and transportation to Belize and within Belize, kindly visit our student services webpage below:

<https://studentservices.ub.edu.bz/>

To contact the office of student services directly, visit the website below: <https://studentservices.ub.edu.bz/> and send us a direct message via our "Contact Us" form.

### **Students should bring supplementary income:**

- To pay a deposit for housing options, bus, taxi, personal effects, and incidentals
- For food until the first disbursement of the monthly stipend
- To supplement the stipends every month to meet all the academic and social expenses the students will incur

A recommended amount to bring along is US\$700.00 minimum. \$1 US Dollar is equivalent to \$2.00 Belize. Recipients of the scholarship must recognize that while the university does everything in its capacity to make their stay as comfortable and their studies as fruitful as possible, the university is not the sponsor and cannot offer any additional services or undergo any expenses not listed in this document. Scholarship

students will prevent much frustration if they do not make any requests to the university outside of its expressed means.

### **Culture & Social Life**

During the year, the students will have many opportunities to display their countries' and cultures' unique character and beauty. As such, they should each bring along a flag of their country, traditional attire, photos, brochures/pamphlets, and other souvenirs from their homelands.

#### **Remember to bring the following:**

- Any special medications needed and/or personal hygiene or beauty products
- Special condiments and ingredients from home that can be used to make traditional dishes (This may be required to prepare traditional food for presentations)
- Souvenirs for cultural displays

Please visit these websites for more information on Belize:

- [www.travelbelize.org](http://www.travelbelize.org)
- <https://belize.com/>
- <https://www.belize tourism board.org/>

### **Immigration requirements**

For detailed information about immigration procedures and fees, visit our student services webpage at <https://studentservices.ub.edu.bz/student-life/main-student-services/international-students/>.

To contact the office of student services directly, visit the website below: <https://studentservices.ub.edu.bz/> and send us a direct message via our "Contact Us" form.

### **Closing Ceremony and End of Academic Year**

The academic year ends at the end of November, and the closing ceremony is held around mid-December. Students must take care of all university-related expenses not covered by the scholarship. These include graduation expenses at US \$75.00, and for students who wish to have an apostille stamp on their certificates, a fee of US \$25.00 must be paid.

## **Emergency Contact at UB**

At the University, your contact persons are:

### **Mr. Lugie Cruz**

Interim Director  
Regional Language Center  
University of Belize  
Tel. 822-3680 ext. 1520  
or cell 654- 5434  
lcruz@ub.edu.bz.

### **Dr. Martin Cuellar**

Dean of Student Services  
University of Belize  
Tel. 822-3680  
Email: mcuellar@ub.edu.bz.

If you have an emergency, call (501) 654-5434. You can use WhatsApp to contact us directly. The University does not provide airport pickups. The University receives students at the Belmopan Campus and assists in placing them in accommodations upon arrival; thereafter, the student will be able to select their housing options with guidance from UB's student services office.

Kindly coordinate with Dr. Martin Cuellar, Dean of Student Services, and the current Director, Mr. Cruz, on your date and time of arrival.