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Pre-STEP
Pre-Service Teacher Education Program in Pakistan

Pre-STEP Scholars Program in Education PhD Studies in the United States

Academic Year 2010-2011

The USAID Pre-Service Teacher Education Program (Pre-STEP) in Pakistan is pleased to announce a scholarship competition for Pakistani nationals to pursue doctoral degree studies in the field of education in the United States. Pre-STEP is five-year program funded by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) to support pre-service teacher education throughout Pakistan. The purpose of the scholarship program is to strengthen the capacity of faculties of education and other teacher preparation institutes to implement the Government of Pakistan's new four-year Bachelor of Education degree program, B.Ed. (Hons). Priority will be given to the fifteen universities that form the core of Pre-STEP's program for capacity building in education.

The fifteen (15) Pre-STEP partner universities are: 1) Allama Iqbal Open University, Islamabad; 2) Fatima Jinnah Women's University, Rawalpindi; 3) IER, University of Punjab, Lahore; 4) University of Education, Lahore; 5) Bahauddin Zakariya University, Multan; 6) University of Karachi, Karachi; 7) University of Sindh, Hyderabad campus; 8) Shah Abdul Latif University, Khairpur; 9) University of Balochistan, Quetta; 10) Sardar Bahadar Women University, Quetta; 11) IER, University of Peshawar, Peshawar; 12) Gomal University, D.I. Khan; 13) Hazara University, Mansehra; 14) Karakoram International University, Gilgit; and 15) University of AJK, Muzaffarabad.

Eligibility Criteria

1. The Pre-STEP Scholars Program in Education is open to the following groups:
 - Priority group: Faculty members from the Faculties of Education at the fifteen (15) Pre-STEP partner universities
 - Other groups eligible for scholarships:
 - Recent master's degree graduates (2007, 2008, 2009) of the Faculties of Education at the fifteen (15) Pre-STEP partner universities
 - Faculty members from other departments/faculties at the fifteen (15) Pre-STEP partner universities
 - Educators and education managers working in teacher training institutions under the provincial and federal education departments (PITE, RITE, GCET and BOC) as permanent employees
 - Members of Faculties of Education at public sector universities not included in Pre-STEP
2. Candidates must have a minimum of sixteen (16) years of formal education and have completed a master's degree with high marks.

3. Candidates must be Pakistani nationals with valid passports. Individuals with dual nationality or green cards will not be considered.
4. Individuals who hold doctoral degrees or who have completed the coursework for a PhD program are not eligible.
5. Candidates under bond with any institution/authority/governmental department will not be considered.

Application Procedures

1. All eligible applicants are to complete the attached preliminary application form, which must be received along with NTS results by **November 30, 2009**. The application can be obtained from www.prestep.org website or by sending an email to scholarship@prestep.org.

The Applications should be submitted to scholarship@prestep.org.

- Current faculty members must submit verification of position from dean of department
 - Recent graduates must submit a copy of their final transcript with the preliminary application form.
 - All applicants, except recent graduates, must send proof of employment with the preliminary application form.
2. Applicants must take the NTS GAT (General) Test on **November 22, 2009**. Scores/results of any previous NTS tests will not be accepted. Applicants will pay for the examination themselves. Scores on the NTS will be used to select individuals to go on to the next phase of the competition. Visit the NTS website at www.nts.org.pk and register for the NTS GAT (General) Test nearest you. This examination has been specifically arranged for the Pre-STEP Scholars program.
 3. Based upon the NTS scores, applicants will be shortlisted for taking the GRE/TOEFL preparatory classes supported by Pre-STEP. Classes will be arranged in major cities around the country; however, it is not possible to conduct these trainings in each and every city. Limited seating may available and will be offered on a first-come-first serve basis. Pre-STEP will pay for the class fee and no other cost; candidates will pay for all other related costs. After the preparatory classes, candidates will take the international GRE and TOEFL tests; Pre-STEP will pay the registration fees for the tests; candidates will pay for all other related costs. Testing needs to occur by second week of January 2009.
 4. Candidates with exceptional NTS scores may be requested to bypass preparation courses and take the GRE and TOEFL examinations.
 5. Semifinalists will need to complete a full Pre-STEP application, available on the Pre-STEP website at www.prestep.org in December 2009. Send the completed application with required documents to: scholarship@prestep.org by February 15, 2010.

6. Based on the application and GRE/TOEFL scores, the Pre-STEP Selection Committee will shortlist candidates for interviews.
7. After the interviews, the Committee will select candidates based on their portfolios (NTS scores, GRE/TOEFL scores, Pre-STEP applications, and results of the interviews). Pre-STEP will work with the selected candidates to complete applications for admission to a U.S. university.
8. Candidates selected to apply for PhD programs must submit the following documentation to verify their institutional affiliation:
 - *Recent graduates (2007, 2008, 2009) of the Faculties of Education at the fifteen (15) Pre-STEP partner universities:* An employment offer letter from one of the Pre-STEP partner universities or HEC will be required.
 - *Members of faculties of education and other faculties at Pre-STEP partner universities and at public sector universities not included in Pre-STEP:* Letter from dean and vice chancellor confirming that if selected for the Pre-STEP scholarship, the candidate will serve in the faculty of education of that university for a minimum of five (5) years.
 - *Educators and education managers working in teacher training institutions under the authority of provincial education departments (PITE, RITE, GCET and BOC) as permanent employees:* Letter from Secretary of Education confirming that if selected for the Pre-STEP scholarship, the candidate will serve in the same agency/ department/ institution for a minimum of five (5) years.
9. Candidates selected for admission to a PhD program in the United States will be required to sign USAID agreements and conditions of sponsorship forms as well as a bond with the employing university or provincial department of education on condition of serving with the employing agency for at least five (5) years upon completion of the PhD program and return to Pakistan.

Important Notes

1. Decisions of the Pre-STEP Scholars Selection Committee (MOE, HEC, USAID, and Pre-STEP) are final. Enquiries or disputes regarding decisions will not be entertained.
2. Candidates with no or very little foreign experience will be given preference.
3. Women, disadvantaged groups and people with disabilities are encouraged to apply.
4. The Selection Committee will strive to achieve a fair distribution of scholarships.
5. Confirmation of the award of scholarship is contingent upon the candidate receiving admission to a U.S. university and obtaining a J-1 Exchange Visitor's visa to the U.S.
6. Candidates are required to have a valid Pakistani passport. A valid passport is required for registration for the GRE and TOEFL tests.