**Information and application form for Lower Limb Orthotist Scholarship**

1. Introduction

The Ministry of Health is seeking applications for one scholarship to attend training in Bangalore, India to become a Lower Limb Orthotist (LLO). The following provides information about the scholarship and the expected role and duties of the LLO on successfully completing their studies.

1. Scholarship and training

The scholarship offer includes payment of course fees, one return flight to Bangalore, India, accommodation and a living allowance. Returning graduates will be supervised and supported on their return to Tonga with the assistance of International Non-Government Organisation Motivation Australia to assist in the initiation of Orthotic services.

This course is equivalent to the International Society of Prosthetics and Orthotics Category II level training. The course will be carried out at Mobility India, a training institute with a strong track record. The language of instruction will be English. The course will commence in July 2017 and will run for 18 months. For more information about Mobility India, please visit: [www.mobility-india.org](http://www.mobility-india.org).

The successful applicant, upon successfully completing their training, is expected to take up a position within the Ministry of Health as a Lower Limb Orthotist (LLO). One other scholarship is being advertised at this time, for a Lower Limb Prosthetist (LLP). Both candidates will be expected to work together, and will complement each other’s skills.

1. Scholarship selection

Applications will initially be short listed based on the following criteria.

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| Essential | Desirable |
| * Evidence of having completed Pacific Senior Secondary Certificate or equivalent
* Good communication skills with a high level of English (reading, writing & spoken)
* Sincere commitment to becoming an Orthotist and working with people with disability
* Strong understanding and good grades in mathematics and science subjects
* Physically able to carry out the duties of an Orthotist
* Willing and prepared to study overseas for a minimum period of 18 months
 | * Previous experience working with people with disabilities and awareness of their rights
* Good team skills
* Competent computer user
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Short listed applicants will be invited to:

* Attend an interview coordinated by the Ministry of Health
* Complete an entrance test and interview set by Mobility India (by Skype)

The selected applicant will be required to undertake a physical fitness test and blood tests (prescribed by Mobility India). On confirmation of admission by Mobility India, the successful applicant will be required to sign a bond agreement with the Ministry of Health confirming their intent to return to Tonga to work as a LLO.

1. Equal opportunity

Recruitment for this scholarship opportunity will be a fair and equitable process with reasonable accommodation made where necessary. Women and people with disabilities are strongly encouraged to apply with all applicants being considered on an equal basis with others.

1. The role of a Lower Limb Orthotist

An LLO carries out the clinical and technical aspects of providing lower limb orthotics. This includes working with child and adult clients to carry out a physical assessment, deciding which orthosis is needed, fabricating the orthosis to fit the client and then teaching the client (and their family) how to use and care for the orthosis.

Orthotics are used by different people. Some examples of the people who may use orthotics include: children and adults with cerebral palsy, people who have had polio in the past, people with diabetes who need orthotics to help manage or prevent foot ulcers, children with club foot etc.

LLOs are a member of the allied health / rehabilitation team. They liaise and consult with other members of the medical and / or rehabilitation team including Doctors, Physiotherapists, Community Based Rehabilitation workers, Nurses and others. LLOs also work with bench technicians, and may supervise their work. Responsibilities will often include ensuring that the workshop and tools used to fabricate orthotics (and other mobility devices) is well maintained, and stock is well managed.

1. How to apply for the scholarship

To apply for the Scholarship, applicants are asked to:

1. Complete the scholarship application form.
2. Attach to the completed application form a copy of the following:
3. Pacific Secondary School certificate or equivalent including final subject grades
4. Written and signed reference from a person of good standing in the community (not a family member or relative)
5. Submit the application form and supporting documents by 15th May 2017.

For more information, contact Ministry of Health to Ms Potesia Cocker at telephone number 28233/ 23200 or email wasaby\_sia@yahoo.com during working hours.

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| I am applying for the scholarship to Mobility India to study:  |
| Lower Limb Orthotics 🞏 | Lower Limb Prosthetics 🞏 | Either 🞏 |
| Personal Information: |
| Name: |  |
| Date of Birth: |  | Age:  |  | Gender: | Male 🞏 Female 🞏 |
| Address: |  |
| Phone number: |  |
| Email:  |  |
| Do you have a valid passport? Yes 🞏 No 🞏If yes, what is the expiry date?  |
| Do you have a disability? Yes 🞏 No 🞏 |
| If yes, please provide details: |
| Please rate your level of English | Poor | Fair | Good | Excellent |
| Ability to read English | 🞏 | 🞏 | 🞏 | 🞏 |
| Ability to write English | 🞏 | 🞏 | 🞏 | 🞏 |
| Ability to speak English | 🞏 | 🞏 | 🞏 | 🞏 |

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| Education history:  |
| Start date | End date | Name of school / college | Certificate / diploma  |
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|  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |
| Employment history:  |
| Start date | End date | Name of Organisation | Main responsibilities |
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| Additional information:  |
| Do you have experience working with or caring for a person with a disability? Yes 🞏 No 🞏If yes, describe your experience: |
| In less that 200 words, explain why you want to apply for this scholarship  |
|  |
| In less than 200 words, explain why you think you would be suited to working as a lower limb prosthetist or lower limb orthotist.  |
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| Checklist of attachments to include with this application form:  |
| Reference letter from a responsible person in your community (not a relative) | 🞏 |
| Pacific Secondary Senior Certificate or equivalent, including final subject grades | 🞏 |
| Photocopy of passport or other form of identification | 🞏 |

I declare that the information detailed in this application form is correct.

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Applicants signature: |  | Date: |  |

Please submit your application to the following address no later than **4:30pm, Monday, 15th May, 2017.**

**Chief Executive Officer**

**Ministry of Health**

**Administration building**

**Taufa’ahau road**

**Vaiola Hospital**

**Tofoa**