**EUROPEAN UNION EXTERNAL ACTIONS**

**11th European Development Fund Support to CARIFORUM Member States in furthering the implementation of their Economic Partnership Agreement commitments and in meaningfully reaping the Benefits of the Agreement**

**FED/2018/040-087**

**CONSULTANCY FOR CAPACITY BUILDING IN COMPETITION, PUBLIC PROCUREMENT AND CUSTOMS AND TRADE FACILITATION**

**FED/2023/443-986**

**Call for applications for scholarships to undertake postgraduate studies in Public Procurement at the University of Nottingham commencing September 2024**

 With the financial assistance of the EU, CARIFORUM has launched a project entitled “**Consultancy for Capacity Building in Competition, Public Procurement and Customs and Trade Facilitation”** as a part of the 11th EDF Support to CARIFORUM States in furthering the implementation of their Economic Partnership Agreement commitments and in meaningfully reaping the benefits of the Agreement. The project is being implemented by a consortium led by OCA Global Consulting and Technical Advisory Service S.L.U. (Spain) and which includes DMI (France) and Institute of Export & International Trade (UK).

On behalf of the consortium, **OCA Global CTA invites qualified CARIFORUM nationals to apply for scholarships** for studies at the **University of Nottingham (UK)** leading to the award of a **Postgraduate Certificate in Public Procurement Law and Policy**. **There are a total of five (5) scholarships available**. The postgraduate programme is a **fully online** programme which must be completed on a **part-time basis** over a **period of ten (10) months.**  Each scholarship will **cover all academic fees and the cost of all approved course materials**.

To be eligible to apply for a scholarship, candidates must meet **all** of the following requirements:

1. Be a **national of a CARIFORUM State** (Antigua and Barbuda, The Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Dominica, The Dominican Republic, Grenada, Guyana, Haiti, Jamaica, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago);
2. **Currently be employed to the government** of their respective CARIFORUM State or a government agency in that state and in this capacity must be engaged in administering public procurement at the central government level or be responsible for the development and implementation of public procurement law or policy;
3. Have a **minimum of 3 years of professional experience in the field of public procurement**;
4. **Be available** to commence the programme of study at the University of Nottingham for the academic year commencing in September 2024;
5. At a minimum, **possess an Upper Second Class Honours or high Lower Second Class Honours undergraduate degree or its equivalent from an internationally recognised university**; and
6. Be able to demonstrate such **proficiency in English** as will enable them to complete a programme of academic study at the postgraduate level in English.

To apply for a scholarship, interested persons are required to **submit the following documents as one (1) PDF file via email** to the following two (2) email addresses: CFEUPROJECT2023@gmail.com and admin.epaunit@caricom.org **no later than 11.59 pm CST on Sunday February 25, 2024**:

1. **A personal statement not exceeding 1000 words** indicating the applicant’s reasons for applying for the scholarship and outlining how the applicant believes the award of the scholarship will contribute to the applicant’s ability to support the development of capacity in public procurement in their respective CARIFORUM State; and
2. **Curriculum Vitae** indicating the applicant’s educational qualifications, employment history and current position;
3. **Documentary evidence** of the applicant’s responsibility for administering public procurement at the central government level or responsibility for the development and implementation of public procurement law or policy;
4. **Copies of all educational qualifications** obtained at the undergraduate level or above.

A **Selection Committee** established by the CARIFORUM Directorate of the CARICOM Secretariat will choose the candidates who will be awarded a scholarship. The Selection Committee will make this determination on the basis of the quality of the documents provided, including the candidates’ personal statement, the academic and professional qualifications and the documentary evidence of the candidate’s responsibility for administering public procurement or for the development and implementation of public procurement law and policy. Awardees will be selected with a view to achieving **gender balance** and **geographical diversity** amongst qualified applicants. As a condition of the award of a scholarship, each awardee must offer a written undertaking that they will remain **in the service of their current employer or national government** as the case may be, for a period of three years upon successful competition of the postgraduate programme. Only successful candidates will be contacted to be apprised of the results of the selection process.

More information about the postgraduate certificate programme in Public Procurement at the University of Nottingham can be obtained from the **programme website** at:

<https://www.nottingham.ac.uk/pgstudy/course/taught/public-procurement-law-and-policy-llm>

More details about the Consultancy for Capacity Building in Competition, Public Procurement and Customs and Trade Facilitation project can be obtained from the **project website** at: <https://cfeucapacitybuilding.com/>