

[LEGAL NOTICE NO. 8]

TERTIARY SCHOLARSHIPS AND LOANS SERVICE ACT 2014

Tertiary Education Loans Schemes (Amendment) Regulations 2024

IN exercise of the powers conferred on me by section 25(1) of the Tertiary Scholarships and Loans Service Act 2014 and on the recommendation of the Tertiary Scholarships and Loans Service, I hereby make these Regulations—

Short title and commencement

1.—(1) These Regulations may be cited as the Tertiary Education Loans Schemes (Amendment) Regulations 2024.

(2) These Regulations come into force on the date of publication in the Gazette.

(3) In these Regulations, the Tertiary Education Loans Schemes Regulations 2022 is referred to as the “Principal Regulations”.

Regulation 2 amended

2. Regulation 2 of the Principal Regulations is amended by deleting “funding” wherever it appears and substituting “a study loan”.

Regulation 5 amended

3. Regulation 5 of the Principal Regulations is amended by—

- (a) in subregulation (1), deleting “funding” and substituting “a study loan”;
and

(b) deleting subregulation (4) and substituting the following—

“(4) An application made under the Scheme for In-Service Students must be made in accordance with the requirements outlined in Schedule 1.”.

Regulation 7 amended

4. Regulation 7 of the Principal Regulations is amended by—

- (a) in paragraph (j), after “;”, inserting “and”; and
- (b) deleting paragraph (k).

Regulation 10 amended

5. The Principal Regulations are amended by deleting regulation 10 and substituting the following—

“Processing of application

10.—(1) The Service must make an offer for a study loan under a Scheme in descending order until the quota is reached.

(2) Where the number of applicants for each Scheme exceeds the quota, the applications should be processed based on the date of submission from the earliest submitted to the last, until the quota is reached.

(3) If the quota is reached at the mark above the cut-off mark for the category, the applicant must be advised of the same and given an option to join a relevant qualifying Scheme.

(4) If the quota is not reached for a Scheme, the Service may reduce the cut-off mark.”.

Regulation 11 amended

6. Regulation 11 of the Principal Regulations is amended by—

- (a) in subregulation (1), deleting “A provisional” and substituting “An”;
- (b) in subregulations (2) and (3), deleting “provisional”; and
- (c) deleting subregulation (4).

Regulation 12 amended

7. Regulation 12 of the Principal Regulations is amended by—

(a) deleting subregulation (1) and substituting the following—

“(1) A confirmation of a study loan under a Scheme is subject to the following conditions—

- (a) the successful applicant must accept and upload the signed copy of the offer letter on the Service’s online application portal;
- (b) the successful applicant must complete and upload a copy of the signed loan agreement on the Service’s online application portal; and
- (c) the successful applicant must not be a recipient of any scholarship or study loan scheme.”;

- (b) in subregulation (2), deleting “provisional”;
- (c) in subregulation (3)—
 - (i) deleting “funding” and substituting “a study loan”; and
 - (ii) deleting “provisional” wherever it appears;
- (d) in subregulation (4), after “covers”, inserting “, unless otherwise approved by the Service”; and
- (e) in subregulation (5), deleting “Funding” and substituting “A study loan”.

Regulation 13 amended

8. Regulation 13 of the Principal Regulations is amended by—

- (a) in subregulation (1), deleting “funding” and substituting “a study loan”; and
- (b) in subregulation (2), deleting “funding” and substituting “study loan”.

Regulation 16 amended

9. Regulation 16(7) of the Principal Regulations is amended by deleting “funding” and substituting “study loan”.

Regulation 17 amended

10. Regulation 17(1) of the Principal Regulations is amended by deleting “funding” and substituting “study loan”.

Regulation 18 amended

11. Regulation 18 of the Principal Regulations is amended by—

- (a) in the heading, deleting “funding” and substituting “study loan”;
- (b) in subregulation (1)—
 - (i) deleting “funding” and substituting “a study loan”; and
 - (ii) in paragraph (h) after “Service”, inserting “or the Government”;
- (c) in subregulations (2) and (3), deleting “funding” wherever it appears and substituting “a study loan”; and
- (d) in subregulation (4), deleting “funding” wherever it appears and substituting “study loan”.

Regulation 20 amended

12. Regulation 20 of the Principal Regulations is amended by—

- (a) in subregulation (1), deleting “funding” and substituting “the study loan”;
- (b) deleting “funding” wherever it appears and substituting “study loan”;
- (c) in subregulation (2)(c), deleting “an awardee” and substituting “a recipient”; and
- (d) after subregulation (2), inserting the following new subregulations—
 - “(2A) The eligible institution must notify the Service before a student undergoes a disciplinary process.

(2B) The eligible institution must submit investigative reports within the institution’s organisational policy under the principles of natural justice and procedural fairness to the Service.”.

Regulation 21 amended

13. Regulation 21 of the Principal Regulations is amended by—

- (a) in the heading, deleting “funding” and substituting “study loan”;
- (b) deleting “funding” wherever it appears and substituting “study loan”;
- (c) in subregulation (1)(b), deleting “military” and substituting “peacekeeping”;
and
- (d) in subregulation (6), deleting “Funding” and substituting “A study loan”.

Regulation 22 amended

14. Regulation 22 of the Principal Regulations is amended by deleting “funding” wherever it appears and substituting “study loan”.

Regulation 24 amended

15. Regulation 24 of the Principal Regulations is amended by deleting “funding” wherever it appears and substituting “study loan”.

Regulation 26 amended

16. Regulation 26 of the Principal Regulations is amended by—

- (a) in subregulation (1)—
 - (i) deleting “funding” and substituting “study loan”; and
 - (ii) deleting “funding” and substituting “the study loan”; and
- (b) in subregulation (3), deleting “funding” and substituting “the study loan”;
- (c) in subregulation (5)(d)—
 - (i) deleting “sponsored” and substituting “study loan”; and
 - (ii) deleting “university” and substituting “eligible institution”; and
- (d) deleting “funding” wherever it appears and substituting “study loan”.

Regulation 27 amended

17. Regulation 27 of the Principal Regulations is amended by—

- (a) in subregulation (2), deleting “bond letter” and substituting “loan agreement”;
and
- (b) in subregulation (3), deleting “the Service in consultation with the Minister”
and substituting “FRCS”.

Regulation 28 amended

18. Regulation 28(3) of the Principal Regulations is amended by deleting “bond”.

Regulation 29 amended

19. Regulation 29(1) of the Principal Regulations is amended by deleting “funding” and substituting “study loan”.

Regulation 30 amended

20. Regulation 30 of the Principal Regulations is amended by—

- (a) deleting “trip outside Fiji” wherever it appears and substituting “overseas travel”;
- (b) in subregulation (3), deleting “bond” and substituting “loan”; and
- (c) in subregulation (5), after “FRCS will” inserting “not”.

Regulation 31 amended

21. Regulation 31 of the Principal Regulations is amended by—

- (a) in subregulation (3), deleting “bond” wherever it appears and substituting “loan”; and
- (b) in subregulation (4), deleting “funding” and substituting “study loan”.

Regulation 35 amended

22. Regulation 35 of the Principal Regulations is amended by—

- (a) in subregulation (1), deleting “funding” wherever it appears and substituting “study loan”; and
- (b) in subregulation (2), deleting “funding” and substituting “a study loan”.

Schedule 1 amended

23. The Principal Regulations are amended by deleting Schedule 1 and substituting the following—

“SCHEDULE 1
(Regulations 5 & 8)

APPLICATION AND ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

Scheme Application Requirements

1. A student who intends to apply for a study loan under a Scheme must apply using the Service’s online application portal, unless exempted by the Service.
2. An application must be submitted to the Service by the application closing date as advertised for each new academic term or academic year.
3. All important dates in relation to applications for each academic term or year must be published on the Service’s website and official social media pages.
4. A student must submit all the required documents as specified in the application advertisement.

Loan Scheme for In-Service Students

Scheme Eligibility Criteria

An applicant must:

- (a) be a Fiji citizen;

- (b) be ordinarily resident in Fiji for at least 3 years before the award commencement date, unless determined by the Service or delegated authority on a case-by-case basis;
- (c) be in employment or provide evidence of self-employment in business at the time of application and remain in employment during the course of studies, unless on leave with or without pay;
- (d) be seeking to attain a first higher education academic qualification or upgrade an existing qualification in the same area, only if the earlier qualification was not funded by the Service up to his or her first Bachelor's Degree;
- (e) provide a support letter from the employer on the identified areas of employment;
- (f) secure a place at an eligible institution by means of a final offer letter; and
- (g) be paid tuition only.”.

Schedule 2 amended

24. The Principal Regulations are amended by deleting Schedule 2 and substituting the following—

“SCHEDULE 2
(Regulation 9)

TERTIARY EDUCATION LOANS SCHEMES QUOTA

Discipline	Quota
Engineering Services	10
Medicine & Health Services	10
Agriculture, Forestry & Fisheries	5
Information Technology Services	5
Social Works	5
Science and Innovation	10
Land/Town Planning	5
Business and Commerce	20
Education	20
Arts	5
Hotel and Tourism	5
TOTAL	100

”.

Schedule 3 amended

25. The Principal Regulations are amended by deleting Schedule 3 and substituting the following—

“SCHEDULE 3
(Regulation 19)”

GRADE REQUIREMENTS

1. In-Service Loan Scheme

The student will be required to attain 75% pass rate in the first year of studies and 100% pass rate thereafter.”

Made this 26th day of January 2024.

V. GAVOKA
Deputy Prime Minister and
Minister for Education