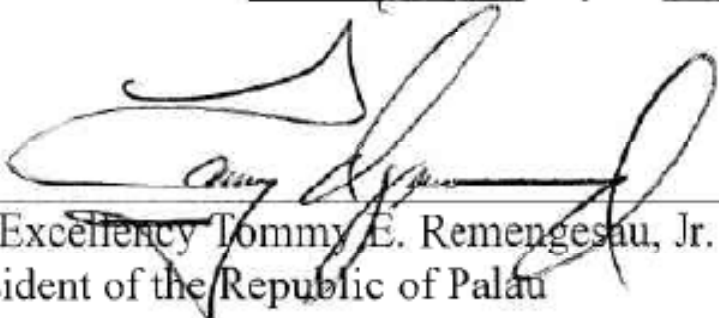


Palau National Scholarship Board Program Regulations



Adopted October 06, 2015
Effective November 06, 2015

Approved on this 06th day of October 2015.


His Excellency Tommy E. Remengesau, Jr.
President of the Republic of Palau

Palau National Scholarship Board Program Regulations

The Palau National Scholarship Board (PNSB) establishes the following regulations pursuant to Title 22 PNC Chapter 2, as amended by RPPL 9-37.

ARTICLE I MISSION AND PURPOSE

Section 1 - Mission Statement

The Palau National Scholarship Board manages and administers government scholarships and seeks additional sources of scholarship opportunities for Palauan citizens pursuing post-secondary education so that they may complete their education and return to Palau to become contributing members of our society.

Section 2 – Policy and Purpose of National Government Financial Assistance

- a) Title 22 PNC § 222 declares that it is the policy of the Republic of Palau to provide scholarships to Palauan citizens pursuing higher education in colleges and universities.
- b) Title 22 PNC § 227 provides that scholarships to citizens take into consideration the national objectives and priorities of the Republic of Palau so that recipients may return to the Republic for employment in priority fields.
- c) Title 22 PNC § 229, as amended by RPPL 9-37, mandates the Scholarship Board to provide scholarships for Palauan students, particularly those in priority fields which must, at the minimum, include law, medicine, education, special education, and engineering.

Section 3 – Primary Responsibility for Financing

- a) Notwithstanding the policy and purpose of National Government Financial Assistance in education, PNSB assistance is primarily supplemental in nature because of the limited amount of funding and the potentially unlimited demand for financial assistance.
- b) Accordingly, financing higher education for Palauan students at colleges and universities is primarily the responsibility of the student and his or her parents.
- c) Students and parents are encouraged to seek financial assistance from as many sources as are available (e.g., family, personal savings, employment, other country financial aid programs, individuals, and schools).

ARTICLE II PROGRAM TYPES

Section 1 – Authority

Title 22 PNC § 227 Subsections (b), (c), (d), and (f) and § 229 Subsections (b), (c), and (d) authorize the PNSB to establish, fund, and administer programs for grants, loans, and scholarships. Title 22 PNC § 229 Subsection (e) also tasks PNSB with the responsibility

to administer training and other educational financial assistance programs for the Republic.

RPPL 9-37 Section 2, which amends 22 PNC § 229 Subsections (d) and (e), authorizes PNSB to manage and administer all forms of scholarships, grants, loans, sponsorship programs, other programs and training opportunities, of whatever nature, made available to the citizens of Palau unless the source of funds shall limit the administering and managing authority for such funds to another entity and further that all of the above shall be directed to the PNSB for administration and management.

Section 2 – Programs Offered

The following represents general descriptions of the programs offered by the PNSB. More specific descriptions and details are provided in separate documentations available from the PNSB at no cost to the requestor.

(a) Grants

(i) PNSB-Sponsored Grants (Palau Grants)

These are general grants provided to eligible applicants of PNSB programs and are intended to defray basic costs of post-secondary education. Awards are available for undergraduate students for up to 5 years.

(ii) Non-PNSB-Sponsored Grants

These grants are offered by governmental or private sponsors and administered by PNSB. A list of grants available through the PNSB is published regularly and can also be made available upon request. Grants are awarded per eligibility and qualification requirements established by the sponsors.

(b) Scholarships

(i) PNSB-Sponsored Scholarships (available to college juniors and seniors only)

(1) Full Palau Scholarships

This scholarship provides full funding for tuition, housing, and expenses to a limited number of recipients majoring in priority fields.

(2) Partial Palau Scholarship

This scholarship provides tuition funding to defray part of students' educational expenses at a wider number of institutions for majors outside priority fields.

(ii) Non-PNSB Sponsored Scholarships

These scholarships are offered by governmental or private sponsors and administered through PNSB. A list of current Scholarships available through the PNSB is published regularly and can also be made available upon request.

(iii) Scholarships are awarded per eligibility and qualification requirements established by the sponsors'.

(c) Loans

(i) PNSB-Sponsored Loans

(1) Palau Student Loan – This loan is available to undergraduate and graduate students as supplemental assistance based on PNSB priority selection criteria. Not less than twenty-five percent (25%) of the Scholarship Fund is available each year for this loan program.

(2) Loan for Programs Offered Through Non-Traditional Means

This loan is available for students in college programs offered through non-traditional means based on availability and PNSB priority selection criteria.

(ii) Non-PNSB Sponsored Loans

These loans are offered by governmental or private sponsors and administered through PNSB. A list of loans currently available through the PNSB is published regularly and can also be made available upon request.

Loans are approved per eligibility and qualification requirements established by the sponsor.

(d) Other programs

(i) Internship Program-This program will be offered in Palau for Palauan students studying abroad according to established criteria and conditions.

(ii) Cohort Program-This program is offered through Palau Community College for higher education made available to Palauan students as established through a Memorandum of Understanding and subsequent amendments.

(iii) Student Loan Repayment Programs-This program is made available for PNSB loan recipients as described in Article V Sections 4 and 6.

(iv) Programs to assist Palauan students with obtaining foreign scholarships are available through PNSB.

Section 3 – Others

PNSB will maintain and distribute a list of non-PNSB sponsored programs and the application forms required for these programs for purposes of publication and distribution to interested students.

ARTICLE III STUDENT APPLICATIONS

Section 1 – Authority

Title 22 PNC Section 227 authorizes PNSB to develop, organize, and adopt the criteria to be followed in the selection of recipients.

Section 2 - Application Forms and Documents

- (a) Student applicants shall use the “Financial Assistance Request Form” (REQ 001) and other valid forms issued by PNSB to apply for financial assistance.
- (b) Students may also apply by formal letter provided that all required supporting documents and information are included with the formal letter. These supporting documents and information include the following:
 - (i) Personal information such as name, social security number, and date of birth;
 - (ii) Enrollment information such as college or university applied to or enrolled in;
 - (iii) Schedule of available financial resources and cost of education showing financial need certified by school official;
 - (iv) School year for which funding is requested; and
 - (v) Other supporting documents deemed necessary by the PNSB such as copy of birth certificate, copy of passport, official transcript and all necessary documentation proving student/parental Palauan residency and/or employment.
- (c) Other forms for non-PNSB funded programs may also be required by sponsors.

Section 3 – Single Submission Permitted

- (a) Applicants for PNSB grants, loans, and scholarships may only submit an application form once to be eligible for financial assistance for the current year of application and for subsequent years provided that the following documents are submitted in accordance with the published deadlines for submission of supporting documents:
 - (i) Official transcripts each year;
 - (ii) Registration documents for each additional semester;
 - (iii) School certified financial need each year; and
 - (iv) Letter informing PNSB of intent to continue each year.

Section 4 - Original Copies Required

- (a) Only original application forms will be accepted for review. The application form submitted must also be legible. PNSB reserves the right to disregard non-original application forms or forms that are illegible.
- (b) Transcripts must be original copies certified by the issuing institution.
- (c) Any erasures and white-outs on PNSB forms may not be accepted. Any corrections on the financial information section of the PNSB form must be accompanied with a letter from the school certifying the changes.

Section 5 - Timeliness

- (a) All applications and supporting documents must be received by PNSB before or on the day of the posted deadline date or postmarked before or on the day of the posted deadline date and received within 30 days from the application deadline posted by PNSB.
- (b) PNSB may accept a copy of certified application for transcript and a copy of grade report in lieu of an official transcript provided that an award may be made and disbursed only after an official transcript is received within thirty (30) days from posted deadlines.
- (c) PNSB may accept copies of transcripts provided that the school stamp or seal indicates that the transcript was issued before the posted deadline and the original is subsequently received by PNSB within thirty (30) days from the posted deadline.

Section 6 - Rights and Responsibilities of Students and Co-Signers

- (a) A co-signer must have verifiable income and must provide proof of income to PNSB at the time of signing as the co-signer of a student loan.
- (b) Students and co-signers shall acknowledge their rights and responsibilities on the form provided by PNSB and are encouraged to consult with PNSB personally to review their rights and responsibilities.
- (c) Students and co-signers shall agree to keep PNSB informed of all changes of address to maintain their eligibility.
- (d) Co-signers are borrowers and cannot co-sign for any new loan if they are co-signers on any delinquent loan or loans that have been written off.

ARTICLE IV ELIGIBILITY

Section 1- Authority

Title 22 PNC Section 227 authorizes PNSB to develop, organize, and adopt the criteria for eligibility. The following eligibility requirements are hereby adopted.

Section 2 – Post-Secondary Study

- (a) Applicants must be enrolled in or have been accepted to a college or university.
- (b) PNSB programs are based on accredited U.S. colleges and university systems. Assistance for colleges and universities in other countries will be considered based on the countries' standards provided that the PNSB has the same on file or the same is made available by the institution through the student's own request. A list of recognized colleges and universities is available from the PNSB.
- (c) PNSB-sponsored grants are available to all undergraduate student applicants.
- (d) PNSB-sponsored scholarships are available to junior/senior level university students.

- (e) PNSB-sponsored loans are available to all eligible student applicants.
- (f) Any questions on interpretation of ruling will rest on final discretion by PNSB.

Section 3 - Full-time Status

- (a) A student must maintain full-time status as defined by the institution to which the student is enrolled.
- (b) Credits for the previous academic year will be considered for continuing students.
- (c) Students who begin study mid-academic year must be considered full-time for the semester/quarter(s) attended.
- (d) A total of 24 credits per year will be considered full-time for semester system, and 36 credits per year for quarter system will be considered full-time.
- (e) Not more than one year's worth of credits may be considered for remedial courses over the course of four (4) years for any college or university student.
- (f) Credits for summer classes will be considered provided credits are reflected on transcript received by the deadline.
- (g) To complete a thesis or project, graduate students will be given a one-year eligibility status as full-time students.
- (h) PNSB may fund internship programs that are within the program required to be completed in order to obtain a degree. PNSB does not fund internships outside of the program.

Section 4 - Citizenship

- (a) All students must provide a copy of their birth certificate documenting Palauan citizenship with their first application for assistance. This copy will be maintained in the student file to be used in support of subsequent applications.
- (b) All students must provide a copy of their valid Republic of Palau passport. Copies of valid Palau passport in student's file may be used for subsequent applications.
- (c) Student must have graduated from a high school in the Republic of Palau and/or one of his/her parents or legal guardian must physically reside in the Republic. In the event that the student graduated from a high school outside of the Republic, one parent or legal guardian must physically reside in the Republic. At minimum, the criteria for residency of the parent must be two or more years of physical residency in the Republic, or one or both parents work for the ROP Government and are ROP taxpayers prior to the receipt of scholarship, grant or loan and the continued physical residency of said parent in the Republic, while student recipient is receiving scholarship, loan and/or grant.

Section 5 – Basis of Awards

Scholarships will be awarded based on students':

- (i) Field of study;
- (ii) Financial needs;
- (iii) Merit on academic achievement;
- (iv) Extracurricular activity; and
- (v) Eligibility as otherwise dictated by each program or sponsor.

Section 6 – Eligibility Periods

- (a) Undergraduate students may receive financial assistance from PNSB for a maximum period of five (5) years regardless of program. Students enrolled in a two-year college may receive financial assistance for a maximum period of three (3) years.
- (b) Graduate students may receive financial assistance from PNSB in the form of Palau Student Loan for a maximum period of three (3) years.
- (c) The above periods are general guidelines, but the Board may give consideration to a limited number of extensions due to extenuating circumstances.
- (d) Accordingly, PNSB limits the number of degrees it funds per student: one associate degree, one bachelor degree, and one graduate/masters degree or one doctorate degree.
- (e) A student re-entering study following a three-year absence from school may be treated as a new applicant provided the student is in good standing with PNSB and is in compliance with RPPL 7-13.

Section 7 - Grade Point Average (GPA) Requirements

- (a) Students must maintain the following GPA for the specified financial assistance. GPA will be rounded to the nearest 10th (first digit after the decimal point):
 - (i) 3.0 for high school graduates and 2.5 for continuing college students for Palau Grants;
 - (ii) 3.5 for Palau Scholarships; and
 - (iii) 2.0 for Palau Student Loan.
- (b) GPA requirements may vary for non-PNSB sponsored programs.

Section 8 – Declaration of a Major

A student must declare a major field of study. A student who does not declare a major field of study is ineligible for PNSB financial assistance.

ARTICLE V AWARDS & AWARD CLASSES

Section 1 – Authority

Title 22 PNC Section 227 authorizes PNSB to provide financial assistance and to establish maximum awards for its programs.

Section 2 – Award Criteria

- (a) Financial awards shall be determined each year by the PNSB and are subject to change without prior notice.
- (b) Awards within PNSB Programs are set according to the following criteria:
 - (i) Class level;
 - (ii) Field of study; and
 - (iii) GPA.

Section 3 – Disbursements of Awards

- (a) Per RPPL 9-37 § 2, which amends 22 PNC § 229 Subsection (b), the board is authorized to maintain and expend the Scholarship Fund pursuant to annual appropriations by the OEK. No later than sixty (60) days prior to the beginning of the fiscal year, PNSB shall inform the OEK as to the amount required to fund the scholarship and educational loan needs of qualified Palauan students.
- (b) Per RPPL 9-37 § 2, which amends 22 PNC § 229 Subsection (c), the PNSB, with the Ministry of Finance, will disburse awards no later than two weeks prior to the start of school term unless exceptional circumstances require otherwise. Circumstances may include, but are not limited to, delayed mail delivery of off-island applicants.
- (c) Per RPPL 9-37 § 2, which amends 22 PNC § 229 Subsection (c), funds will be made available by means of electronic disbursement when available AND only when requested by the recipient if proper information for electronic disbursement is provided by the recipient to the PNSB office with their applications before application deadlines.
- (d) Unless otherwise agreed by PNSB and with the exception of electronically disbursed funds, all awards shall be disbursed through airmail.
- (e) Students may authorize other individuals to receive their awards per written authorization specifying award affected and identifying individuals by first and last names along with their address information. PNSB may deny an authorization from a person if the identity of the individual to receive the award check is questioned. PNSB reserves the right to mail award checks directly to students.
- (f) All awards will be made semi-annually unless specified differently in the programs or by PNSB.

- (g) Awards may be deferred up to one year upon written request to the PNSB prior to disbursement of the award or upon the return of the award in the full amount. Deferment may be granted at the discretion of the PNSB subject to valid documented justification demonstrating that deferment would benefit both the student and PNSB. Valid justification includes death in the family of awardee of a consanguinal relation in the first degree, illness, undue hardship, and approved student leave from his or her educational institution.
- (h) Unused/surplus scholarship funds from returned checks, uncollected checks, and all other unused scholarship funds may be redistributed to approved applicants, program costs and/or other approved expenditures as approved by PNSB.

Section 4 - Completion of Study

- (a) Authority - Title 22 PNC § 227 authorizes PNSB to determine, in the absence of criteria set forth in legislation, program criteria.
- (b) Students must provide an official transcript with degree posted and a copy of certificate/diploma within six (6) months of completion.
- (c) Students and co-signers shall report any change of address to PNSB and shall complete and return all requests for updated address information to PNSB.
- (d) All students must report their return to the Republic.
- (e) All recipients of scholarships, grants, and student loans are required to work in the Republic for the duration of at least three (3) years, commencing two (2) years after completion of degree studies.
- (f) Repayment
 - (i) Title 22 PNC § 227 directs PNSB to require repayment of the funds it disburses. Repayment may be in the form of cash or service credit.
 - (ii) Students who receive scholarship, grant and student loan but do not return to the Republic following completion of their studies must repay all awards.
 - (iii) If scholarship, grant and/or loan recipient ceases his/her degree studies and fails to obtain his degree, he/she is required to pay back 50% of the grant or loan within two years time. The term of service credit required will depend on the amount of PNSB award received. If scholarship, grant or loan recipient fails to return and work in the Republic within the allotted time period, said recipient shall be liable to pay back to the Scholarship Fund the total amount of the scholarship, grant and/or student loan received with interest.
 - (iv) Repayment may be suspended for students who continue from undergraduate to graduate studies until completion of graduate studies or until the student leaves school. Upon approval of the Board via prior written request, suspension of repayment will be made.

(v) Students who graduate in any of the priority fields identified in Article I Section 2c are required to work in the Republic continuously for five (5) years within two (2) years in order to have the loan repayment forgiven.

(vi) PNSB will presume students who fail to return and work in the Republic within the allotted time period and students who fail to timely report their return to the Republic are continuously absent from the Republic for purposes of applying the time limit for commencement of an action for collection. The period when the cause of action for collection accrues will be presumed to begin on the date PNSB receives written notification of the student's physical residence in the Republic or on the date PNSB last received a payment, whichever is later.

Section 5 - Access to Records

- (a) All personal information obtained in the course of application shall be confidential.
- (b) Access to an applicant or awardee's personal records will be available by request of the student or his/her authorized representative.
- (c) PNSB may publish statistics aggregating student information.
- (d) Names and awards shall be available to the President of the Republic, the President of the Senate, Speaker of the House of Delegates, Minister of Finance, Office of the Attorney General, and the Office of the Public Auditor.
- (e) Personal records shall also be made available as directed by the Palau Supreme Court.


Section 6 - Service Credit for Palau Student Loan

- (a) Title 22 PNC § 227 Subsection (d) authorizes service credit.
- (b) Provision of proof of employment in the Republic of Palau (e.g., contract or personnel action) to PNSB is required for earning service credit. .
- (c) Students will receive a 15% immediate credit against their total awards if they return to the Republic and notify PNSB, re-establish residency, and notify PNSB of the same within 60 days of their return.
- (d) Five percent (5%) of the total awards for all programs awarded to the student will be credited against a student's accounts for returning to the Republic within six (6) months from graduation or completion of their last term of school, whichever is sooner.
- (e) Five percent (5%) will be credited against a student's account when a student provides a copy of his or her diploma or certificate of completion.
- (f) One hundred percent (100%) of student loans may be paid off through service credits according to established procedures.


Signed on this 6th day of October 2015.




Wandalynn T. Remeliik
Chairperson



Emery Wenty
Vice-Chairperson



Dr. Christopher Kitalong
Treasurer



Emilia A. Katosang
Secretary



Caroline S. Skebong
Member



Kevin Polloi
Member



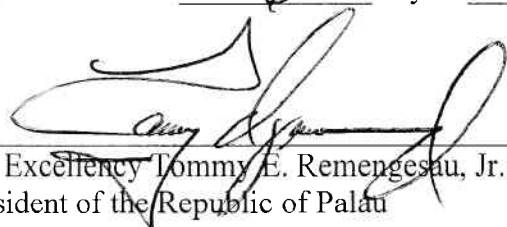
Raynold Mechol
Member

ARTICLE VI ADOPTION AND EFFECTIVE DATE

After having gone through the 30-day notice and comment period as required of the Administrative Procedure Act, the amended PNSB Regulations were adopted on October 06, 2015.

Having been so adopted and pursuant to 6 PNC § 127, the amended PNSB Regulations were transmitted to the President of the Republic of Palau for approval. Based on the adoption date for these revised PNSB Regulations, these amended PNSB Regulations are now effective as of November 06, 2015.

Approved on this 6th day of October 2015.



His Excellency Tommy E. Remengesau, Jr.
President of the Republic of Palau