



CIRCULAR NO: 40/19

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21 March 2019

TO : OFFICIAL CONTACTS OF FORUM MEMBER GOVERNMENTS
[Cook Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, French Polynesia, Kiribati, Nauru, New Caledonia, Niue, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Republic of the Marshall Islands, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu & Vanuatu]

FROM : CRISTELLE PRATT, DEPUTY SECRETARY GENERAL

SUBJECT : **CHINA - PACIFIC ISLANDS FORUM SCHOLARSHIP
2019/2020**

The Government of the People's Republic of China has offered twenty (20) scholarships to nationals of Forum Island Countries under the China – PIFS Scholarship Scheme for the year 2019/20. This is in addition to scholarships offered on a bilateral basis.

2. The scholarship scheme is linked to the establishment of the Pacific Trade & Investment (PT&I) Office in Beijing funded through the China Development Cooperation Fund provided to the Forum Secretariat annually. PIFS role in the overall management and administration of the scholarship scheme is to purely seek expressions of interest from citizens of Forum island member countries who wish to be considered for an award under the scheme, thus the purpose of this circular.

3. Information regarding online applications is contained in the attachment to this circular “**Instructions of the Chinese Government Scholarship Information System**”. Also attached is information on “**2019/2020 Chinese Government Scholarship Application**”. We would be grateful if this information could be made available to all potential applicants for the scholarships. Potential applicants are strongly advised to study the application procedures carefully in making their applications online.

4. Please note that potential applicants should select three preferred institutions from the information available on the website of the China Scholarship Council (www.csc.edu.cn/studyinchina). All applicants must also complete a **Foreigner Physical Examination Form** which can also be obtained from the website. Note that applicants should send a photocopy of the Foreigner Physical Examination Form attached to their application while retaining the original.

5. Copies of completed applications with all necessary supporting documents should be forwarded to the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat, either as scanned documents by email (gracec@forumsec.org or taleit@forumsec.org); or sent by courier to: China-PIF Scholarships, Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat, Ratu Sukuna Road, Suva, Fiji by **Friday 19 April 2019**. Please note that applications should be sent through Ministries of Foreign Affairs with a covering letter.

6. The Secretariat further wishes to announce changes to the care of duty service to scholarship holders – a service normally extended by PIFS. Beginning with this scholarship intake 2019/2020, care of duty service will be executed and administered by the Pacific Trade Invest office in Beijing (PTI China). The PTI China office will be the focal point between scholarship holders, the China Scholarship Council (CSC), and host universities where students are studying. Their role will include student welfare support, negotiating with CSC on variation to scholarship conditions for students, and student repatriation back to their home countries in cases where students are unsuccessful in the completion of their studies.

7. Initial screening of applications will be undertaken by the Forum Secretariat with recommendations forwarded to the PTI China office who will liaise with CSC on final approval. Successful applicants will be contacted directly by the China Scholarship Council. The PTI China focal point is Ms Yolanda Jiang (Yolanda.jiang@pacificttradeinvest.org.cn), telephone +8610 6532 6622.

8. All enquiries regarding the scholarship should be directed to the Forum Secretariat's Social Policy Officer, Talei Tuinamuana (taleit@forumsec.org) and Grace Chung (gracec@forumsec.org).

Cristelle Pratt

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Deputy Secretary General

Attach.

C.C.	Federated States of Micronesia Embassy, Suva	Kiribati High Commission, Suva
	Nauru High Commission, Suva	Papua New Guinea High Commission, Suva
	Republic of the Marshall Islands High Commission, Suva	Solomon Islands High Commission, Suva
	Tuvalu High Commission, Suva	Vanuatu High Commission, Suva