

MYANMAR SCHOLARS AND LEADERS PROGRAM: 2020-2021

The Myanmar Scholars and Leaders Program (MSLP) is a scholarship program to train and support the next generation of leaders and scholars, from a pool of diverse and promising young leaders in Myanmar, in leading U.S. graduate programs—both Master’s and Ph.D. degree programs—to develop strong technical expertise, analytical skills, and leadership skills needed to assume inclusive leadership responsibilities in various ministries, departments, and sectors in Myanmar and beyond.

Through a rigorous process, BACI works with its partners to select the most outstanding Myanmar individuals from the pool of state employees, non-governmental organization (NGO) workers, emerging leaders, and researchers, inclusively representing the diverse ethnic groups of the country.

As part of the MSLP, the scholarship recipients from the pool of state employees are co-sponsored by Myanmar’s Ministry of Education and the participating Universities in the US to equip selected candidates with the analytical and managerial skills to excel and lead in all branches of government.

While other fields of study may be considered, priority will be given to the areas relevant to Myanmar’s development, such as public affairs and/or public administration, public management and leadership, law, policy, environmental management, water studies, fishery studies, agricultural economics, finance, budgeting, public health & policy, education policy, higher education administration and leadership, international peace studies, sustainable development, economic development, international development, international trade and commerce, human rights, global affairs, law and cyber securities, etc.

MSLP recipients are expected to participate in a training program at Harvard University in Boston and at the World Bank in Washington DC.

I. MASTER CANDIDATES:

A. Eligibility

- i) Age Requirements and Nationality: Minimum age requirements is 21 years of age and the maximum age is 45 years of age for both the Master’s program and the Ph.D program. Candidate must be a Myanmar citizen or permanent resident of Myanmar.
- ii) Official TOEFL or IELTS Scores: TOEFL scores or IELTS Scores requirements for MSLP scholarship consideration will be identified by the participating University and the MOE.
- iii) Academic Transcript and GPA Requirements: Candidate should have completed and earned a Bachelor Degree from an accredited Institution with a minimum GPA of 3.0 or equivalent. Graduate coursework of a candidate who has already earned a graduate degree maybe considered.
- iv) Commitment and Statement of Purpose: In addition to meeting the above qualifications and the admissions requirements of the participating Institutions, the candidate must have strong recommendations and a statement of purpose, having demonstrated an exceptional ability to serve in the public interests and to contribute to the development of Myanmar.

B. Scholarship Amount

It varies, ranging from partial support, generous financial support, to fully funded. Full scholarships are awarded on the basis of merit.

C. Selection Criteria

- i) Ability to contribute to the Myanmar society after the award period;
- ii) Academic ability; have a good to excellent academic record;
- iii) Professional achievements and demonstrated leadership potential;
- iv) English proficiency. Have good to excellent English skills (as demonstrated by the TOEFL or IELTS minimum score. The minimum requirement is 80 TOEFL iBT or 7 IELTS);
- v) Two Letters of recommendation (able to provide when requested).

D. Timeline

Fall 2021 Admissions

June 17, 2020	Application Open
September 30, 2020	Deadline for submission of application/nomination
October 30, 2020	Interview & screening is conducted; Semi-finalists announced
November 30, 2020	Semi-finalists submitted full application to the US University
April 30, 2021	Finalists selected and Scholarship Recipients announced
May – July, 2021	Orientation: Preparatory Research, Intensive English, Policy and Social Solutions Oriented PAR Action Research conducted
August, 2021	Myanmar students begin their coursework at the US Universities

E. Preliminary Application Checklist

- i) Application form
- ii) Transcripts; scanned diplomas and transcripts of previous education programs
- iii) TOEFL and IELTS Scores
- iv) Personal statement and resume
- v) Letters of recommendation from supervisors and former professors
- vi) Other optional documents (in Myanmar or English) that may strengthen the application, such as:
 - (a) GRE, GMAT
 - (b) Evidence of academic or professional achievements

F. Notes:

- i) The preliminary application for a Master's program should be emailed to MSLP@thebaci.org, or submitted online by 30 September 2020. Questions should be sent to the same email address.
- ii) The application should be in pdf form and less than 20MB. Supporting documents should be scanned and included in the application.
 - (a) After the preliminary selection is completed, only selected candidates will be invited to submit the full application to the matched Universities. At that time, the semi-finalists employed by the Government may be required

to submit the notarized documents and official letters of approval from their current government employer in order to apply for the government scholarship as described in the Government's Standard Operating Procedure (SOP).

II. DOCTORAL CANDIDATES (fully sponsored by Indiana University):

The U.S. National Research Council recently ranked the Ph.D. in Public Affairs Program at Indiana University as Number 1 among all public affairs Ph.D. programs in the United States. For main concentrations of this program are Policy analysis, Public finance, Public management and Environmental policy. Admission to this PhD program is highly competitive. Applicants need to have a master's degree from a world-class university and strong reference letters from internationally well-known scholars (who have published extensively in international journals)

Applicants should meet all requirements of the program (GRE, TOEFL, etc.) and apply directly to Indiana University by December 1st every year at (<https://spea.indiana.edu/doctoral/apply.html>) and send a copy of the application to MOE email address.

Why the MSLP?

The MSLP works with its partners, capitalizing on the strength of its network, through an inclusive and open process to ensure the success of the students admitted through this comprehensive program design and development:

- **Selection:** MSLP works with partners to select the most outstanding, diverse, and inclusive young leaders in the public, business, social, and academic sectors of Myanmar.
- **Orientation:** Selected scholars study the policy issues surrounding the most pressing and urgent needs in Myanmar development, utilizing the Participatory Action Research (PAR) model.
- **Degree Programs:** MSLP collaborates with a group of major U.S. universities to prepare, admit, and train the future leaders in the most relevant programs.
- **Additional support:** MSLP provides comprehensive support to the scholars throughout their study in the U.S.
- **Post-study placement:** MSLP works with strategic partners in Myanmar to place returning fellows in key positions.
- **Sustainability:** MSLP mobilizes people, institutions, and businesses for resources to maximize the program's impact & ensure its sustainability.

“The challenges that Myanmar is facing are also the challenges of South East Asia and the world. We will support Myanmar by sharing all the experiences we have from the U.S. and Vietnam,” said Dr. Anh Tran, Director of the Vietnam Initiative and Professor at Indiana University's O'Neil School, a top ranked Public Affairs School in the US. Tran also serves as an Economic Advisor to the Prime Minister of Vietnam.