

MRC HOLLAND FOUNDATION **SCHOLARSHIP GUIDELINES 2019**

1. INTRODUCTION

MRC-Holland b.v. is a privately owned biotechnology company located in Amsterdam, the Netherlands, founded in 1985 by Dr. Jan Schouten. The main focus of the company is to develop new products for DNA analysis, based on the MLPA technique. These products are sold to laboratories worldwide and are used to find the cause of genetic diseases, like deafness or Duchenne muscular dystrophy, as well as to decide on the most optimal therapies for specific cancer patients. The MRC-Holland company currently has about 80 employees. The company has no connections with the MRC institutes of the UK and The Gambia.

With the aim to share its profits with the less privileged, the MRC-Holland Foundation was founded in December 2011, and is headed by Maureen Schouten-Wijdenbosch.

Mission and Vision

The MRC-Holland Foundation (MRCH) supports projects in various countries, with an emphasis on education projects in Burkina Faso, The Gambia and Kenya.

Current projects in The Gambia

In The Gambia, The MRC-Holland Foundation works in close partnership with the Ministry of Basic and Secondary Education. The current focus is on infrastructural development of Government schools.

MRCH also uses part of its funds to provide scholarships to students and teachers in The Gambia, in order to augment the country's human resource capacity. This is done through the award of SCHOLARSHIPS to eligible candidates, with emphasis on the rural areas of the country.

The Scholarship Fund is administered by the MRCH Office in consultation with the Ministry of Basic and Secondary Education (MoBSE) as well as the Ministry of Higher Education, Research, Science and Technology (MoHERST). MRCH reserves the right to do the final selection of candidates and educational institutions.

2. NOMINATION OF CANDIDATES

The Scholarship Fund targets two groups of students:

A-Students:

Students that have completed grade 12 WASSCE examination in 2018 or 2019.

Priority goes to students from

- Government- and Subvented Senior Secondary Schools
- Rural Schools (Regions 3,4,5 and 6 and Foni)

B/ C-Students – professional upgrade:

Teachers and MoBSE employees that have been nominated by their Head of Department, with the aim to improve their services within the education sector.

Priority will be given to teachers / employees that work in regions 3, 4, 5 or 6 for at least two years, or that had their basic and/or secondary education in these regions and are still willing to serve in those regions.

Nomination of candidates can be done through the Regional Education Offices or the Senior Management Team of the Ministry of Basic & Secondary for Education.

These nominations are not binding. MRCH shall set its own criteria for the final selection. This will take into consideration Regional, Gender and Subject preferences.

MRCH will strive to create a competitive environment in its nomination to encourage excellence and build capacity for key competencies.

Each nominee is required to fill an MRCH-APPLICATION form.

3. SCHOLARSHIP PACKAGE

For **A-students**, the Scholarship package shall cover the tuition fee and book bill of the school. A quarterly/ termly stipend can be considered by the sponsor. Photocopies and dissertation expenses will from part of the stipend.

For **B-students**, the Scholarship consists of tuition fees and book bill of the training institution.

For Post Graduate Programmes, students may require additional funds for field work. Based on a research proposal, a financial contribution may be considered by MRCH.

The Scholarship shall be for a specific period and cannot be back dated.

4. SELECTION OF COURSE and EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTION

For **A-Students**, Courses at institutes for higher education in the Gambia will be considered. These may include the UTG, GTTI, GTHI, MDI, Gambia College.

For **B-Students**, course selection shall be made with recommendation from the employer (MoBSE or Board of Governors of the school).

For both categories, in exceptional cases, an on-line course from a foreign institute (such as Unicaf) may be accepted.

No Scholarships will be provided for studies abroad.

FINAL SELECTION OF CANDIDATES

MRCH reserves the right at all times to select preferred fields of study and to influence the selection based on its own criteria.

No scholarships will be provided for religious studies.

5. ADMINISTRATION AND REPORTING

MRCH will sign an agreement with the school/ training institution.

MRCH will pay to the school for tuition fees and book bills. Stipend and laptops for the sponsored students may be provided depending on the need. The school will be responsible for the provision of training and books to the students. Stipends (if applicable) will only be paid through bank transfer to GTBank account. Laptops should be returned when the scholarship has ended.

Institutions are required to provide written report on the progress of the STUDENTS at the end of every term or semester. Such a report shall be forwarded to MRCH before the commencement of the following term or semester or else payment of tuition fee will be delayed.

Each institution shall appoint a contact person for MRCH.

6. BONDING (Applicable to B/ C-Students)

Category B Candidates must enter into a bond with their employer. Government Employees should be Bonded both by the Ministry and the Personnel Management Office and guaranteed by two sureties (Category (VII) Civil servants or its equivalent in the Parastatals). The Collateral must be of a commensurate value to the cost of the training. In addition, the trainee shall undertake to serve the Ministry of Basic & Secondary Education (MoBSE) for two years for training that is at least a year. For any training more than a year the bonding period is increased correspondingly by a year (e.g. 2 years training would require three years bonding).

Candidates from Government sub vented institutions will be required to sign the Bond with these institutions (with the same conditions of service after completion of study).

Upon completion of the training, the officer shall immediately report to his/her employer for appropriate deployment. Failing to report will result in the refund of training expenditure in accordance with the bond.

7. CHANGE OF SUBJECT OR STUDY PERIOD

A Scholarship is provided for a specific study and duration.

Only in exceptional circumstances (e.g.health issues) may changes in the approved area or duration of study be considered. Without prior approval from MRCH the offer will be cancelled.

The student will have to provide written explanation as to the reason and required extension. For B-Students this explanation must be endorsed by the employer.

Students who want to terminate their studies before the end of the program shall inform MRCH one month in advance and in writing, providing reason(s) for the termination. Where the student fails to do so, it should be the responsibility of the institutional focal point for MRCH to inform MRCH accordingly.

8. CONTACT DETAILS OF SCHOOLS AND STUDENTS

Both the Educational Institutions as well as the **Students** with whom an agreement are signed are obliged to inform MRCH of any change in contact details.