

THE JAMAICA VALUES AND ATTITUDES PROJECT FOR TERTIARY STUDENTS (JAMVAT)

Overview

The Jamaica Values and Attitudes (JAMVAT) is an effort to assist students who qualify for admission but are unable to finance their tertiary education. There are reportedly 4,100 such students each year. The programme provides the opportunity for students to participate in the development of the nation's social capital through their contribution of 200 hours of public service. In response, the government undertakes 30% of the student's tuition cost, not exceeding \$350, 000 per annum.

The objective of the programme is two fold. It aims to ensure that all qualified Jamaican students will continue to have access to tertiary education. The programme also aims to develop and strengthen the participating students' sense of civic responsibility while it simultaneously encourages positive values and attitudes towards community development and nation building.

Application Process

Applications for the 2009/2010 Phase of the Project will be accepted between May 1 and June 12, 2009. Please submit your application to your school's JAMVAT Liaison or the nearest National Youth Service office.

The application form is designed to determine the applicants' suitability for entrance into the programme.

One primary factor is financial need and the second is the existence of resources to satisfy the portion of the tuition payment that the grant will not cover. Consequently, the applicants must provide personal data, a recent photo, employment details, student status details, the nature of current

financial assistance, the amount of current savings, household details, the nature of current financial assistance, the amount of current savings, household details, listing of household members and the particulars of two referees. The form must be signed by the applicant, witnessed and dated. If the applicant is under eighteen years old, the application must be co-signed by the parent of guardian.

Application packages are downloadable from the National Youth Service website at nysjamaica.org. Tertiary institutions have Liaison Officers to assist with the application process. They assist in returning completed forms to the JAMVAT office. The packages are returned to JAMVAT with the assistance of the National Youth Service Corporate Services Officers (CSO) located each parish or through TARA courier service.

JAMVAT reviews the application packages to ensure that they are completed correctly and then forwards them to the SLB. The SLB selects the applicants who qualify to participate in the programme and compiles an approval list. The approval list and the original application forms are returned to the JAMVAT office. The approval list is forwarded to JAMVAT in May/June. JAMVAT enters the awardees on its database and posts a copy of the approved list on the website and also forwards it to the liaison at the institutions. Students are required to continually check the NYS website for the approved list and may use this method for other JAMVAT updates.

The participant is required to sign, date and have witnessed a formal agreement regarding their involvement in the programme. This agreement details the programme requirements and benefits. It also stipulates conditions for release, suspension, and termination. It also mentions the existence of a grievance procedure.