

Repayment of the HELP loan

- Students who are in full-time employment shall be required to start repayment immediately after receipt of the loan at subsidized interest rates.
- Full-time students will be required to begin repayment 6 months after the end of their programme of study
- The repayment period shall not exceed 10 (ten) years

General Guidelines

- Within four to six weeks students will be advised of their loan application
- Successful applications will be determined by a Credit Committee of the Ministry of Education. Means Testing will be done to ensure that loans are appropriately targeted to students in need
- The Bank and the Trustee will be advised of the amount to be released to the student



Where to submit the HELP application

Republic Bank Limited
(UWI branch only)

Royal Bank Canada Trinidad and
Tobago Limited
(St. Augustine branch only)

First Citizen Bank Limited

Scotiabank Limited



Government of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago
MINISTRY OF EDUCATION



Government of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago

MINISTRY OF EDUCATION

Funding and Grants Administration Division

HELP Programme

A Guide to Policies and Procedures



LOAN

Funding and Grants
Administration Division
#16 Warner Street, St. Augustine
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Website: www.e-gate.gov.tt
Email: helploans@moe.gov.tt

The HELP Programme

The Higher Education Loan Programme (HELP) is a low interest loan facility which provides financial assistance to the citizens of Trinidad and Tobago who have a continued period of residency of at least three (3) years prior to application.

The HELP Programme is managed by the Funding and Grants Administration Division (FGAD) of the Ministry of Education (MOE).

Objective

The objectives of the HELP Programme are:

- To provide financial assistance to citizens of Trinidad and Tobago pursuing tertiary education, thereby expanding equitable access to tertiary education
- To provide a low interest loan facility, approved and disbursed effectively and efficiently within a reasonable time frame to students in need
- To assist with increasing the national participatory rate in tertiary education to 60% by 2015
- To develop a well educated, qualified cadre of citizens within identified areas of national development

Who is Eligible for the HELP loan

In addition to assisting students who benefit from GATE funding, the HELP has been expanded to allow the following students, access to loans:

- Students who are not eligible for GATE funding (e.g. students who possess a Bachelor's degree or other certification)
- Students enrolled in tertiary level institutions and programmes that are accredited and approved by the Accreditation Council of Trinidad and Tobago (ACTT)
- Students enrolled in Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) programmes at Level III or above
- Students pursuing postgraduate studies that are in alignment with the strategic development of Trinidad and Tobago
- Students from ages eighteen (18) to fifty (50).
- Students whose household income is less than \$75,000 per month.

What HELP covers

Help covers part, or all, of the following tertiary education expenses where applicable:

- Tuition fees
- Accommodation expenses
- Airfare
- Other relevant transportation costs
- Books and related materials
- Other related tertiary expenses

How to apply for HELP

- Students are required to submit the following to the Loans Department of his/her commercial bank:
 - Their completed HELP application form.
 - All required documents to be attached to the form including Letter of Acceptance from the tertiary level institution.
- The Bank will assess the application for completeness and will forward the completed HELP Loan applications to the Director, FGAD at the Ministry of Education for final determination.
- The Ministry will inform the Bank of its decision within six (6) weeks after the date of the receipt of the application from the Bank.
- Other terms and conditions apply.

How much does HELP cover

- Loans not to exceed \$35,000 per year for 3 years for students pursuing programmes within Trinidad and Tobago.
- Loans not to exceed \$75,000 per year for 3 years for those students pursuing programmes at the regional campuses of the University of the West Indies.
- Loans for students enrolled in medical programmes in Trinidad and Tobago would not exceed \$175,000 for the five-year period of study.
- Loans for Trinidad and Tobago students enrolled in medical programmes at approved regional institutions would not exceed \$375,000 for the five-year period of study.