



## **CALL FOR SCHOLARSHIPS 2024 – 2025: INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS FOR THE CERTIFICATE IN ENGLISH AS A SECOND LANGUAGE PROGRAM (CESL) AT THE UNIVERSITY OF BELIZE (UB)**

### **OVERVIEW**

#### **The University of Belize ESL Scholarship Program Overview**

The University of Belize, in partnership with the Ministry of Education and Cultural Science and Technology, hereby announces its annual scholarship offer for an intensive certificate program in English as a Second Language. This ten-month certificate program is offered at the prestigious Regional Language Center of the University of Belize from January to October.

The university offers this program on behalf of the Government of Belize, which remains the scholarship program sponsor. The scholarship covers all tuition, program fees, and required teaching materials and provides a monthly stipend to defray housing expenses.

The Regional Language Center (RLC) of the University of Belize has a long history of providing individualized services and a learning environment that maximizes the learner's chances for cultural immersion, language practice, and personal development.

### **PURPOSE**

#### **The ESL Program at the RLC**

RLC is Belize's mechanism for bridging the language barriers in the region. The RLC offers many specialized foreign language courses in English and other languages to cater to the requirements of our national and international clients. The 10-month English as a Second Language Program is designed to advance the English competency of those who enter the program, regardless of their current proficiency. Interested individuals with basic to advanced competence in English may apply.

The ten-month CESL program focuses on strengthening learners' proficiency in reading, writing, listening, and speaking skills in English. All RLC language instructors emphasize practice and design coursework to encourage a practical application of knowledge; this includes a mandatory 60-hour language internship program for eligible students.

During the first week of classes, all new students will be required to attend an orientation session on the expectations and methodology of the program. Each student will be assigned an academic advisor to offer advice and orientation throughout their studies. At the end of the ten-month program, students will receive a certificate of completion from the University of Belize after completing the course.

### **INTENDED BENEFICIARIES**

This scholarship offer is only available to MEXICO, CUBA, HONDURAS, EL SALVADOR, COLOMBIA, PANAMA, and ROC TAIWAN citizens.

### **Eligibility**

- Must be a México, Cuba, Honduras, El Salvador, Colombia, Panama, or ROC Taiwan citizen.
- Applicants must be 18 years old upon application.
- Must commit to 10 months of living in Belize from January 2025 to October 2025.
- Applicant must have a minimum of a High School certificate.
- Commit to studying full-time in Belize without the possibility of employment or part-time studies.

### **Entry Requirement**

1. Complete a UB/RLC application form.
2. Complete all documentation required.
3. Have a basic to Intermediate competence in English as a Second Language.
4. Able to fully commit to the 10-month program.

### **Documentation requirements**

1. Completed UB/RLC application form.
2. Updated curriculum vitae with a profile photo. This document must be translated into English if it is in another language.
3. Most recent academic documents (Certificates or Diplomas) must be notarized

and translated into English if they are in another language.

4. One recommendation letter, either academic or from a previous or current employer (the letter can be in English, Spanish, or Mandarin).
5. Copy of your passport ( page with vital information)
6. A copy of your birth certificate. A notarized or authenticated English translation must accompany this document if it is in another language.
7. Applicants from **PANAMA**, please consult with Instituto para la Formacion y Aprovechamiento de Recursos Humanos (**IFARHU**) for country-specific or additional requirements.
8. Applicants from **MEXICO**, please consult with the Mexican Agency of International Cooperation for Development (**AMEXCID**) for country-specific or additional requirements.

### **Program specific requirements**

CESL students will be required to have an English dictionary in hard copy or digital format, and it is recommended that they have a translator /translation dictionary, recording devices, headphones, and a laptop.

### **Stipend**

Each scholarship recipient is paid a monthly stipend of \$600.00 in Belize dollars (US\$300.00) to help defray housing expenses. This stipend is a gift from the Government of Belize and is disbursed by the University of Belize to the students on the last Friday of each month. The first stipend in January will be disbursed after registration.

**Students who accept the scholarship must do so with the full responsibility of having additional monthly income to supplement their stipend and meet other living expenses.**

The stipend is enough to cover your rent and utility services. Scholarship recipients must know that if they spend beyond the stipend, the university cannot add to the students' monthly stipends or waive or reduce university costs.

The CESL Government of Belize Scholarship only offers benefits and a stipend to scholarship recipients. It does not provide any coverage or benefits to dependents.

## **Transportation, Housing, and Student Life**

For detailed information about housing, student life, and transportation to Belize and within Belize, kindly visit our student services webpage below:

<https://studentservices.ub.edu.bz/>

To contact the student services office directly, visit the website below: <https://studentservices.ub.edu.bz/> and send us a direct message via our “Contact Us” form.

## **Cost of living**

**Housing:** Student housing can range from \$400 to \$500 BZE. Please contact the Office of Student Affairs to assist you in securing housing and for any additional information or questions. Please send your queries to [froches@ub.edu.bz](mailto:froches@ub.edu.bz).

## **Average RLC Monthly expenses**

<b>Sample Monthly RLC Student Budget (these are estimates and may vary depending on individual needs)</b>		
<b>Expense</b>	<b>Single Person (BZE)</b>	<b>Cost in (USD)</b>
Rent	\$400	\$200
Electricity (with a/c)	\$75	\$35
Water	\$25	\$12.50
Cooking Gas	\$30	\$15
Internet	\$60	\$30
Healthcare	\$100	\$50
Groceries	\$175	\$87.50
Entertainment	\$100	\$50
Misc. / Incidentals	\$50	\$25
<b>MONTHLY TOTAL</b>	<b>\$1015</b>	<b>\$507.50</b>

## **Culture & Social Life**

All Regional Language Center (RLC) students are expected to participate in the Regional Language Center's annual multicultural fair. This is an event where all scholarship recipients are expected to display their countries' and cultures' unique character and beauty. As such, they should each bring **a flag of their country, traditional attire, photos, brochures/pamphlets, and other souvenirs from their homelands.**

**Additionally, remember to bring the following:**

- Any special medications needed and/or personal hygiene or beauty products
- Special condiments and ingredients from home that can be used to make traditional dishes (This may be required to prepare traditional food for presentations)
- Souvenirs for cultural displays

**Immigration Requirements:**

The visa process takes two or three steps.

1. Scholarship recipients will be able to enter the country with a Visitor's/Tourist Visa. This visa will be issued upon entry to Belize at whichever border is utilized to enter the country. The Visitors/Tourist visa will allow each student to remain in the country for 30 days.
2. Students other than those of Mexican nationality will be required to obtain a Belize Visa to remain in Belize for the duration of their studies legally. Students will be asked to apply for this visa prior to entry to Belize. This application process will be done through the Department of Student Affairs, Student Services Unit, after confirmation of acceptance of your scholarship.

There are two visa options:

Option 1. A single entry visa.

- This visa type will allow you to stay in Belize for the duration of your studies but will not allow you to travel across the Belize border during your time in the country.
- This visa type is at a cost of \$200.00

Option 2. A Multiple Entry Visa

- This visa type will allow you to stay in Belize for the duration of your studies and will allow you to travel across the Belize borders.
- This visa type is at a cost of \$300.00. Please note that an entry fee of \$40.00 is charged by the Immigration Department, Border Management Unit for re-entry into the country.

3. All students must apply for a Student Permit.

- For students of Mexican Nationality, this takes place shortly after arrival into the country.
- For students of other nationalities, the permit will be applied for and issued AFTER the Belize Visa is issued. The student permit costs \$200.00 (\$100.00 per semester).

**Note:** Students must incur the Belize Visa and Student Permit costs. This is NOT included in your scholarship. Additionally, the University of Belize does not determine whether or not you are granted a Belize Multiple Entry visa, nor the time it takes for visas to be approved and issued. This is determined by the Belize Immigration Department alone.

### **Closing Ceremony and End of Academic Year**

The academic year ends in October, and the closing ceremony will be by mid-October 2025. Students must take care of all university-related expenses not covered by the scholarship. Namely, all student wishing to have their certificate apostilled must cover this expense on their own at a cost of US \$25.00.

### **Important Dates**

- Application: From May 15, 2024, to September 13, 2024
- Expected date of arrival: January 08, 2025
- Expected date of departure: October 31, 2025

### **Emergency Contact at UB**

At the University, your contact persons are:

**Mr. Lugie Cruz**

Director  
Regional Language Center  
University of Belize  
Tel. 822-3680 ext. 1520  
Email: lcruz@ub.edu.bz.

**Ms. Franese Roches**

Student Services Coordinator  
Department of Student Affairs  
University of Belize  
Tel. 822-3680 ext 1555  
Email: froches@ub.edu.bz.