Economically Disadvantaged Loan

Factors of Eligibility

➤ A member of a household with annual income below $10,000
➤ Lack of assets (especially land and monetary savings)
➤ Households with few earners and a high dependency ratio
➤ Member of a female-headed household
➤ A member of a large household (two adults and four children below the age of eighteen (18) years.
➤ Member of a single-parent household

Features of an Economically Disadvantaged Loan

➤ Interest is 8.5 percent
➤ No four (4) year programs are offered
➤ No payment for failed courses
➤ $120,000 max for Bachelor programs
➤ $148,500 max for Medical programs
➤ Only Economically Disadvantaged Loan has a surety bond
➤ Monthly interest payments are made to loan
➤ Surety bond forms can be obtained from the Service Commissions Department
➤ Chairman of the National Student Loan Committee (N.S.L.C) decides if student needs academic counseling
➤ Economically Disadvantaged Loan application form contains three (3) pages.
➤ No Master's programs are offered
➤ Applicant travelling to pursue studies extra regionally would not qualify

Contents of Economically Disadvantaged Loan application package

➤ Terms and conditions form
➤ Student Bond Form
➤ Application form
➤ Letter of Admission
➤ Subsequent transcripts (if student is already enrolled in a programme)
➤ Fee assessment

Details of Economically Disadvantaged Loan application

➤ The opening dates for Student Loan applications are formally announced via media e.g. newspaper and radio.
➤ The deadline for applications is 30th June (subject to change)
➤ Applications may be submitted while the applicant awaits the letter of admission from the academic institution
NATIONAL STUDENT LOAN PROGRAMME
APPLICATION FORM

SECTION A
To be completed by applicant

NAME: ........................................SEX: MALE/FEMALE
TELEPHONE NO: .................................. ADDRESS: ........................................
DATE OF BIRTH: .................................. NATIONALITY: ..................................
OCCUPATION: ...................................... EMPLOYER: ....................................
PARENT/GUARDIAN: ..................................
OCCUPATION OF PARENT/GUARDIAN: ..................................
EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS ATTENDED: ..............................................................
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QUALIFICATION: ...........................................................................................................
...........................................................................................................................................
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INSTITUTION AT WHICH STUDIES WILL BE PURSUED
(Please attach letter of Admission or Transcript)
NAME: ..........................................................
ADDRESS: ..........................................................
FIELD OF STUDY: ..........................................................
...........................................................................................................................................
LEVEL (Qualification to be obtained): .............................................................................
...........................................................................................................................................
REASONS FOR CHOICE OF STUDY: .............................................................................
...........................................................................................................................................
DURATION OF PROGRAMME IN YEAR/MONTHS:
(Please attach information from university to confirm duration)
FROM: ................................................. TO: .................................................
YEARS REMAINING: ..........................................................

LOAN REQUESTED:
(Please attach a breakdown of the cost of the programme from the university)

Tuition ............................ Economic Cost ............................ Registration .............
Insurance ......................... Transportation ......................... Accommodation ........
Meals ............................... Other University Fees (specify) ....
...........................................................................................................................................
...........................................................................................................................................

Total .................................................................................................................................
NAME OF PREFERRED FINANCIAL INSTITUTION FOR PROCESSION LOAN APPLICATION:

INDICATE IF ANY OTHER ASSISTANCE IS RECEIVED OR SOUGHT:
(Please attach information to confirm)

SECTION B
To be completed only by persons who benefited in the past from student loans under the National Student Loan Programme.

FINANCIAL INSTITUTION THROUGH WHICH LOAN WAS GRANTED:

YEAR IN WHICH LOAN WAS GRANTED:

LOAN AMOUNT: ................................ AMOUNT DRAWN DOWN: ................................

AMOUNT REPaid TO DATE: ................................

PROGRAMME OF STUDY: ................................

INSTITUTION/UNIVERSITY: ................................

DATE OF COMPLETION/GRADUATION: ..........................

RATIONALE/REASONS FOR REQUESTING ADDITIONAL FUNDS:

(Please attach Transcript)

SECTION C

SIGNATURE OF APPLICANT .................................. DATE: ........................

For Official Use ONLY

COMMITTEE'S RECOMMENDATION/COMMENTS: ..........................................................

..........................................................

SIGNATURE:

CHAIRPERSON: ............................................................

SECRETARY: .............................................................

COMMITTEE MEMBER: ..............................................

* COMPLETED APPLICATION FORMS SHOULD BE SUBMITTED TO THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION.
ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA FOR ACCESS TO STUDENT LOANS BY THE ECONOMICALLY DISADVANTAGED

Background: In 1994, the Government of St. Vincent and the Grenadines introduced its National Student Loan Scheme. Funds for the scheme were originally provided by the National Insurance Scheme and on loan to students by participating financial institutions. The requirements for accessing loans through the financial institutions prohibited the poorest segment of the population from accessing loans.

The Government has secured a loan from the Caribbean Development Bank to continue funding its Student Loan Scheme. A portion of this loan will be used specifically to assist the poorest segment of the population. The poor is defined as those households with annual income below $10,000.00 per year.

The principal beneficiaries under this programme are those persons in the population who have the capacity, but insufficient financial and other resources to qualify for assistance under the standard Student Loan Scheme. Priority among eligible applicants is therefore accorded to low-income households and others with special problems of access to needed financial resources.

Students accessing loans under this programme will be required to sign a Bond for the amount of the loan.

Eligibility: In addition to the CDB’s Student Loan Scheme guidelines (revised 1997), an applicant would be eligible to benefit under the programme if he/she is from a household that exhibits most of the following characteristics:

- Be of good academic standing (results of examinations approved by the MOE).
- A member of a household with annual income below $10,000.00.
- Lack of assets (especially land and monetary savings) and can demonstrate that they do not qualify for credit.
- Lack of productive, remunerative work and a heavy concentration in low productivity, informal type occupation.
- Households with few earners and a high dependency ratio.
- A member of a large household (two adults and four children below the age of eighteen (18) years).
- A member of a single-parent headed household.
- Member of a female-headed household.
- Households where the principal income earner has become displaced (e.g. farmers in the banana industry).
- Member of vulnerable groups (e.g. children of disabled or indigent parents).
APPENDIX 1

NATIONAL STUDENT LOAN PROGRAMME
APPLICATION FORM

Appendix 1 should be completed only by applicants who wish to benefit under the special Student Loan Fund allocated for Economically Disadvantaged persons.

A limited amount of funds are available specifically to assist persons from households with low income and with special problems of access to needed financial resources. An applicant would be eligible to benefit under the programme if he/she is of good academic standing; is from a low income household; lacks assets or can demonstrate that he/she does not qualify for credit under the standard Student Loan Programme.

Applicants who wish to access these funds must complete the following:

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<th>Name and Address of Applicant</th>
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<td>Total years completed including primary school: ..........................</td>
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5. Number of persons in household employed: .................................................................
6. Names of members of household:

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<th>NAMES</th>
<th>RELATIONSHIP TO APPLICANT</th>
<th>Tick (✓) if person is below the age of 18</th>
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7. Total family income (Please indicate income from all sources, including support from relatives abroad) for last year: ...................................................................................................................
8. Please indicate type of housing in which you live (tick one)
   Own [ ] rented [ ] other [ ] please explain .........................................................
   Value of property ........................................................................................................
   Is the home mortgaged? Yes [ ] No [ ]
   If your answer is yes, please state:
   Value of Mortgage: ........................................................................................................
   Amount repaid to date: ....................................................................................................
   Name of mortgager/Lender: ...........................................................................................

9. Please state the reason why you should be considered under this programme:
   ........................................................................................................................................
   ........................................................................................................................................
   ........................................................................................................................................
   ........................................................................................................................................

   Signature of Applicant .................................................. Signature of Head of Household .................................................. Date

FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY

Recommendation by Evaluation Committee:
   ........................................................................................................................................
   ........................................................................................................................................
   ........................................................................................................................................
   ........................................................................................................................................

Signature: ................................................................. Date: .................................

Please submit application to the Ministry of Education