

## **Top American school offers scholarships**

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Six annual scholarships have been made available to students in Antigua & Barbuda from the Polytechnic University of New York.

This is the results of a government partnership with university enabling students at the undergraduate and graduate levels to begin studies at the University from this September.

Chairman of the Independence Scholarship Committee Maurice Merchant said the initiative was a major step in fulfillment of a pledge by the government to equip the nation with the academic tools that its young people will need if they are to become the leaders of tomorrow.

Merchant credited UN Ambassador Dr. John W. Ashe “for conceiving this agreement and bringing it to fruition. He has been working tirelessly in acquiring scholarships from institutions of higher learning throughout the world and I wish to commend him highly for his efforts to date.

“With the assistance from this renowned institution, qualified students from this country have been afforded the opportunity to acquire excellence in education and research, in engineering, science and related fields,” he added.

The University has also agreed to assist the government in developing “distance learning” capabilities in Antigua & Barbuda and to send instructors to the twin-island nation to conduct courses in various fields of study during the summer months.

Minister of State in the Office of the Prime Minister responsible for Information and Broadcasting, Senator Edmond Mansoor said that the granting of the scholarships by Polytechnic University is very timely since the government is on a drive to fully equip its citizens with the tools to work and live in the 21st century.

“The Information Technology thrust of the government has been further boosted by these scholarships and the Office of the Prime Minister intends to ensure that the best and brightest minds capitalise on this opportunity to further their education,” he noted.

Polytechnic University, which was founded in 1854 in Brooklyn, New York, is the second oldest private engineering school in the United States. Among its many graduates and faculty are Nobel laureates, notable inventors, world class scientists and successful entrepreneurs. Today, it is the New York metropolitan area’s preeminent resource in science and technology education and research.

The University is a private, co-educational institution with a distinguished tradition in electrical engineering, polymer chemistry and other engineering disciplines. It has also established itself as a leader in telecommunications, information science, technology management, digital media and biotechnology.

The university is also known for its outstanding research centres as well as its outreach programmes to encourage math and science education in New York elementary and high schools. In addition to its main campus at MetroTech Centre in Brooklyn, Polytechnic offers programmes at sites throughout the region, including Long Island, Manhattan and Westchester.

In 2005, Polytechnic awarded 669 degrees: There are more than 450 full-time and adjunct faculty, teaching and research fellows, research assistants, associates and scientists and postdoctoral and special fellows. The number of full-time teaching faculty is over 125.

Polytechnic students receive a rigorous education in engineering, the sciences and management. Polytechnic offers an innovative curriculum that introduces students to engineering in the freshmen year and emphasises projects requiring teamwork and a multidisciplinary approach, and its graduate division has a strong international reputation. The University is among the nation's most successful institutions in producing science and engineering graduates who go on to earn PhD degrees.

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