



MINISTRY OF EDUCATION, SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT, INNOVATION, SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND VOCATIONAL TRAINING

ANTI-FRAUD POLICY FOR SCHOLARSHIPS

1.0 Policy Statement

The Ministry of Education, Sustainable Development, Innovation, Science, Technology and Vocational Training is committed to fraud prevention and the promotion of an anti-fraud culture, and has adopted a zero-tolerance policy towards dishonest behaviour where the provision of information and/or documents are concerned.

2.0 Background

The Human Resource Development Unit of the Ministry of Education, Sustainable Development, Innovation, Science, Technology and Vocational Training is responsible for processing various scholarships on behalf of the Government of Saint Lucia, as well as on behalf of various external agencies. Some of our partner agencies have included the provision of an anti-fraud policy as a condition of the scholarship Memorandum of Understanding in order for nominated candidates to be accepted. Failure to submit the referenced policy may be viewed as a breach of the MOU.

3.0 What is Fraud?

For purposes of this policy, fraud refers to deliberate acts to misrepresent information or present documents to the Ministry of Education, Sustainable Development, Innovation, Science, Technology and Vocational Training that are not genuine, in order to receive consideration for scholarship purposes. This may include the submission of forged, altered or falsified academic certificates, transcripts, letters of recommendation, certificates of character, birth certificates, offering bribes or gifts to obtain scholarships, etcetera.

4.0 Reporting Fraud

Any suspicion or detection of fraud must be reported immediately to the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Education, Sustainable Development, Innovation, Science, Technology and Vocational Training, who will forward to the

Criminal Investigations Department of the Royal Saint Lucia Police Force for investigation and prosecution if deemed necessary.

5.0 Penalties for Fraud

Any candidate found guilty of fraudulent activity will receive the following penalties, in addition to the provisions of 4.0:

Detected at the application process

- The candidate will be barred from applying for future scholarships advertised by the Ministry of Education, Sustainable Development, Innovation, Science, Technology and Vocational Training

Detected after the scholarship has been awarded

- The scholarship will be withdrawn and the awardee will be required to repay the funds disbursed
- The candidate will be barred from applying for future scholarships advertised by the Ministry of Education, Sustainable Development, Innovation, Science, Technology and Vocational Training
- The awarding agencies, if external, will be informed of this development

Detected upon completion of programme

- The awardee will be required to repay the funds disbursed
- The candidate will be barred from applying for future scholarships advertised by the Ministry of Education, Sustainable Development, Innovation, Science, Technology and Vocational Training

For queries regarding this policy, please contact:

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