

Orange Tulip Scholarship Programme for outstanding Mexican students



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Background

From different sources and surveys conducted by Nuffic Neso Mexico, it became very clear that one of the most important difficulties that Mexican students face when they are looking to study abroad is the financing of their studies abroad. A scholarship or a loan is necessary for many of them.

There are several options for students to finance their studies in The Netherlands from Dutch, Mexican and international funds. However, many of these scholarships opened their calls to students from all nationalities. Until last year there was no scholarship programme specifically for Mexican students that want to study in The Netherlands. However, some Dutch universities had already decided to give scholarships to Mexican students.

The “Orange Tulip Scholarship”

To satisfy the need of a general scholarship programme, Nuffic Neso Mexico has started the preparation of this project in 2009. In line with the programme in other Nuffic Neso countries, the scholarship programme for excellent Mexican students is called the “Orange Tulip Scholarship”. Each individual scholarship under the Orange Tulip Scholarship umbrella will be called “Orange Tulip Scholarship – [name institution]” or “Orange Tulip Scholarship – [company name]”.

The Orange Tulip Scholarship 2011-2012

In September 2011 the first Mexican “Orange Tulip Students” will start their studies in The Netherlands. This marks the first generation of this project, which started its preparation in 2009. In the first year a total of 13 Dutch higher education institutions decided to participate in the project. The number of scholarships exclusively for Mexican students was 31, with a total value of more than €350,000. Attached you will find a short report about the 2011-2012 programme with more detailed information.

Administration of the scholarship programme

Nuffic Neso Mexico is responsible for the administration and promotion for this scholarship programme. Dutch higher education institutions and Dutch and Mexican companies in Mexico will be approached as the sponsors of the scholarship programme. The target group of this scholarship consists of outstanding Mexican students who want to study in the Netherlands.

Source of scholarship funds

There are two sources for the funds of the Orange Tulip Scholarship:

- Dutch higher education institutions; and
- Dutch and Mexican companies in Mexico.

Currently, many Dutch higher education institutions already provide scholarships for their international students. If the institution is interested in finding an excellent Mexican student, it is possible to participate with a partial scholarship under the name of the “Orange Tulip Scholarship Programme”. The minimum value of the scholarship in order to be an Orange Tulip Scholarship partner is 3,000 Euro. All Dutch higher education institutions that have signed the “Code of Conduct” may participate in the Orange Tulip Scholarship programme.

Another source of funds for the “Orange Tulip Scholarship” is companies in Mexico. Both Dutch and Mexican companies can be a partner in this scholarship programme as company sponsors. The minimum value to participate as company sponsor is also 3,000 Euro.

Target group of Orange Tulip Scholarship

The goal of the Orange Tulip Scholarship is to provide financial help to outstanding Mexican students so they are able to study in a Dutch higher education institution. Scholarship applicants should be graduated from a renowned Mexican university with an above average academic record and have a strong motivation to study in the Netherlands in order to win an Orange Tulip Scholarship.

Candidates must meet the following requirements to apply the Scholarship:

1. Candidates must have Mexican nationality and their residence in Mexico;
2. Candidates must have obtained the required academic level in a Mexican university or high school and intend to pursue a higher education program in the Netherlands;
3. Candidates are currently not studying and/or working in the Netherlands;
4. Candidates must have fluency in spoken and written English (minimum score of 6.5 in IELTS or 90 in TOEFL iBT);
5. Candidates must be in process of admission of a Dutch higher education institution or have been accepted in a Dutch institution.

Contents and value of Orange Tulip Scholarship

Scholarships offered by Dutch higher education institutions consist of full or partial tuition waivers and if desirable, a set amount for living expenses or travelling costs. The minimum value of the scholarship is €3,000.

Company-sponsored scholarships consist of cash for living expenses and travelling costs, with a minimum value of € 3,000. Winners can claim 75% of the total scholarship amount in the month prior to their departure to The Netherlands. Maximum two years after finishing their studies in The Netherlands, the winner may submit their graduation diploma and thesis with the company to claim the remaining 25% of the scholarship.

Management of the Orange Tulip Scholarship

Nuffic Neso Mexico is responsible for the management of the scholarship programme. It consists of fundraising, coordination with sponsors, promotion of the scholarship and primary applications process.

However, the scholarship will be awarded directly from the sponsor to the student. For higher education institutions this means that the student will receive the tuition waiver and possibly the aid for his living costs directly on his or her Dutch bank account once he has arrived in the Netherlands. For company sponsors this means that a bank transfer must occur directly from the company to the scholarship winner. Nuffic Neso Mexico does not receive funds from sponsors, nor does it pay scholarships to the students.

1. Fundraising

Nuffic Neso Mexico will contact Dutch higher education institutions and companies in Mexico for the funding of scholarships. Universities will be able to attract excellent Mexican students for their study programmes and companies will have the possibility to contract highly skilled students that just obtained a Dutch higher education diploma. Therefore this programme is beneficial for all parties involved.

2. Coordination

Nuffic Neso Mexico will coordinate the application process with scholarship applicants, sponsors and other parties involved. The coordination in Mexico includes: keep effective communication with sponsors, prepare relevant documents for scholarship operation, organize scholarship awarding ceremony and produce an annual Orange Tulip Scholarship report for sponsors.

3. Scholarship Promotion

Nuffic Neso Mexico can use its generic promotion activities to promote Orange Tulip Scholarship programme, which includes participation in fairs, student-counselling and online promotion. Orange Tulip Scholarship will also be promoted through Nuffic Neso Mexico's extensive network in the education field in Mexico, covering contacts with Mexican universities, media and governmental organizations in the field of higher education.

4. Reception of applications

Nuffic Neso Mexico is able to help institutions and companies by doing the pre-selection of the candidates and forwarding the qualified applications to the sponsors. Application packages will be received by Nuffic Neso Mexico. Upon reception, the packages will be reviewed if they are complete and if the applicant meets the requirements of the scholarship. Suitable applications will be forwarded to each sponsor, where the selection will be made by comparing the profiles. The selection includes revision of the application documents and (telephone) interviews with the candidates. Nuffic Neso Mexico will not be a

part of the selection of the candidates.

5. Scholarship Awarding Ceremony

Nuffic Neso will organize the annual Orange Tulip Scholarship Awarding Ceremony at the beginning of July each year. Winners and their family will be invited for the ceremony. The Director of Nuffic Neso Mexico and representatives of scholarship selection panels will be present at the ceremony. Media and other representatives of university and company sponsors will also be invited.

The Orange Tulip Scholarship Awarding Ceremony will be filmed and/or photos will be made, which will be uploaded on the website of Nuffic Neso Mexico.

6. Scholarship operation cost

There will be no costs charged by Nuffic Neso Mexico for the administration of the Orange Tulip Scholarship programme.

7. Annual report for sponsors

After Orange Tulip Scholarship Awarding Ceremony, an annual report will be made for all the sponsors of Orange Tulip Scholarship programme.

Calendar

15 June 2011	Publication of the information of the Orange Tulip Scholarship Mexico programme
15 September 2011	Deadline for confirmation of participation
22 September 2011	Deadline for sending materials (texts and images) for publication
30 September 2011	Publication of the press release announcing the Orange Tulip Scholarship
October 2011 – April 2012	Promotion of the Orange Tulip Scholarship by Nuffic Neso Mexico at events, fairs, through the media, the internet and through higher education institutions
1 April 2012	General deadline Orange Tulip Scholarship (note: if required individual institutions may set an earlier or a later deadline)
April – May 2012	Selection by the sponsoring institution or company
7 June 2012	Publication of scholarship winners on the Nuffic Neso Mexico website
July 2012	Awarding ceremony at Nuffic Neso Mexico

More information

For more information please contact Nuffic Neso Mexico. Please fill out the attached participation form with your information and send it to jdegeus@nesomexico.org in order to participate in the Orange Tulip Scholarship Mexico programme 2012-2013.

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