University Scholarship Programme - Laos

Mekong Sub-Regional Leadership Development Programme
University Scholarship Programme, Laos (USPLB)

We believe a country can only develop in a sustainable and peaceful way if all members of society

- can access quality education
- can fulfill their potential and aspirations
- can apply their knowledge and contribute towards the development of their communities.

Our Laos University Scholarship Programme has been operating since 2011 to respond to the urgency of the disadvantaged living in remote rural areas, who lack financial support to pursue higher education after high school. Through this programme, we aim to facilitate inclusive development by imparting to students knowledge and opportunities for higher education to achieve Bachelor degrees, and prospects of better employment. This creates pathways for leaders and specialists working towards the development of their country.

Child’s Dream grants full scholarships (100% coverage of tuition fees, living costs as well as essential learning supplies).
University Scholarship Programme, Laos (USPLB)

Together with the university scholarship programmes we run in Myanmar and Cambodia, we additionally aim to create lasting positive relationships and networks among our students and alumni who will be future leaders, influencers and decision-makers within the countries of our targeted area - the Mekong Sub-region.

By granting university scholarships to academically strong individuals, we aim at achieving more equally distributed advancement options in Laotian human resources. Scholarships are granted to students who demonstrate perseverance in their studies, and who show high motivation and commitment to contribute to the development of their own disadvantaged communities.

**Our Vision**: With the advantage of higher education, youth can improve their skills and knowledge, have access to better employment, and serve as strong future contributors, positive-change makers, and leaders in the development of their own communities and Laos as a whole.
Guiding Principles

- Promoting the development of the countries from which the individuals come
- Supporting the development of the educational system in the country of origin
- Prioritising students who aim to have a positive multiplier effect (i.e. teachers, social workers, public health workers, communicators, policy makers)
- Prioritising studies who will have a direct impact in their countries after graduation and when entering the labour market
- Prioritising students who study in their country of origin, acknowledging that some students may be forced to study abroad due to factors such as lack of education facilities or quality of education (e.g. in Myanmar)
- Promoting social reconciliation; addressing unbalanced ethnic, gender, and/or class issues
- Being as objective as possible in the selection of future leaders and change makers according to clear criteria.
Selection Criteria

- Maximum age 30 at the time of application to our scholarship
- High school diploma formally enabling applicants to access bachelor programmes at universities in Laos
- Good academic achievements, and a solid track record
- Applicants must meet requirements and admission criteria of universities as well as their chosen major
- High motivation and perseverance to diligently study in 4-year programmes
- Demonstrated commitment to develop their communities and country either by leadership abilities or specific skills
- Ideally, some voluntary or full-time/part-time work experience
- Underprivileged background and proven need for financial support.
Our Laos Scholarship Programme in Numbers*

Programme launched
2011

Scholarships granted so far
142

Current number of students
73

Alumni
58

Success Rate
92%

Cost per student per year (4-year study programmes)
USD 10,000

(donors are expected to commit to funding for four years leading to an undergraduate degree, payments can be effected annually).

Annual intake is approx. 20 candidates. Gender balance is emphasised, with a current gender ratio of 1 woman: 1 man in this merit based scholarship programme.

*December 2018
Alumni Tracking and Survey

Alumni employment analysis

We systematically run alumni surveys to track alumni's jobs, careers and gain insight into general socio-economic multiplier-effects our programme achieves. This ensures comprehensive yearly reports shared with programme donors. More than 90% of our alumni are productive and work in a wide variety of positions. As our alumni gain more experience and exposure, we believe their impact on the development of Laos will increase.

Our first Laotian bachelor students graduated in late 2015. It can be observed that alumni often find paid employment only two years after graduation, as many employers require applicants to have a minimum previous working experience.
## Examples: Three Laotian alumni profiles

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Mr. Thavivanh Phommachack</th>
<th>Ms. Khamyouly Sisoukkeochanthaboun</th>
<th>Mr. Mone Khattiyyod</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>▪ Graduated with a BA in Agricultural Sciences from Soupanouvong University, Laos in 2015</td>
<td>▪ Graduated with a BSc in Chemistry from Pakse Teacher's College, Laos in 2015</td>
<td>▪ Graduated with a BA in Agricultural Sciences from Soupanouvong University, Laos in 2017</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>▪ After graduation editor at Aiy Nou Noi Printing House, Luang Prabang District, Luang Prabang</td>
<td>▪ After graduation volunteer teacher at Don Talad Upper Secondary School, Champasak Province, Laos</td>
<td>▪ since 12/2017: Regional forestry planner at Burapha Agro-Forestry Company, Saytettha District, Vientiane</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>▪ 08/2016-12/2016: worked at the Lao Travel Company, back office position, Chanthabouly District, Vientiane, Laos</td>
<td>▪ Since 10/2017: paid government teaching position at the same school</td>
<td>▪ since 12/2017: Regional forestry planner at Burapha Agro-Forestry Company, Saytettha District, Vientiane</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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