



INDIANA UNIVERSITY

CENTER FOR INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION AND DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE
U.S. STATE DEPARTMENT

U.S. State Department Burmese Refugee Scholarship Program 2006-2009

THE APPLICATION PROCESS

Q. *Who is eligible to apply for this scholarship?*

A: For the 2006-2009 Burmese Refugee Scholarship Program (BRSP), YOU will be eligible to apply for a U.S. State Department scholarship if all of the following are true:

1. You are a refugee from Burma.
2. You left Burma because of involvement with the pro-democracy movement or because you have a well-founded fear of persecution for reasons of race, religion, nationality, or membership of a particular social group or political opinion, or based on your ties to the pro-democracy movement and would be at risk if you returned to Burma.
3. You have completed secondary school and attended an institution of higher education for at least two years (e.g. University of Yangon). OR you have completed secondary school and hold a Burma Distance Education Thailand (BDEPT) Certificate III. Short-term technical courses and specialized trainings do not qualify for the two years of education beyond high school. Or in lieu of graduation from secondary school and two years of formal education beyond secondary school, the completion of the GED (General Educational Development). Applicants are required to provide all previous academic transcripts, or if these are not available, an adequate explanation as to why they cannot be provided and compelling evidence of academic achievement.
4. You are a refugee registered in a camp in Thailand, or you have applied for recognition status and are waiting to be considered by a Provincial Admissions Board (PAB). Please note your application to the PAB must be approved at the time that the BRSP is arranging for your travel documents (roughly April-May 2007).
5. You have proven yourself committed to the promotion of peace, democracy and development in Burma and that you intend to stay substantially involved with these activities. When Burma gains democracy, you intend to return to Burma.
6. You currently reside within Thailand.

Q: *Does BRSP provide support for a spouse and child(ren)?*

A: No. BRSP Grants are intended for the recipient only. Applicants with families should be

aware that no funds from the U.S. State Department or Indiana University are available to bring a spouse and child(ren) to the US.

Q: *What are the criteria for selecting grantees?*

A: Grantees meet the eligibility criteria described above. In addition, grantees will be selected on the basis of evidence of their academic preparation, English language ability, demonstrated commitment to democracy in Burma, leadership ability, and statement of purpose and goals.

Q: *Is there anything that might disqualify me from participation in the program?*

A: Yes. Candidates must be eligible for approval from the US Government for entry into the United States. Failure to receive approval for entry into the United States would disqualify a candidate from receiving a BRSP grant.

Q: *How many BRSP scholarships are available?*

A: For 2006-2009, four scholarships will be awarded.

Q: *Is there a preference in selection for any ethnic group or gender?*

A: No. Any citizen of Burma who is a refugee in Thailand is eligible to apply for a BRSP grant regardless of his or her ethnic identity, race, religion or sex. Final selection to receive a grant will be made on the basis of the overall qualifications of the candidate in relation to BRSP goals. Qualified women candidates are especially encouraged to apply.

Q: *What is the application deadline?*

A: November 30, 2006

Q: *Where do I send the completed application forms?*

A: Send the completed application form to the address indicated on the bottom of the last page of the application. You must submit copies of all identification, academic documents, transcripts, degrees, diplomas, certificates, and any other relevant documents and/or letters with the application.

Ms. Shona Kirkwood
P.O. Box 8
Mae Ping Post Office
Chiang Mai 50301
Thailand
Office Phone: (053) 328 059
Mobile: 01 993 2406
E-mail: bpeoshona@gmail.com

Q: *What happens after I submit my BRSP Application Form?*

A: Applications will be reviewed by representatives of Indiana University. If selected as a semi-finalist, you will be notified around the first week of 2007. Semi-finalists will take the institutional TOEFL (Test of English as a Foreign Language) and complete a short essay. Semi-finalists must submit three (3) letters of recommendation to Shona Kirkwood by January 31, 2007. Interviews will be held in February 2007 in Bangkok, Chiang Mai and Mae Sot. From

among the semi-finalists, four candidates will be selected as finalists to receive scholarships; several alternates will also be announced. If any of the four finalists withdraw or are unable to gain immigration approval for entry into the US, their scholarships will be awarded to alternates.

Q: *Is there an English language ability requirement?*

A: Yes. English language ability is very important for success in US higher education. Determination of applicants' English language ability will be on the basis of interviews, institutional TOEFL tests, and short essays.

WHAT HAPPENS AFTER BEING SELECTED FOR A GRANT?

Q: *If I am selected to receive a scholarship, when will I arrive in the United States?*

A: You will be interviewed by various representatives of the U.S. and Thai governments for clearance to travel to the United States. If the interviews and other necessary paperwork are processed smoothly, it is expected that all four candidates will arrive in the US in August of 2007. Your plane ticket will be paid for and arranged by the BRSP.

Q. *What will happen immediately after my arrival in the United States?*

A: Upon arrival in the U.S., you will be greeted at the Indianapolis airport by Burmese Refugee Scholarship Program staff, and transported to Indiana University, in Bloomington, Indiana. You will move into a student dormitory on the I.U. campus, which will be your home through December 2007. You will eat your meals in a student dining hall on campus. Over the first two months after you arrive, you will be given a settling-in allowance to cover the cost of any purchases you may need to make, clothing or personal items, for example. In the first few days after you arrive, you will participate in an orientation program which will provide information about the IU campus, American culture, BRSP rules and regulations, U.S. immigration, and much more. You will also be given English and Math tests, and assigned to appropriate English language classes.

Q. *What will I be doing for the first five months of the program?*

A: You will use the first five months of the program to develop the English and other academic skills you will need to pursue a degree in the United States. Between August and December 2007, you will be enrolled in the Intensive English Program of the Center for English Language Training (CELT) at Indiana University. This means that you will be taking 4-5 classes per day to improve your English language skills. Depending on your educational background, you may also be enrolled in standardized test preparation classes and math review classes, to help prepare you for starting a college degree in the U.S.

During this time period, you will also be completing applications to enter degree programs at various universities. The BRSP coordinator will advise and guide you on the application process, and preparatory classes. If your English still needs improvement by December 2007, you will be sent to a university where you can continue studying English while you are beginning your degree program.

Q. *How much money will I have to live on between August and December 2007?*

A: Your housing in the student dormitory at Indiana University and your meals in the student

dining halls will be paid for by the BRSP. Additionally, you will receive a monthly allowance to cover your other incidental living expenses such as clothes and school supplies (notebooks, pencils, etc.). You will also receive two payments with which to buy books for your classes. These amounts of money cannot be increased for any reason, so students are encouraged to spend the money wisely, and save money each month for any larger/more expensive items they may wish to buy.

Q: *What universities can I apply to? How many universities can I apply to?*

A: The BRSP maintains a list of universities that, in the past, have agreed to provide BRSP grantees with supplemental financial assistance. The program requires that you apply to universities that have pledged to provide financial assistance to BRSP grantees.

Q: *Which universities have provided BRSP grantees with supplemental financial assistance in the past?*

A: BRSP recipients from 1995-2003 have been admitted with supplemental financial assistance to the following universities:

BRSP Cooperating Universities:

Ball State University (Indiana)
Hartwick College (New York)
Indiana University, Bloomington
Indiana University, Fort Wayne
Indiana University-Purdue University, Indianapolis
Indiana University, South Bend
Ivy Tech (Indiana)
Santa Rosa Junior College (California)
Skyline Community College (California)
University of Maryland
University of New Hampshire
Vincennes University (Indiana)
Valparaiso University (Indiana)

In the future, based on their willingness to provide financial aid, other universities may also be approved for BRSP grantees. Public universities within the State of Indiana are the more recent choices of universities for the BRSP candidates.

Q. *Can I apply to a university that is not approved by the BRSP?*

A: You can apply to universities not approved by BRSP. However, if the BRSP cannot obtain financial cooperation from the university, you will not be allowed to attend it and you will be expected to attend a BRSP-approved university instead.

Q: *What does “financial cooperation” mean?*

A: Your U.S. State Department scholarship money does not cover the entire cost of tuition and fees at most universities. The BRSP will assist you with applying for Federal and State Educational Grants, which in most cases, will provide enough additional money to pay your

educational fees. In cases where U.S. State Department tuition money and Federal/State Educational Grants are not sufficient, the BRSP must obtain a commitment of additional scholarship money or a fee discount from the university. If such a commitment cannot be arranged, you will not have sufficient funds to pay for your education and will have to select one of the BRSP-approved universities that have pledged supplemental financial assistance. Universities that are approved by the BRSP are those that have already made a commitment to financial cooperation with the program, or whose costs are low enough to be fully covered by the BRSP grant.

Q: *When will I start my degree program?*

A: You are expected to begin your degree program at an approved university in January 2008. BRSP will assist you in moving to your new university. Beginning in January of 2008, you are expected to be enrolled in classes full-time during the spring, and fall class sessions until December 2009, when the U.S. State Department scholarship ends. During the summer, you are expected to find internships or employment-you will be given some assistance with this. If you are not enrolled full-time, your BRSP grant will be terminated.

Q: *What kind of benefits does the scholarship provide after I start my degree program at my new university?*

A: The BRSP scholarship will pay:

- A portion of your tuition and fees at your new school.
- A book allowance of about \$500 per academic term
- Living expenses of about \$1200 per month to cover your room and board and incidental expenses

Q: *What if I don't have enough money to meet all of my personal expenses?*

A: The BRSP is designed to provide enough funds for the period covered by the U.S. State Department scholarship program. Sometimes, however, unforeseen circumstances and or other factors arise which require additional funds. In this situation, BRSP grantees are eligible to apply for grants from service organizations such as the Open Society Institute.

Q: *When does the scholarship end? What happens at that time?*

A: The BRSP scholarship will end in December 2009. At that time, you will probably not be finished with your degree program. Once the scholarship ends, you are fully responsible for the costs of any remaining tuition, living expenses, books, health insurance, etc. necessary to complete your degree program. It is expected that you will be able cover these further educational costs with Federal and State Financial Aid (including student loans), or with scholarships from the university where you are seeking your degree. You will probably also want to work part-time to help defray costs. Past scholarship recipients have gone on to finish their degrees and have gotten jobs in the U.S. or have continued their studies in graduate school.

Q: *What if I get sick?*

A: You will be able to go to the Indiana University Health Center on campus for the first five months of the program. The Bloomington Hospital is close to campus, should you need additional care. Most universities in the U.S. have their own such health centers, so you will be

able to use the one at your new university, once you begin your degree program. To help with the costs of medical care, you will be covered by the Department of State health insurance for the duration of the BRSP. Health insurance should pay for most of the expenses you may incur for doctor visits, accidents, etc.

Sometimes, however, you may be required to pay a portion of your health related bills yourself. This may occur when part of your medical treatment is not covered by your health insurance (for example, dental care) or when you must be treated for a “pre-existing” medical condition that you had before you were covered by health insurance (for example, tuberculosis). The BRSP staff will assist you in understanding health insurance, and health related bills. The program provides you with health insurance for the duration of the scholarship.

Timeline

2006 U.S. State Department Burmese Refugee Scholarship Program

February 2007	Interviews and Institutional TOEFL Testing in Bangkok, Chiang Mai and Mae Sot, Candidate Selection
March-July 2007	Thai and U.S. Travel Clearance
August 2007	Arrival in Bloomington, Indiana
August 2007-December 2007	Intensive English Program Classes College/Test Preparation Classes College/University Application Process
December 2007	Complete English language training at Indiana University
January 2008	Begin degree program at BRSP-approved university
December 2009	U.S. State Department Scholarship Ends



Indiana University

CENTER FOR INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION AND DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE
U.S. STATE DEPARTMENT

U.S. State Department Burmese Refugee Scholarship Program 2006-2009 Application Form



Attach Photo Here
Sign Name on
Back of Photo

Please read instructions carefully. All blanks should be filled out in English and typed or hand printed. If additional space is needed to answer a question, use the back of this form or attach a separate sheet (be sure to indicate the number of the question that you are answering).

All information on this application will be kept strictly confidential.

You must attach copies of all identification, academic documents, transcripts, degrees, diplomas, certificates, and any other relevant documents and/or letters to this application for submission by November 30, 2006.

PERSONAL INFORMATION

(It is important that you answer this section completely truthfully.)

1. NAME (Give full name): _____

AKA (Give any other names you have used): _____

2. BIRTH PLACE: City _____

Country _____

3. BIRTH DATE (dd/mm/yy) _____ CITIZENSHIP _____

While not required to do so, please answer about your religion and ethnicity

RELIGION _____ ETHNICITY _____

4. SEX - Male Female MARITAL STATUS - Single Married Divorced

If married, give SPOUSE'S name: _____

Spouse's place of residence: _____

5. DO YOU HAVE CHILDREN? YES NO *If yes, provide full name(s), birth date(s) and place of residence for EACH child:* _____

6. YOUR CURRENT ADDRESS: _____

CITY _____

PHONE NO. _____

EMAIL ADDRESS _____

FAX NO. _____

7. DATE YOU DEPARTED FROM BURMA (Day, Month and Year): _____

8. IDENTIFICATION DOCUMENTS (Please indicate documents)

• REFUGEE CAMP REGISTRATION DOCUMENT, if you have one please write the number here: _____

If not, have you applied for camp registration? Yes No

• PASSPORT? YES NO *If yes, give date and place of issuance:* _____

• OTHER DOCUMENTS such as camp registration? (Please give name and date of issuance): _____

LANGUAGES

9. English language ability (check one): Excellent Good Fair Poor

10. Have you taken the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL)? YES NO

If yes, give dates that the TOEFL was taken and the scores obtained: _____

11. In addition to English, what other languages do you know? _____

12. Have you traveled outside Burma/Thailand before? YES NO

If yes, give dates and countries visited: _____

HIGHER EDUCATION (in Burma, Thailand and elsewhere)

13. a.) First higher educational institution attended: _____

Country/city location: _____

Type of Institution (check one) Secondary College University Other

If you check "other," please explain:

Dates of attendance: From: _____ to: _____

Major field of study: _____

Degree(s) received: _____

13. b.) Second higher educational institution attended: _____

Country/city location: _____

Type of institution (check one) Secondary College University Other

If you checked "other," please explain:

Dates of attendance: From: _____ to: _____

Major field of study: _____

Degree(s) received: _____

13. c.) Third higher educational institution attended: _____

Country/city location: _____

Type of institution (check one) Secondary College University Other

If you checked "other," please explain:

Dates of attendance: From: _____ to: _____

Major field of study: _____

Degree(s) received: _____

14. Academic Awards/Honors received: _____

TRAINING

15.a.) Name of organization, which organized training: _____

Dates attended: _____

Location of training: _____

Topics discussed: _____

15.b.) Name of organization, which organized training: _____

Dates attended: _____

Location of training: _____

Topics discussed: _____

(Use additional sheets if necessary.)

MEMBERSHIP IN ORGANIZATIONS

16. List any major organizations to which you have belonged including social, political, service and charitable organizations:

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____

EMPLOYMENT or VOLUNTARY (UNPAID) WORK EXPERIENCE

17. Number of years of paid work or unpaid volunteer experience: _____

Employment/Voluntary Organization: _____

Dates of Work: _____

Your position: _____

Type of Work: _____

Employment/Voluntary Organization: _____

Dates of Work: _____

Your position: _____

Type of Work: _____

(Use additional sheets if necessary.)

ACADEMIC PROGRAM / CAREER GOALS

18. IF YOU ARE ACCEPTED FOR THE BURMESE REFUGEE SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM, WHAT WILL BE YOUR PROPOSED MAJOR FIELD OF STUDY IN THE UNITED STATES? _____

UNIVERSITY DEGREE SOUGHT? Bachelor's Master's Doctor's Other

If you checked "Other," please explain: _____

FUTURE CAREER (Indicate the profession you would like to enter after completing university studies): _____

OTHER PERSONAL INFORMATION

19. Do you have health problems or disabilities (Tuberculosis, malaria, etc.)? YES NO
If yes, please describe briefly

20. Do you have relatives in the United States? YES NO
If yes, give name, address and relationship to you

21. Have you ever been arrested or convicted for a crime? YES NO *If yes, on the back of*

this form or on a separate sheet, please state the nature of the crime, the dates of time served in prison and in which country your prison sentence was served

22. Have you or your spouse or child(ren) ever been permanent residents or citizens of any country other than Burma? YES NO *If yes, which country*_____

23. Have you or your spouse or child(ren) ever filed for or been granted refugee status or asylum by the U.S. Government? YES NO

24. BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION (Attach additional pages)

Answer all of the following questions in an essay:

1. Describe any personal information, experiences or skills that would contribute to your success as a student or professional trainee in the United States;
2. Please include relevant information about your life and previous education in Burma;
3. Describe the situation and reasons that you left Burma;
4. Describe any significant factors that have influenced your personal development and academic or professional interests;
5. Include any activities you have engaged in to support the establishment of democracy in Burma.

25. You **must** attach copies of all academic documents, transcripts, degrees, diplomas, certificates, and any other relevant documents and/or letters that will assist the BRSP committee to assess your background. **Attach a copy of your camp registration document, and any other identification documents.** If you do not have these documents, briefly explain why you cannot obtain these documents.

Around January 1, 2007, we will notify approximately 30 applicants who will be chosen to move on to the second stage. At that point, if chosen, you must send three (3) letters of recommendation to Shona Kirkwood no later than January 31, 2007.

25. REFERENCES

(List names, addresses, and relationships of three persons that know you well and who could provide personal references and verify your community activities)

NAME	ADDRESS/TELEPHONE NO.	RELATIONSHIP
1. _____	_____ _____ Telephone No. _____ Fax No. or Email _____	_____
2. _____	_____ _____ Telephone No. _____ Fax No. or Email _____	_____
3. _____	_____ _____ Telephone No. _____ Fax No. or Email _____	_____

I state and affirm that all information provided in this application is true and accurate.

Signature _____ Date _____

APPLICATION DEADLINE: November 30, 2006

All application materials should be returned to the following location:

Ms. Shona Kirkwood
P.O. Box 8
Mae Ping Post Office
Chiang Mai 50301
Thailand
Office Phone: (053) 328 059
Mobile: 01 993 2406
E-mail: bpeoshona@gmail.com

Questions about the application can be addressed to:

Ms. Carol Myint
Burmese Refugee Scholarship Program
E-mail: cmyint@indiana.edu
Phone: (812) 855-3948