



THE
ROWE
FUND

LEO S. ROWE PAN AMERICAN FUND / FONDO PANAMERICANO LEO S. ROWE
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**UNITED STATES EMBASSY COLLEGE FAIR 2007
TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO
SEPTEMBER 29-30**

Greetings from the Rowe Fund, the student loan program of the Organization of the American States (OAS). The Rowe Fund expresses our highest respects for the support you extend to international students and scholars.

We would like to take this opportunity to inform you about this financial aid opportunity, in the form of a subsidized loan to help cover studies in the United States of interested individuals from Latin America and Caribbean countries.

Under the auspices of the Organization of American States, the Rowe Fund grants supplementary loans, currently **interest-free**, to qualified individuals from Latin America and the Caribbean countries, to help them finance their higher studies or research in the United States. These loans are made with the understanding that upon completion of their studies, loan recipients commit to repay the loan in full and return to their home countries to apply their knowledge and training as well as to continue fostering friendship and communication among the peoples of the Americas.

Rowe Fund loans are granted to individuals from Latin American and Caribbean OAS member states for graduate and undergraduate studies. Additionally, scientists, engineers, technicians or scholars who are currently pursuing, or wish to pursue advanced training, research, or technical certificates in the United States are also eligible. This includes exchange semester studies and professional development courses in the United States, with the exception of English-as-a-Second Language courses.

Prospective applicants should have a visa and be enrolled or accepted as a full-time student in an accredited institution in the United States, maintain good academic performance, be able to successfully complete the studies or research for which the loan is being requested within a maximum of two years, be committed to return to their countries or other Latin American or Caribbean country (LAC) upon completion of their studies, and repay the Rowe Fund loan in full within a term of, at most, fifty-three months after the expected date of completion of the studies for which the Rowe Fund loan is granted.

As a rule, student loans must be underwritten by a guarantor. The guarantor signs an agreement pledging to repay the unpaid balance of the debt should the loan recipient default. The following person/institutions may serve as a guarantor:

1. a qualified US co-signer (US citizen or permanent resident);
2. a financial, academic institution, or other entity which, in the opinion of the Committee, provides adequate security.

Due to the difficulty faced by students from Latin-American and Caribbean countries to obtain a qualified US co-signer as a condition for receiving study loans from the Rowe Fund, since 2001 the Rowe Fund Committee has explored additional mechanisms to guaranty Rowe Fund loans. Please inquire to rowefund@oas.org for more details.

Loan applications are submitted directly from the borrowers to the Rowe Fund Secretariat. They are received and reviewed by the Committee all year round. The maximum amount lent to a borrower is currently US\$7,500 per academic period and US\$15,000 in total. Individuals who meet the requirements for eligibility set forth above may download the application and other forms from our Website: www.oas.org/rowe

We would appreciate your help in promoting our loan program by whichever means you consider appropriate, such as posting our website link on your university's website and/or including a note about the Rowe Fund loan program in the university's publications or list-serve. We trust that you will find this information useful when providing financial advice to foreign students from Latin America or Caribbean countries. While assisting your students, you will also be helping our mission by disseminating information concerning the Fund and its objectives.

For more information please visit our website, www.oas.org/rowe, write us at rowefund@oas.org, or call us at (202) 458 6208. We believe that the Leo S. Rowe Fund is a beneficial tool in ensuring that your students successfully complete their studies in the United States. Thank you for your time and attention.

Sincerely,

Lina M. Sevillano
Leo S. Rowe Fund
Organization of the American States
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