



DESPATCH FROM THE SECRETARY OF STATE

RELATING TO THE

Proposal to Establish a Medical College in the  
Gold Coast, together with Regulations and Con-  
ditions for the Award of Government Scholarships  
to African Students for the purpose of studying  
Medicine in the United Kingdom.



*Ordered by His Excellency the Governor to be printed.*

GOLD COAST :

*Printed by the Government Printer at the Government Printing Office, Accra.  
To be purchased from the Government Printing Office (Publications Branch),  
Accra, Gold Coast Colony, and from the Crown Agents for the Colonies,  
4, Millbank, London, S.W.1.*

1930.



*Despatch from the Secretary of State to Governor.*

DOWNING STREET,

4th June, 1929.

SIR,

I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your despatch of the 17th of November, regarding the proposal that a Medical College should be established in the Gold Coast, and to thank you for the full expression of your views which you have given me. I have now been able to consider the question in all its aspects, and am in a position to come to a final decision.

2. The main difficulty with which the West African Governments are faced in their endeavours to bring the benefits of medical science and skill within the reach of the African peoples is the lack of qualified medical men. For financial, if for no other reasons, the deficiency can never be made good by an expansion of the staff of European doctors employed in the Government service, even if candidates were available in sufficient numbers, which as you are aware is not the case. The only source from which it can be met is to be found in the African population itself, and it is therefore the duty of the various Governments to ensure that adequate facilities for medical training are within the reach of African students who wish, and are able, to take advantage of them. Such facilities are at present available only in the medical schools in the United Kingdom, but as the influence of a progressive educational policy in West Africa comes to be felt and the general intellectual level rises, the demand for medical training will undoubtedly increase to an extent which these training schools will be unable to meet, if only because they will find it impossible for lack of accommodation to absorb the growing number of students from West Africa. Such a situation must then be remedied by the provision of a medical college in West Africa itself; and indeed, an African doctor, trained in his own country at a local college in which education in the ideals of service and the duties of good citizenship begun at school will be continued in conjunction with his professional instruction, will have a much better chance of developing into a useful member of society than one who has been subjected to the disturbing influences inseparable from a prolonged sojourn in the United Kingdom.

3. For these reasons there is little doubt that it will eventually be desirable to found a medical college in West Africa, and the question is whether the time has yet come to proceed with so far-reaching and costly a proposal. On the one hand, the committee which met at Accra in 1927 has pointed out that some thirty Africans pass the Cambridge Senior Local Examinations each year, and that this number may be expected to increase. The necessary buildings for the medical college cannot be completed under three years, so that even if building operations were begun at once no students could be admitted before 1931 at the earliest. In view of these facts the Committee came to the conclusion that the prospects justified an immediate start.

4. On the other hand, the Governors of Nigeria and Sierra Leone have stated that at any rate for a considerable time to come the number of students from those Colonies capable and desirous of entering the medical profession in any given year will be so small as to be practically negligible. They not unnaturally hesitate to commit their Governments to a scheme involving heavy expenditure for which they can see no



prospect of obtaining any appreciable return for years to come. In the Gold Coast the prospects are undoubtedly more favourable, but the Gold Coast cannot finance the college unassisted by contributions from the other West African Colonies. After reviewing the matter in all its aspects you have recommended that further consideration of the project should be postponed for five years, and bearing in mind that even in the Gold Coast it cannot be said that there is any definite demand for a college at present, I have decided to accept this recommendation. I shall, however, be prepared to review the matter before the expiration of the five-year period if evidence is forthcoming that African students are finding it impossible to obtain medical training in the United Kingdom. Meanwhile, I see no objection to scholarships being granted by the various Governments to promising students who may wish to come to this country to study medicine.

5. In these circumstances I have not thought it necessary to examine the scheme put forward by the committee in any great detail. I note that the capital cost is estimated at £367,194, excluding £28,250 for a new block to the Gold Coast Hospital, which has already been approved. The annual expenditure when the college is fully occupied is estimated at £69,013, including interest on capital, maintenance, and pension liabilities. From this amount must be deducted the sum of £18,800 to be derived from fees paid by the students. The net annual expenditure thus becomes £50,213, which must be divided between the Colonies concerned. These are large figures. As Mr. Grier points out in his memorandum which formed the enclosure to the Governor of Nigeria's despatch of the 19th of September, the capital cost of the proposed college is placed at a figure which is nearly £100,000 more than the amount required to establish at Nottingham a University for eight hundred full-time and two thousand part-time students. Even allowing for all the various factors which make it impossible to place any great reliance on comparisons of this kind, the variation in cost is striking, and when the question is revived, I hope that the estimates of expenditure will be carefully scrutinised with a view to effecting such reductions as may be possible.

6. There is only one other point to which I need refer at this stage. In paragraph 12 of your despatch of the 17th of November you contemplate that for some years after the college has been established all the doctors graduating from it will be absorbed into the Government service. I have no doubt that the West African Governments will wish to make use of the services of African doctors to an increasing extent in the future, but I do not think it would be wise in any public discussions or announcements to encourage the impression that students from the proposed college will be able to rely upon obtaining Government appointments on graduation. The ultimate object is, after all, to build up a corps of private as well as official medical practitioners in West Africa, and the extent to which the graduates from the college would be employed by the Government is not a matter on which it is possible to formulate any definite opinion at present.

I have, etc.,

L. S. AMERY.

GOVERNOR

SIR A. R. SLATER, K.C.M.G., C.B.E.,

ETC.,                      ETC.,                      ETC.



# GOVERNMENT SCHOLARSHIPS TO AFRICAN STUDENTS FOR THE PURPOSE OF STUDYING MEDICINE IN THE UNITED KINGDOM.

## REGULATIONS AND CONDITIONS.

It is hereby notified for general information that in and after the year 1930, and until further notice, one or more scholarships may be awarded annually to suitable candidates for the purpose of studying medicine in the United Kingdom and obtaining a registrable qualification therein.

Establishment  
of Scholarships  
for African  
Students

2. The value of a scholarship will be £300 per annum for five years, together with a free 2nd class passage to England at the beginning of the scholarship and a free 1st class passage to British West Africa at its expiration on the successful completion of the course and the obtaining of a registrable qualification in medicine, and an outfit allowance of £50 for the purpose of proceeding to England. Medical expenses up to a maximum of £50 during the period of the scholarship will be allowed if the Director of Colonial Scholars in London is satisfied that they are necessary.

General Value

3. In the Gold Coast all disbursements in connection with a scholarship by way of outfit allowance or passage money will be paid to a selected scholar by the Treasurer, and, in England, all sums by way of subsistence, examination fees, entrance, incidental or other fees or any advances or extraordinary or necessary personal expenses will be paid periodically through the Crown Agents for the Colonies at the discretion of the Director of Colonial Scholars.

Mode of  
Payment

All advances made by the Director of Colonial Scholars will be refunded from the total amount of a scholarship by such deductions as the Director of Colonial Scholars may consider necessary.

4. A Board of Selection will meet whenever a scholarship is to be filled for the purpose of considering applications from candidates. The Board's recommendations will be subject to approval by the Governor whose decision will be final. Notice of meetings of the Board of Selection will be published in the *Gazette* and *Reuter's News*.

Board of  
Selection

5. In general a candidate to be eligible for one of these scholarships :—

Eligibility of  
Candidates

- i. must be an unmarried African, both or one of whose parents are natives of and domiciled in either the Gold Coast Colony, Ashanti, the Northern Territories or the Mandated Territory of Togoland.
- ii. must not be less than 17 or more than 20 years of age on the date of the submission of his application for a scholarship. A certified extract from the Register of Births or other satisfactory evidence of age must be produced.

Age

*Special note.*—The Board will, generally speaking, prefer applicants whose age complies with the above condition but it will be open to the Board to consider applications from older candidates, and such candidates may, if otherwise suitable, obtain recommendation.

Extension  
of above  
condition

- iii. must have secured complete exemption from the Matriculation Examination for a course of medical study at one of the Universities of Great Britain, e.g. the Cambridge School Certificate with such credit as would entitle him to exemption

General  
Education



from the previous examination at the University of Cambridge, respensions at the University of Oxford or the matriculation examination of the University of London, provided that the candidate has passed with credit in English language and English literature and with credit in Latin and with credit in mathematics. Preference will be given to a candidate who has passed the Cambridge University *Higher School* certificate in chemistry and physics or in chemistry or physics.

Character and  
Physique

- iv. must be physically fit and of good moral character. The certificate of a Government Medical Officer may be accepted as evidence of physical fitness and a certificate from the Principal of his last school, or college as evidence of character. A certificate or certificates of character must cover a period of at least three years immediately preceding the date of the candidate's application.

6. These scholarships are awarded subject to the following further conditions :—

Periodical  
Certificates of  
diligence and  
progress

- (a) The holder shall, when directed by the Government of the Gold Coast, proceed to England and enter as a student at one of the Universities of the United Kingdom or such other college or Institution as shall be selected for him by the Director of Colonial Scholars, and shall there prosecute his studies in medicine to the satisfaction of the authorities of the university, college or institution and of the Director of Colonial Scholars with a view to obtaining a registrable qualification therein.
- (b) The holder shall transmit direct to the Director of Colonial Scholars, quarterly or every term, or as the Director of Colonial Scholars shall require, a certificate signed by the Dean or other responsible authority of the medical school selected, stating that the holder continues to pursue his studies diligently, is keeping his terms continuously, is making good progress and that his general conduct is satisfactory.

The Director of Colonial Scholars will transmit such certificates at regular intervals to the Governor of this Colony.

- (c) must undertake that on the successful completion of his studies he will at once return to British West Africa in order to engage in the practice of medicine.

Extension of  
Period of  
scholarship

7. Where a scholar may have, owing to illness or other cause failed to obtain a registrable qualification in medicine within 5 years, the duration of the sholarship may be extended for a further period as the Governor-in-Council may deem necessary or advisable in order to enable the scholar to complete his studies and obtain a medical degree. The grant of such extension will, in the main, depend upon the report which may be furnished to the Governor of the Colony by the Director of Colonial Scholars concerning the promise and ability and conduct of the scholar, and the likelihood of his being able to complete his studies within a reasonable period of time.

Forfeiture

8. A scholar who, not being disabled by illness or prevented by any other cause which the Director of Colonial Scholars may in his judgment consider sufficient, fails to pass any examination within the period of time fixed by the competent authority of the Medical School selected or who fails to reach a normal standard of efficiency in study, or is guilty of any grave misconduct, serious breach of discipline or persistent idleness, or who by entry on any course of study or accepting any appointment which in the opinion of the authorities before mentioned, is incompatible with the course of studies prescribed by them, or who marries, may have his scholarship forfeited wholly or in part by the Secretary of State for the Colonies or by the Governor of the Gold Coast.



9. A scholar who is expelled from his University College or Institution or who marries, may have his scholarship terminated immediately by the Secretary of State for the Colonies. In other cases of forfeiture three to six months' notice of termination at the discretion of the Secretary of State for the Colonies or the Governor of the Gold Coast will be given.

Notice of  
termination of  
Scholarship

10. On the expiration of his scholarship and after qualification in medicine a scholar will be provided with a free 1st class passage to British West Africa. If a scholarship is forfeited, or if it be resigned before the completion of its term, he may be given a free 3rd class passage, or if the holder of it, on completion of its term declines to return to British West Africa when instructed to do so, he will lose his claim to a free return passage. If a scholarship is terminated owing to ill-health the scholar will be provided with a free 2nd class passage to the Gold Coast.

Return to  
Gold Coast or  
British West  
Africa

11. In arranging passages to and from England the decision of the Governor in the Gold Coast and of the Director of Colonial Scholars (or other officer representing the Government of the Gold Coast in England) respectively shall be final. They shall have power to determine the shipping line and the ports of embarkation and landing.

Arrangement  
of Passages

12. Notwithstanding the preceding regulations a scholar may with the permission of the Secretary of State for the Colonies or the Governor of the Gold Coast, be allowed to postpone, at his own expense, his return to British West Africa after the expiration of his scholarship and to remain in England for a further period not exceeding 3 years, on the distinct understanding that such permission will be given only in order to enable the scholar to pursue a course of study or to acquire additional professional qualifications likely to be of benefit to the Gold Coast Colony or to British West Africa on his eventual return. In such a case the scholar will be provided with a 1st class passage back to British West Africa on the expiration of the permitted period of extended stay in England.

Postponement  
of return for  
purposes of  
study

13. The medical expenses of scholars will be paid by Government in cases recommended by the Director of Colonial Scholars, but the total sum which will be paid for any one scholar on this account is limited to a maximum of £50.

Medical  
expenses of  
Scholars

14. Every scholar must be medically examined by a consulting physician to the Colonial Office at least once yearly for the purpose of ascertaining that his health is not being detrimentally affected by residence in England. The fee will be paid from Government funds. The Secretary of State may at any time order the return to the Gold Coast of any scholar on the recommendation of a consulting physician to the Colonial Office.

15. In all cases the parent or guardian of a selected candidate must delegate parental authority and control of the scholar to the Director of Colonial Scholars and the candidate shall agree to be and shall be under the charge, direction and control of the Director of Colonial Scholars during the period of the scholarship and shall obey all directions he may receive from the Director. The original of the parent or guardian's delegation must in all cases be attached to the Form of Application.

Delegation of  
Parental  
Authority and  
Control

16. The period of the scholarship shall run from the date of arrival of the scholar from the Gold Coast in England, and on arrival there the scholar will in person report his arrival to the Director of Colonial Scholars, who will instruct him as to the institution selected for him and give general advice for his welfare whilst in the United Kingdom.

Period of the  
Scholarship

17. Travelling expenses (3rd class railway fare) will be paid at the commencement of the scholarship from the port of arrival in England to London and from London to the selected university, college or school,

Travelling  
Expenses.



and at its termination, from the university, college or school to the port of embarkation for West Africa.

Publication in  
the *Gazette* of  
names of  
selected  
Scholars

Construction  
of these  
Regulations

18. The names of selected scholars will be published in the *Government Gazette*, on the completion to the satisfaction of the Governor of all necessary preliminaries or as soon thereafter as possible.

19. In all cases of doubt or on questions arising in the Colony or in Great Britain as to the construction of the above regulations or as to the mode of administration of the scholarship, the Director of Medical and Sanitary Service in the Colony (subject to the direction of the Governor) and the Director of Colonial Scholars in England (subject to the direction of the Secretary of State) shall have power to decide.

Variation of  
conditions

20. The above regulations as to the conditions attaching to and the mode of awarding a scholarship in medicine may be varied or amended at any time by the Governor-in-Council and such variations or amendments shall be published in the *Government Gazette*; but no variation or amendment shall come into force until 12 months from the date of such publication in the *Government Gazette*.

Forms of  
Application

21. Forms of Application may be obtained by prospective candidates from the Director of Medical and Sanitary Service or from the Director of Education.

By His Excellency's Command,

G. C. DU BOULAY,

*Acting Colonial Secretary.*

COLONIAL SECRETARY'S OFFICE,  
VICTORIABORG, ACCRA,  
2nd October, 1930.

