



PRESS RELEASE

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Attention: All News Editors

\$2.5 Billion in Medical Scholarships Announced

KINGSTON, Jamaica. Tuesday, May 7, 2024: A \$2.5 Billion Dollar Scholarship Programme and Development Fund has been announced by Health & Wellness Minister, Dr. the Hon. Christopher Tufton. The scholarship programme, which is named in honour of former Chief Medical Officer, Dr. Barry Wint, will be open to Jamaicans pursuing studies in any of the following areas: Nursing, Medicine, Public Health, Medical Technology, Epidemiology, Medical Physics, Health Records Management, Hospital/Health Care Management, Information Systems for Health, Pharmacy, Dentistry and Health Economics.

In announcing the programme during his sectoral presentation, Dr. Tufton noted that, *"These are some of the critical groups that we need to fill the gaps in our human resource requirements. We cannot restrict the movement of labour but we certainly can collaborate with other institutions and jurisdictions to train more people and hopefully share their skill sets between different institutions and jurisdictions."*

"We have to do more to train and retain, including accepting that we also train for export, and this will have to include collaboration with external partners, including institutions outside of Jamaica," the Minister added.

The Ministry is aiming to have the scholarships available starting in September 2024 with graduate and postgraduate students eligible to apply. The recipients will be bonded to work in the public health system for a period.

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Additionally, the Ministry is exploring the possibility of flexi-contract arrangements for healthcare workers to be trained jointly across jurisdictions and institutions. Overseas clinical rotations and remote faculty for expanded training in these medical areas are also being explored.

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