



Background Information

For Tablets for Students (TFS) Program:

To provide school students and teachers with electronic tablets to be used as a tool to support educational process and access to information.

A Government of Vanuatu program has been established to provide funds for tablet computers to schools to be used in classrooms and libraries, etc. These tablets open new avenues and opportunities in education and will assist students and schools in local content creation.

If you wish to learn more about tablet computers, [please see the attached flyer](#). (A tablet is a flat small computer that works by touching the screen.)

This program is funded by DFAT through its Australia-Vanuatu Governance for Growth (GFG) Program. Policy guidance is provided by the Office of the Government Chief Information Officer (OGCIO) in the Prime Minister's Office. The implementation of the program will be through the Telecommunications and Radiocommunications regulator (TRR).

This program is a pilot program, and is intended to distribute a total of 1000 tablets to successful schools.

Under the Tablets for Students program, all schools in Vanuatu can apply for and receive tablets for their schools. It is important to note that no on-going funding after the initial grant will be provided. The school and teachers will need to do the following important items to make the project work:

- Set up an active, involved and enthusiastic school committee to ensure that the Tablets for Students project will work well. The head of this committee and/or the principal of the school will need to sign a contract acknowledging receipt of the assistance and committing to the project.
- Locate and designate 1-3 teachers to champion this project. Ultimately, it is the teachers who will adopt the use of these tablets in their classrooms. Having passionate educators ready to utilize these tablets is a core requirement.
- Raise funds to ensure all minimum requirements are met by the school for selection (see below).
- Be active in developing lesson materials, educational programs and trialing new ways of teaching in the classroom.
- Use the tablets to create local content in local languages and Bislama.
- Provide volunteer or paid staff to monitor and manage usage of tablets by students.
- Provide adequate and safe storage facilities for tablets that are not in use.
- Report regularly to TRR on the progress of the project, what is working and what did not work, and evaluate the successes and failures of the implementation.

Listed below are the minimum requirements that your school will need to meet in order to be eligible to apply for and potentially receive tablets from the TFS program. If your school does not meet these requirements currently, you will have to advise us of your commitment to do so. Detailed plans/evidence must be provided for each of the following:

- Access to safe power source, enough power points and time to charge the tablets at least once each day. A flattened tablet (no battery) can take two to three hours to charge.
- Secure place to store unused tablets that is also safe from the elements (rain, salt spray, humidity, heat, dust, etc...)
- A designated computer on the local network whose job will be to host educational content for the tablets to use.

If you are *seriously interested* in the TFS program for your school and classrooms, please fill in the attached form and send it to TRR, at the following contact information, before **4:00 pm on Friday, 18th of July 2014.**

Grant Application Forms (UAP)
Telecommunications & Radiocommunications Regulator
P.O. Box 3547
Port Vila, Vanuatu
Tel: 27621 Fax: 27440 Email: almawensi@trr.vu or jeffreytila@trr.vu

The application review process for these grants will be as follows:

1. Proposals will be evaluated for their quality and likelihood of success
2. The successful applicants rated highest will be asked to discuss and negotiate a final plan, and sign a contract covering the project
3. Awards will be made and the execution phase will begin
4. Unsuccessful applications will be kept on file in case additional funds become available in the future.

To begin the process, please fill out the TFS application form.

SCORING

The Grant Review Committee (GRC) made up of the Telecommunications and Radiocommunications Regulator (TRR), the Government Chief Information Officer (OGCIO) and the Director to the Australia-Vanuatu Governance for Growth (GfG) program will evaluate all applications and select successful schools. Applications will be evaluated based on likelihood of success from assessing the criteria outlined below.

Demonstrated level of commitment from the school and staff members:	15%
Demonstrated level of commitment from the teacher champions:	25%
Demonstrated willingness to meet and exceed site requirements with locally raised funds:	15%
Likelihood of long term, sustainable success and maintenance plans:	15%
Access to staff trained in computers, power and operations:	15%
Demonstrated interest in developing local educational and cultural content in local languages and in Bislama:	15%
Total	100%

Applications may be reviewed in terms of their distribution around the islands and distribution in terms of high, medium and low levels of difficulty, to allow for equal access to this opportunity and to ensure a high level of success.

We encourage all types of schools to apply including: Kindergartens, Primary, Secondary, Vocational Schools or Rural Training Centers. It is anticipated that some pilot schools will be chosen from very remote areas, some from somewhat remote areas, and some from areas not too far from urban centers.

You may contact TRR for assistance with questions and comments on this form, before the deadline.

Tablets for Classrooms

Tablet use in the classroom is a relatively new idea worldwide and there is no “right” way to do it. To assist you in your grant application we’ve prepared this small document to help you get your tablets in the classroom creativity jump started.

What are tablets?

The idea of bringing notebooks and textbooks to class is going to ancient history soon as the world’s classrooms embrace tablets for students at even the earliest levels. A “tablet computer” then, is a mobile computer with everything inside one slab or slate. Think of it like a laptop, but only the screen part. This screen is touchable, like a modern smartphone, in place of having a mouse and keyboard. All tablets integrate this screen, the battery, processor, and WIFI into a single unit, while most tablets are also equipped with things like cameras, accelerometers, and microphones.



What are tablets good for in the classroom anyway?

To most people, tablets seem like a toy and nothing more, but this is NOT TRUE! Tablets are windows into a vast array of information and interactive learning. Here are just some of the ways tablets have been used in other nations to assist in education:

- E-Text Books: Cut the weight of carrying around textbooks and store them all weightlessly in a tablet computer.
- Language Practice Apps: Run through virtual flashcards and have students correctly identify words. Scoring can be easily sent to teacher’s tablets for seamless grading.
- 1-2-3 step Maths: Math learning Apps are helpful to help students solve many different maths problems and provide hints at the next step when students are stuck.
- Online Lesson Material: Up-to-date resources can be used in classrooms, as the need is reduced greatly for costly and untimely replacement textbooks and encyclopedias.

What is an App? Can you make your own?

An “App” is modern shorthand for the word “Software Application”. They can be purchased and downloaded from something called an “App Store” and many are free to use. Like software for any platform, Apps can be written by anyone. All is needed is the relevant software development kit (SDK) and the will to do it. We expect our grant applicants to show interest in developing special programs for their schools.

What are we looking for in your application and school?

A passion for teaching with new technologies is the paramount requirement. Tell us about your new and exciting ideas about using tablets in your classroom and how it will help your students learn. Tell us how this will work with your existing lesson plans or give rise to new avenues, topics, and ways of teaching. Give us your thoughts about how your school will manage these resources. In addition, sites with existing WIFI networks, or those with the willingness to upgrade with their own raised funds will be prioritized.

Good luck!