



Australia Awards

Make a difference
with an Australia Awards Scholarship



Do you want to be a leader in your field and make a difference in Sri Lanka? Australia Awards Scholarships are your opportunity to gain a world class education and become an emerging leader for development with strong links to Australia.



Australia Awards

An Australia Awards Scholarship provides you with the opportunity to gain an internationally recognised qualification from an Australian university. And we will give you all the necessary support and funding to complete your study. Your career will benefit from new knowledge, leadership skills and the links you create both in Australia and through our global alumni network.

On your return home you can make a vital contribution to the economic and social development of Sri Lanka.

The application process is open and competitive, providing equal opportunity to all eligible people, regardless of gender, ethnicity and disability.

Australia and Sri Lanka

Australians and the Australian Government view Sri Lanka as a friend and neighbour and want to support its development and sustain regional growth. Australia has been a development partner since the 1950s, as part of international efforts to promote regional growth and development.

By working with partner governments to develop effective poverty reduction strategies, Australia contributes to growth and stability throughout the world.

Australia Awards outcomes

The Australia Awards aim to achieve the following outcomes:

- Awardees develop and demonstrate high-level professional and technical skills relevant to their area of expertise.
- Awardees return to their home countries and successfully reintegrate into the workforce.
- Awardees exercise good leadership, apply new skills and nurture partnerships with institutions in the region and in Australia.
- Awardees apply their skills to contribute to improving capacity in their organisations and institutions.
- Alumni networks operate in each country to assist in continuing professional development, networking and links between alumni.

Level of study

These Scholarships provide citizens of Sri Lanka with the opportunity to obtain a Master's level qualification at an Australian tertiary institution and are open to eligible applicants from public/private/civil society organisations in Sri Lanka.

Why study in Australia?

- Universities in Australia have a world-class reputation, with seven ranked among the top 100 universities in the world.
- Studying at Australian universities provides opportunities for awardees to enhance their understanding of international organisations and network with them.
- Australia has a reputation as a friendly country that embraces multiculturalism.
- While awardees are studying in Australia they can network with other awardees of whom there are over 5000 in Australia at any one time.
- Awardees join an elite alumni network with members from around the globe.
- On return to Sri Lanka, awardees will be eligible to participate in a range of alumni activities.

What can I study?

Priority sectors and fields of study are aligned to the development needs of Sri Lanka and include:

Priority Sector	Field of Study
Economic Development	Business Development Economics Educational Management International Finance International Trade Maritime Studies Mathematics
Good Governance	Development Studies Disability Studies Finance Law Political Economy Public Administration Public Policy Statistics
Gender Equality	Economics Gender Studies Political Studies Psychology Sociology

Applicants must research two preferred courses, including information provided on institution websites, and ensure that they meet the institution's English language and other course related requirements.

Further details about priority sectors and course selections are available at: www.australiaawardssrilanka.org

Who can apply?

Opportunities for all

Australia Awards Scholarships are offered on the basis of merit, transparency and equal access. We strongly encourage eligible women, people with disabilities, people from ethnic minority groups and people who are working in the Northern, Eastern, Sabaragamuwa or Uva provinces to apply.

Eligibility criteria

Applicants must meet all general eligibility criteria detailed in the Australia Awards Scholarships Policy Handbook, available at <http://aid.dfat.gov.au/Publications/Pages/scholar-handbook.aspx>.

In addition to these basic eligibility requirements, applicants from Sri Lanka must also meet the following country-specific conditions:

- An IELTS (Academic) overall score of at least 6.5 with no band less than 6.0 or a TOEFL paper-based test score of at least 580, with a minimum of 4.5 in the Test of Written English, or an internet-based TOEFL score of at least 92, with a minimum of 21 in all subtests, or a Pearson Test of English Academic (PTE Academic) overall score of 58, with no communicative skill score less than 50. Scores must be valid at 1 January 2017. Applicants who are working in Northern, Eastern, Sabaragamuwa or Uva Provinces and applicants with a disability or working in the disability area will be considered with an overall IELTS band score of at least 6.0 with no band less than 5.0 (or equivalent TOEFL or PTE score). However, they must meet the standard English language requirement of their course, if offered an Australia Awards Scholarship.
- They must be employed in the public, private or civil society sector, and the following criteria must be confirmed by an employment letter:
 - PUBLIC SECTOR EMPLOYEES must have at least three years' post-qualification experience in the public sector with two years in a field relevant to the proposed course of study and be confirmed in their current positions.
 - PRIVATE AND CIVIL SOCIETY SECTOR EMPLOYEES must have at least three years' post-qualification experience in a field relevant to the proposed course of study.

- They must not have previously received any Sri Lankan or overseas government-funded award (including Australian Government scholarships) for long-term academic studies in a foreign country. Long-term academic studies are defined as one year or longer in duration.
- They must not be currently studying at a university abroad.
- They must have completed a tertiary-level qualification at least equivalent to an Australian Bachelor degree (see list of equivalent Sri Lankan qualifications at www.australiaawardssrilanka.org)
- They must have an academic background relevant to their proposed study program.
- English language support funded by the Australian Government may be available to selected eligible applicants who were born in Northern, Eastern, Sabaragamuwa or Uwa Provinces or with a disability or working in the disability area who do not have an overall IELTS test score of 6.5 and individual band scores of at least 6.0 at the time of recommendation for award.

Special conditions

- Applicants from the public sector must obtain necessary approvals from their Ministries if selected for an interview.
- Awardees are required to return to Sri Lanka for at least two years after completing their scholarship, to contribute to economic and social development of the country. Failure to do so will incur a debt to the Commonwealth of Australia for the total value of the scholarship.
- Awards for studies in 2017 must be taken in that year. They cannot be transferred to a future year except for reasons provided in the Scholarships Policy Handbook.
- Awardees are required to sign a contract with the Commonwealth of Australia declaring they will comply with the conditions of the scholarship.
- English proficiency scores must be valid at 1 January 2017 and submitted with a scholarship application.

Australia Awards inclusions

Scholarship recipients will generally receive the following:

- Economy class air travel to and from Australia by the most direct route
- A one-off establishment allowance on arrival to contribute to costs such as accommodation, books and other items
- Full tuition fees
- Contribution to living expenses
- A compulsory 4-6 week Introductory Academic Program
- Overseas Student Health Cover for the duration of the Scholarship to cover basic medical costs
- Subject to requirements and eligibility, Australia Awards Scholarships also may cover:
 - Supplementary Academic Support
 - Fieldwork (for research purposes only)
 - Reunion airfare (for unaccompanied awardees).

Note: The Australian Government does not provide any financial or other support for the dependents of recipients. Recipients are responsible, including financially responsible, for their family members who accompany them to Australia.

Before you apply

Consider personal goals and development needs

Applicants are expected to have clear ideas about how they will contribute to development in Sri Lanka on their return. Before beginning their applications, applicants should consider the links between their academic and professional goals and their country's development needs.

Read the Sri Lanka Country Profile

The Sri Lanka Country Profile is essential reading as it outlines the target groups for Australia Awards Scholarships (www.australiaawardssrilanka.org), priority fields of study, levels of study, key dates and eligibility criteria.

Research university courses

The Commonwealth Register of Institutions and Courses for Overseas Students (CRICOS) has information on all Australian universities with courses available to international students. The CRICOS website and individual university websites can clarify:

- if a course is available to international students
- details of the course content to compare course components
- English language requirements for selected courses
- any other course-specific entry requirements of the institution
- how closely a course fits a development theme.

Applicants should carefully check that they meet ALL entry requirements before nominating a course. In particular, applicants proposing to study development economics or related fields should check they have the requisite mathematics/statistics background.

Complete a language proficiency test

English language proficiency is a mandatory requirement.

Applications must include a certificate showing a satisfactory IELTS or TOEFL or PTE Academic score. These test scores are valid for two years, and must be valid as of course commencement (January 2017). If a satisfactory level of English proficiency is not achieved at the first attempt, make sure there is enough time to re-sit the examination prior to the closing date of the application period.

Information on IELTS/TOEFL/PTE testing is available at: www.ielts.org, www.ets.org/toefl and www.pearsonpte.com

How to apply

Gathering and certifying documents

A number of documents are required to complete an eligible application and it is important to collect them as early as possible. All documents must be certified. If the document is not in English, the translated copy must be certified.

Although scanned versions of documents are uploaded with applications, candidates invited for interview will need to produce original documents for verification.

Online applications

APPLY ONLINE AT: <https://oasispartners.dfat.gov.au>. We strongly advise applicants to apply online and to do so well before the closing date. The online application facility (OASIS) experiences peak usage in the days leading up to the closing date and applicants may experience delays over this period.

The selection process

Following eligibility checking, applications will be assessed and ranked by independent consultants and then short-listed by Australian Government representatives. Only short-listed candidates are contacted for interview.

The selection interview includes a panel interview and a written exercise using a computer. Applicants will be assessed against the following criteria:

- academic competence
- potential outcome, including contribution to development outcomes in Sri Lanka in the specified priority sectors
- professional and personal leadership attributes

Refer to the Scholarships Policy Handbook for details.

Australia Awards Scholarship conditions

Applicants who are offered an Australia Awards Scholarship are required to sign a statement declaring that they will comply with the Award conditions. These include:

- Awardees must commence the Award for the year in which it was awarded as it cannot be deferred
- Awardees must be enrolled on a full-time basis and make satisfactory academic progress
- All visa conditions and university regulations must be satisfied
- Awardees must leave Australia and return to Sri Lanka for a minimum of two years at the completion of their Award
- The Award does not provide funds to support accompanying dependents/family members
- Awardees are not permitted to hold any other Australian Government-sponsored scholarship for the duration of the Award
- Awardees must fully cooperate with the monitoring and evaluation of the Award by the Australia Awards Office Sri Lanka, including participation in activities such as surveys, alumni profiles and tracer studies both during their stay in Australia and on return to Sri Lanka
- Awardees who do not honour these conditions will be required to leave Australia, and may be required to repay the value of the scholarship.

Application dates for study commencing in 2017

Opening date: 1 February 2016

Closing date: 30 April 2016, 5pm Sri Lanka time

Applications received after this date will not be considered.

Find out more

Visit our website www.australiaawardssrilanka.org

Australia Awards:

www.aid.dfat.gov.au/australia-awards/Pages/default.aspx

www.australiaawards.gov.au

www.aid.dfat.gov.au/Pages/home.aspx

Study in Australia: www.studyinaustralia.gov.au

Australia Awards Scholarships Policy Handbook:

www.aid.dfat.gov.au/Publications/Pages/scholar-handbook.aspx

Visas: www.border.gov.au

Australian University courses: cricos.education.gov.au

English language testing: www.ielts.org | www.ets.org/toefl | www.pearsonpte.com

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