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வெளிநாட்டு வளங்கள் திணைக்களம்
Department of External Resources

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 මහලේකම් කාර්යාලය (3 වැනි මහල), කැ.පෙ. 277, කොළඹ 00100, ශ්‍රී ලංකාව
 தேசிய கொள்கைகள் மற்றும் பொருளாதார அலுவல்கள் அமைச்சு,
 செயலகம் (3 ஆம் மாடி), த. பெ. இல. 277, கொழும்பு 00100, இலங்கை

Ministry of National Policies and Economic Affairs
 The Secretariat (3rd Floor), P.O. Box 277, Colombo 00100, Sri Lanka

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මගේ අංකය
 எனது இல.
 My No

AusAid/2017

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 உமது இல
 Your No.

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 திகதி.
 Date.

2016-01- 13

Secretary to the President/Presidential Secretariat
Secretary to the Prime Minister/Prime Minister's Office
Secretary to the Cabinet Ministers/Cabinet Office
Secretaries/All Line Ministries
Secretaries/ All State Ministries
Chief Secretaries/All Provincial Councils
All Other Heads of the Departments and Government Institutions

**Attn: Officer In-charge
 of Foreign Training**

Dear Sir/Madam

Australian Awards Scholarships (AAS) – Intake for Academic Year 2017

The Government of Australia is expected to invite applications in February 2016 from eligible government officials in Sri Lanka for the above scholarship programme for the academic year 2017.

The objective of the AAS is to enhance and strengthen the capacity of human resources in the public sector by providing valuable knowledge, skills and qualifications in key areas of economic development, good governance & gender equality and thereby improving the quality services for the general public while enhancing the economic growth of Sri Lanka. Scholarships are awarded on condition that participants should actively engage in development activities of Sri Lanka. On their return, the officers are requested to implement their action plans spanning at least 2 years, contributing to their skills for the development initiatives of the country.

Priority Sectors

Eligible applicants with experience and ability to contribute for the development in the sectors of economic development, good governance & gender equality will be considered for AAS.

- Scholarships in the priority sector of **Economic Development** included Economics, Mathematics, International Finance, International Trade, Business, Development Economics, Educational Management, Maritime Studies and Agriculture Economics.

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பணிப்பாளர் நாயகம்

Director General

94-11-2484693

94-11-2434876

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அலுவலகம்

Office

94-11-2484500

94-11-2484600

94-11-2484724

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- Scholarships in the **Good Governance** Sector included Public Administration, Development Studies, Finance, Public Policy, Political Science, Law, Political Economy, Statistics and Disability Studies.
- Scholarships in the priority sector of **Gender Equality** included Gender Studies, Political Science, Economics, Psychology and Sociology.

AAS has been focused to enhance the individual candidate's decision making ability by way of providing wide range of knowledge and skills through their Master' Programme, so that they can use them for the economic and social development of the country. However, this depends on the commitments and the well performance of the candidate. Therefore, you are kindly requested to nominate well qualified and committed personal who can acquire wider knowledge and benefits from this programme and make use of them for the development of the country in an effective manner. It is also necessary to ensure that the development plans are implemented by them upon their return.

Eligibility Criteria

Australia Awards applicants must meet all eligibility requirements detailed in the Scholarships Policy Handbook, available at:

<http://aid.dfat.gov.au/Publications/Pages/scholar-handbook.aspx>

In addition to these basic eligibility requirements, Sri Lankan applicants must also meet the following country specific conditions.

- be a citizen of Sri Lanka
- Public Sector Employees must have at least 3 years post qualification experience in the public sector with 2 years in a field relevant to the proposed course of study and be confirmed in their current positions.
- 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.
- 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 1st January 2017.
- Applicants working in Northern, Eastern, Sabaragamuwa and Uva Province and applicants with a disability 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 English language requirements of their course, if offered an Australia Awards Scholarship.

- They must be employed in the public sector, and following criteria must be confirmed by an employment letter. (see** in table of supporting documents below)
- 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's degree.
- They must have an academic background relevant to their proposed study program.

How to Prepare

In order to be applying for AAS, applicants must:

- Satisfy eligibility requirements and conditions. Applicants should carefully read the information in this document, visit the Australia Awards website at <http://aid.dfat.gov.au/australiaawards/Pages/default.aspx> and the Scholarships Handbook available at <http://aid.dfat.gov.au/Publications/Pages/scholarhandbook.aspx> (all relevant websites will be updated from 1st February 2016)
- Be nominated by their employer applicants must submit an employment letter issued by the Secretary of relevant line Ministry / Chief Secretary with their application.
- Select preferred courses carefully. Applicants will not be able to change the course that they have selected except in exceptional circumstances. The course must have a clear link to the applicant's prior experience and support the applicant to contribute to development outcomes on their return to Sri Lanka.
- Submit a complete application with all necessary attachments, before the deadline. Late and incomplete applications will not be considered.

How to Apply

- **Online Applications**

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. Apply online at: <https://oasis.ausaid.gov.au>

- **Hardcopy Applications**

If it is not possible to lodge an application online, contact the Australia Awards Office in Sri Lanka for assistance well in advance of the closing date.

- **Supporting documents**

Applicants must submit with their application all of the relevant supporting documents listed in the Australia Awards Scholarships Policy Handbook.

- **All documents must be certified**

If the document is not in English, the translated copy must be certified. See the Australia Awards Scholarships Policy Handbook for certification requirements.

Required Documentation

The following documentation must be submitted by all AAS applicants at the time of application. Failure to provide these documents at the time of application will result in the applicant being deemed ineligible.

Required document	OASIS document type	Certified
Tertiary degree certificates	Degree Certificate	Yes
Academic grades for university qualifications*	Academic Transcript	Yes
Passport/National ID/Driving licence	Proof of citizenship	Yes
Birth certificate	Proof of citizenship	Yes
Curriculum Vitae (CV)	Other Document	No
Certificates of special achievement or merit	Other Document	No
English language test (IELTS, TOEFL or PTE) results certificate valid at 1 January 2017	Proof of English language proficiency	Yes
At least one academic referee report and at least one other referee report (e.g. a work supervisor) Masters by Research applicants should provide two academic referee reports in the format available at: http://aid.dfat.gov.au/australiaawards/Documents/referee.pdf or http://aid.dfat.gov.au/australiaawards/Documents/referee.doc	Referee Report	No
Masters by research applicants only Evidence (e.g. letter or email communication) that the applicant has identified an appropriate supervisor	Other Document	No
Masters by research applicants only - Research proposal	Other Document	No
Employment Letter**	Other Document	No
Any other document you wish to upload ensuring your eligibility	Other Document	No

*Applicants must include both consolidated and year-by-year transcripts.

**the Employment Letter must address the matters detailed under Eligibility Criteria above. Applicants may need to provide more than one Employment Letter as evidence of their post-qualification experience.

- **Information Session**

Information sessions for potential applicants will be scheduled during the application period. Details can be found at www.australiaawardssrilanka.org

Applicants must complete their application online on or before the deadline of 5.00 pm. (Sri Lanka Time) 30th April 2016.

Applicants who are awarded scholarships at the end of the selection process will be required to submit a valid Police Clearance Certificate at the time of visa application. Public sector applicants who are selected for an Australia Award Scholarship must also submit the "ERD form 2" once they are selected.

Further Information

More information about the Australia Awards can be found at: <http://aid.dfat.gov.au/australiaawards/Pages/default.aspx>

Information about visas and Australia Awards Scholarship entitlements and conditions can be found in the Scholarships Policy Handbook, available at: <http://aid.dfat.gov.au/Publications/Pages/scholarhandbook.aspx>

More general information about the Australia Awards and studying in Australia can be found at:

www.australiaawards.gov.au

<http://aid.dfat.gov.au/Pages/home.aspx>

www.studyinaustralia.gov.au

Commitments of Candidates for the development of the country mainly will be assessed based on the details given in their applications. Therefore, candidates are kindly requested to pay their attention about this matter when they fill up their applications.

Therefore, you are kindly requested to circulate this letter among the all agencies which are coming under the preview of your Ministry and encourage to apply all qualified officials for this Scholarship programme. It is also requested to grant official leave once they are selected to the programme.

Contact Details

Australia Awards Office Sri Lanka
75 1/1, Kynsey Road, Colombo 08, Sri Lanka

Ph: +94 115772977-80

Email: inquiries@australiaawardssrilanka.org

Website: www.australiaawardssrilanka.org

Yours faithfully



R M P Rathnayake
Director General