



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. 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 or 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 of Sri Lanka 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 South Asia region.

## Australia Awards outcomes

Australia Awards aim to achieve the following outcomes:

- Australia Awards recipients develop and demonstrate high-level professional and technical skills relevant to their area of expertise.
- Australia Awards recipients return to their home countries and successfully reintegrate into the workforce.
- Australia Awards recipients exercise good leadership, apply new skills and nurture partnerships with institutions in the region and in Australia.
- Australia Awards recipients 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

Australia Awards Scholarship provide citizens of Sri Lanka with the opportunity to obtain a Masters degree-level qualification at an Australian tertiary institution and are open to eligible applicants from the public, private and civil society organisations in Sri Lanka.

## Why study in Australia?

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

## What can I study?

Proposed courses of study must fit into the priority development sectors and fields of study. These are aligned to the development needs of Sri Lanka.

Priority sector	Fields of study
<b>Economic Development</b>	Agriculture Economics Business Administration Customs Administration Development Economics Economics Educational Management Fisheries & Aquatic Resources Information & Communication Technologies International Finance International Trade Maritime Studies Mathematics Tourism and Hospitality Urban Planning
<b>Good Governance</b>	Development Studies Disability Studies Finance Forensic Science Human Resource Management Humanitarian and Disaster Management Law Political Economy Political Science Project Management Public Administration Public Policy Statistics Environmental Resource Management
<b>Gender Equality</b>	Economics Gender Studies Political Science 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 development sectors and course selections are available at: [www.australiaawardssrilanka.org](http://www.australiaawardssrilanka.org)

## Who can apply?

### Opportunities for all

Australia Awards Scholarships are offered on the basis of merit, transparency and equal access for all. Applications are open to all Sri Lankan citizens living and working in Sri Lanka. We strongly encourage applications from eligible women, people with disabilities or working in the disability sector, people from ethnic minority groups and people who are working in the following priority districts:

- Ampara
- Batticaloa
- Mannar
- Nuwera Eliya
- Ratnapura
- Anuradhapura
- Jaffna
- Moneragala
- Polonnaruwa
- Trincomalee
- Badulla
- Kilinochchi
- Mullaitivu
- Puttalam
- Vavuniya

### Eligibility criteria

Applicants must meet all general eligibility criteria detailed in the Australia Awards Scholarships Policy Handbook, available at <https://dfat.gov.au/about-us/publications/Documents/aus-awards-scholarships-policy-handbook.pdf>

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

- have achieved an IELTS (Academic) score of 6.5 or higher (with no individual band score of less than 6.0) or an equivalent TOEFL or PTE score. Scores must be valid at 1 January 2021 and should be submitted along with the Scholarship application
- applicants working in the priority districts, and applicants with a disability or those working in the disability sector 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).

If offered an Australia Awards scholarship, these applicants must meet the English language requirements of IELTS 6.5 equivalent before commencing.

Applicants must also:

- be employed in the public, private or civil society sectors, and the following criteria must be confirmed through a letter from the employer:
  - 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
- Have completed a tertiary-level qualification at least equivalent to an Australian Bachelor's degree

- must have an academic or professional background relevant to their proposed study program.

### Special conditions

- Applicants from the public sector must obtain necessary approvals from their Ministries if selected for an interview.
- Generally, Scholarships will not be available for courses of study in Australia where the applicant has already achieved that qualification and the qualification is deemed to be equivalent to the Australian qualification.
- Australia Awards will request for recognition of prior learning for all Scholarship recipients from Sri Lanka. If this request is granted, the recipient may be placed in a study program that is shorter in duration than what was originally applied for.

### Australia Awards benefits

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 Australia Awards recipients whose family members do not accompany them).

Note: The Australian Government does not provide any financial or other support for the dependents of Awards recipients. Awards recipients are responsible, financially and otherwise, 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. You should consider the links between your academic and professional goals and the development needs in Sri Lanka before beginning your application.

#### Read the Sri Lanka Country Profile

The Sri Lanka Country Profile (one of the resources available at [www.australiaawardssrilanka.org](http://www.australiaawardssrilanka.org)) is essential reading because it includes information such as the target groups for Australia Awards Scholarships, levels of study, key dates and eligibility criteria.

#### Research relevant 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:

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

You should carefully check that you 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.



## How to apply

### Gathering and certifying document

You need a number of documents in order to submit an eligible application. 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. A list of required documents is available at [www.australiaawardssrilanka.org](http://www.australiaawardssrilanka.org).

### Online applications

Applications must be lodged online using the Online Australia Awards Scholarships Information System (OASIS) at: <https://oasis.dfat.gov.au>. We strongly advise you to apply well before the closing date. OASIS experiences peak usage in the days leading up to the closing date and you may experience delays over this period.

### Application dates for study commencing in 2021

Opening date: 1 February 2020

Closing date: 30 April 2020

Applications received after this date will not be considered.

### The selection process

Following eligibility checking, applications will be assessed and ranked by independent consultants and then shortlisted by Australian Government representatives. Only shortlisted 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 development sectors
- professional and personal leadership attributes.

Refer to the Scholarships Policy Handbook for details.

### Social inclusion & disability support

The Australian Government values contributions from all people. It seeks equity and broad participation by all groups in society. This includes women, people with disability and people from traditionally-marginalised groups. The selection process for the Australia Awards Scholarships takes account of barriers to participation faced by applicants from under-represented groups to improve their competitive-ness.

Reasonable disability support (academic and non-academic) is provided to recipients with disability based on a 'needs' assessment. The objective is to allow their participation on an equal basis with other Scholarship recipients. Australian institutions are very experienced in providing disability support. Applicants with disability are encouraged to notify the Australia Awards office in Sri Lanka of any disability as early as possible. Declaration of a disability will not negatively affect the assessment of an applicant's eligibility or placement. Further information on disability support is available in the Australia Awards Scholarship Policy Handbook.

### Australia Awards Scholarship conditions

Applicants who want to accept an Australia Awards Scholarship will need to sign a contract with the Commonwealth of Australia declaring that they will comply with the conditions of the scholarship. These include:

- Recipients must commence the Scholarship the year in which it was awarded as it cannot be deferred except for reasons provided in the Scholarships Policy Handbook.
- Recipients must be enrolled on a full-time basis and make satisfactory academic progress.
- Recipients must satisfy all visa conditions and university regulations.
- Recipients 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.
- The Scholarship does not provide funds to support accompanying dependents/family members.
- Recipients are not permitted to hold any other Australian Government-sponsored scholarship for the duration of the Scholarship.
- Recipients must fully cooperate with the monitoring and evaluation of the Scholarship, including participation in activities such as surveys, alumni profiles and tracer studies both during their stay in Australia and on return to Sri Lanka.

## Find out more

Visit our website [www.australiaawardssrilanka.org](http://www.australiaawardssrilanka.org)

Australia Awards:

[www.dfat.gov.au/people-to-people/australia-awards/Pages/how-to-apply-for-an-australia-awards-scholarship.aspx](http://www.dfat.gov.au/people-to-people/australia-awards/Pages/how-to-apply-for-an-australia-awards-scholarship.aspx)

[www.australiaawards.gov.au](http://www.australiaawards.gov.au)

[www.dfat.gov.au](http://www.dfat.gov.au)

[www.dfat.gov.au/about-us/publications/Documents/australian-institutions.pdf](http://www.dfat.gov.au/about-us/publications/Documents/australian-institutions.pdf)

Study in Australia:

[www.studyinaustralia.gov.au](http://www.studyinaustralia.gov.au)

Australia Awards Scholarships Policy Handbook:

[www.dfat.gov.au/about-us/publications/Pages/australia-awards-scholarships-policy-handbook.aspx](http://www.dfat.gov.au/about-us/publications/Pages/australia-awards-scholarships-policy-handbook.aspx)

Australian University courses: <http://cricos.education.gov.au>

English language testing: [www.ielts.org](http://www.ielts.org) | [www.ets.org/toefl](http://www.ets.org/toefl) | [www.pearsonpte.com](http://www.pearsonpte.com)

## Contact Us

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