



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? An Australia Awards Scholarship is your opportunity to gain a world-class education and become an emerging leader for development with strong links to Australia.



Australia Awards Scholarships

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.

Applications are open to all Sri Lankan citizens living and working in Sri Lanka.

Australia and Sri Lanka

Australians and the Australian Government view Sri Lanka as a friend 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 in South Asia.

Australia Awards outcomes

Australia Awards Scholarships aim to achieve the following outcomes:

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

Level of study

Australia Awards Scholarships provide citizens of Sri Lanka with the opportunity to obtain a master's degree-level qualification at an Australian tertiary institution.

Why study in Australia?

- Universities in Australia have a world-class reputation, with nine 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 is a friendly country that embraces multiculturalism.
- Scholarship recipients can network with other scholars while studying in Australia.
- 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 fields of study listed below. These are aligned to the development needs of Sri Lanka.

- **Climate Resilience and Adaptation**
- **Disability and Social Inclusion**
- **Economic Development**
- **Gender Equality**
- **Governance and Public Sector Management**
- **Information and Communication Technology**
- **Management Business and Commerce**
- **Stability and Inclusion, including Health Education and Political Science**

Who can apply?

Opportunities for all

Australia Awards Scholarships are offered on the basis of merit, transparency and equal access for all. The competitive application process provides equal opportunity to all eligible people, regardless of gender, ethnicity or disability and is open to eligible applicants from the public, private and civil society sectors in Sri Lanka. We strongly encourage applications from eligible women, people with disability or working in the disability sector, people from ethnic minority groups and people who are working in the following priority districts:

- | | | |
|----------------|----------------|---------------|
| • Ampara | • Anuradhapura | • Badulla |
| • Batticaloa | • Jaffna | • Kilinochchi |
| • Mannar | • Monaragala | • Mullaitivu |
| • Nuwera Eliya | • Polonnaruwa | • Puttalam |
| • Rathnapura | • Trincomalee | • Vavuniya |



Eligibility criteria

Applicants must meet all general eligibility criteria detailed in the Australia Awards Scholarships Policy Handbook, available at www.australiaawardssrilanka.org.

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

- have achieved an International English Language Testing System (IELTS) (Academic) score of 6.5 or higher (with no individual band score of less than 6.0) or an equivalent Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) Internet-based Test (iBT) or Pearson Test of English Academic (PTE Academic) score. Applicants working in the priority districts and applicants with disability or 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 iBT or PTE Academic score). If offered an Australia Awards Scholarship, these applicants must meet the English language requirements of IELTS 6.5 equivalent. In all cases, scores must be valid at 1 January 2026 and must be submitted together with the Scholarship application. If an institution requires a later test validity date, applicants must meet the institutions requirements before commencing study
- have completed a tertiary-level qualification at least equivalent to an Australian bachelor's degree
- be employed in the public, private or civil society sector, 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 position
 - 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 an academic background relevant to their proposed study program
- NOT have received an Australian Government-funded opportunity (including any Australia Awards Short Courses or Australian Professional Opportunities) in the 24 months preceding the application closing date.

Special conditions

- Public sector employees selected for an Australia Awards Scholarship will be required to provide a copy of their official leave approval document to the Australia Awards office prior to departure.
- 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 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 of shorter duration than 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, covering basic medical costs.

Subject to requirements and eligibility, Australia Awards Scholarships may also cover:

- supplementary academic support
- fieldwork (for research purposes only)
- reunion airfare (for Australia Awards Scholarship recipients whose family members do not accompany them to Australia)

Note: The Australian Government does not provide any financial or other support for the dependants of Scholarship recipients. 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 of 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 from 1 February 2025) 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 (<https://cricos.education.gov.au>) 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 economics or related fields should check that they have the requisite mathematics/statistics background.

Applicants must research and nominate two course preferences with their application.

How to apply

Gathering and certifying documents

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 requiring certification must be certified in accordance with the guidelines in the Australia Awards Scholarships Policy Handbook. If a 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.

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 2026

Opening date: 1 February 2025

Closing date: 30 April 2025

Applications received after the closing date will not be considered.

The selection process

After eligibility checking, applications will be assessed and ranked by independent consultants and then shortlisted by Australian Government representatives. Only shortlisted candidates are invited 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 Australia Awards Scholarships Policy Handbook for details, available at www.australiaawardssrilanka.org.

Social inclusion and 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 Australia Awards Scholarships takes account of barriers to participation faced by applicants from under-represented groups to improve their competitiveness.

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 – Sri Lanka office 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 about disability support is available in the Australia Awards Scholarships Policy Handbook.

Australia Awards Scholarship conditions

Applicants who are offered and accept an Australia Awards Scholarship must sign a contract with the Commonwealth of Australia declaring that they will comply with the conditions of the Scholarship. These conditions include:

- Recipients must commence the Scholarship in the year for which it was offered as it cannot be deferred except for reasons provided in the Australia Awards 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 must return to Sri Lanka for at least two years after completing their Scholarship, to contribute to the economic and social development of the country.
- 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 participating in activities such as surveys, alumni profiles and tracer studies both during their stay in Australia and on return to Sri Lanka.

Recipients who do not honour these conditions will be required to leave Australia and may be required to repay the value of the Scholarship.

Find out more

Visit our website www.australiaawardssrilanka.org

Australia Awards information – Australian Government websites:
www.dfat.gov.au/people-to-people/australia-awards/australia-awards-scholarships
www.australiaawards.gov.au
www.dfat.gov.au
www.dfat.gov.au/development/australia-awards-participating-institutions

Study in Australia:
www.studyaustralia.gov.au

Australia Awards Scholarships Policy Handbook:
www.dfat.gov.au/about-us/publications/australia-awards-scholarships-policy-handbook

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

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

Contact us

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