



Sri Lanka

Applying for an Australia Awards Scholarship

Australia Awards Scholarships in Sri Lanka

Australia Awards Scholarships are prestigious international awards offered by the Australian Government to the next generation of global leaders for development. Through study and research, recipients develop the skills and knowledge to drive change and help build enduring people-to-people links with Australia.

Australian development cooperation in Sri Lanka has three objectives:

1. Expand economic opportunities for the poor.
2. Support government to be more responsive to the needs of citizens and the private sector.
3. Increase gender equality.

For more information on Australia’s aid program in Sri Lanka visit: <http://dfat.gov.au/about-us/publications/Pages/aid-investment-plan-aip-sri-lanka-2015-19.aspx>

Applicants will be assessed on their professional and personal qualities, academic competence and, most importantly, their potential to contribute to development in Sri Lanka in priority sectors.

Applications are strongly encouraged from eligible women, people with disability, those working in the disability sector and people working in the following districts:

Ampara	Batticaloa	Trincomalee
Jaffna	Kilinochchi	Mullaitivu
Mannar	Vavuniya	Anuradhapura
Polonnaruwa	Badulla	Moneragala
Puttalam	Ratnapura	NuweraEliya

Level of study

Australia Awards Scholarships

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

Priority fields of study

The priority fields of study for Sri Lanka for 2019 are:

Priority sectors	Field of study
Economic development	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
Good governance	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
Gender equality	Economics Gender studies Political science Psychology Sociology

*New fields of study introduced for 2019 Intake



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.

Applications for Masters by research that focus on gender and development are strongly encouraged.

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

Australia Awards benefits

Australia Awards are offered for the minimum period necessary for the individual to complete the academic program specified by the Australian education institution, including any preparatory training.

Scholarship recipients will generally receive the following:

- return air travel
- a one off establishment allowance on arrival
- full tuition fees
- contribution to living expenses
- Introductory Academic Program
- Overseas Student Health Cover
- supplementary academic support
- fieldwork allowance (for research students only).

Eligibility criteria

Australia Awards applicants must meet all eligibility requirements 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 2019.
- Applicants working in the districts listed below, 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);

Ampara	Batticaloa	Trincomalee
Jaffna	Kilinochchi	Mullaitivu
Mannar	Vavuniya	Anuradhapura
Polonnaruwa	Badulla	Moneragala
Puttalam	Ratnapura	NuweraEliya

- Applicants must meet the English language requirements of their course, if offered an Australia Awards Scholarship.

Applicants must:

- be employed in the public, private or civil society sector, and the following criteria must be confirmed by an employment letter: (see ** in table of supporting documents)
 - **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
 - **private and civil society sector employees** must have at least 3 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 (see list of equivalent Sri Lankan qualifications at www.australiaawardssrilanka.org)
- have an academic or professional background relevant to their proposed study program
- not be married, engaged to, or a de facto of a person who holds, or is eligible to hold, Australian or New Zealand citizenship or permanent residency, at any time during the application, selection or mobilization phases
- not be currently serving military personnel
- not be a citizen of Australia, hold permanent residency in Australia or be applying for a visa to live in Australia permanently
- not be applying for another long-term Australia Award unless they have resided outside of Australia for twice the length of the total time that they were in Australia.

Special Conditions

- Applicants from the public sector must obtain necessary approvals from their Ministry 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 2019 must be taken in that year. They cannot be transferred to a future year except for reasons provided in the *Australia Awards 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 2019 and must be submitted with a scholarship application.

Application dates (for study commencing in 2019)

Opening date: 1 February 2018

Closing date: 30 April 2018, 5pm Sri Lanka time

Applications or supporting documents received after this date will not be considered.

The application process

Online applications

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

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 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 place of birth	Yes
Curriculum Vitae (CV)	Other document	No
Development Impact Plan (DIP) document	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 2018	Proof of English language proficiency	Yes
Masters coursework applicants: one academic referee report and one other referee report (e.g. a work supervisor – with referee’s seal)** If employed, the second referee report MUST be from the immediate supervisor / employer.	Referee Report	No
Masters research applicants: two academic referee reports and one other referee report (e.g. a	Referee report	No

work supervisor) (with referee’s seal)** If employed, the second referee report MUST be from the immediate supervisor / employer.		
Masters research applicants: a research proposal. This proposal must include a proposed methodology, timeline and a brief literature review	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.

**Template available at: <http://dfat.gov.au/people-to-people/australia-awards/Pages/how-to-apply-for-an-australia-awards-scholarship.aspx>

***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.

Notes

- Applicants should request transcripts from universities. Transcripts must be received before the closing date for applications.
- Referee reports in different formats cannot be accepted and may make applications ineligible. Contact the Australia Awards—Sri Lanka to clarify reference requirements.
- Research applicants shortlisted for a selection interview must submit a well-developed research proposal by the date of the interview.
- Public sector employees selected for an Australia Award will be required to provide a copy of their official leave approval document to the Australia Awards office prior to departure.
- Experience shows that it takes time for supervisors to complete referee reports. Approach supervisors as soon as possible to obtain up-to-date referee reports. If a referee report is not in English, a translation is required. References should come from employers, senior colleagues or academics familiar with the applicant’s academic, professional skills and achievements. Referee reports from family members or spouses are not acceptable.

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 writing 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 *Australia Awards Scholarships Policy Handbook* for details.

Preparatory training

All successful applicants will be required to attend a visa and mobilisation information session and a pre-departure briefing.

Successful applicants may be required to complete the following preparatory training and or testing:

- IELTS/TOEFL/PTE to assess English language competence
- English language support program.

Outcomes

Applicants selected for interview will be notified about interview outcome in August 2018.

Further information

Further information about the Australia Awards can be found at: <http://aid.dfat.gov.au/people-to-people/australia-awards/Pages/australia-awards.aspx>

Information about visas and Australia Awards Scholarship entitlements and conditions can be found in the *Australia Awards Scholarships Policy Handbook*: <http://aid.dfat.gov.au/Publications/Pages/scholar-handbook.aspx> -

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

www.australiaawards.gov.au

<http://cricos.education.gov.au/default.aspx>

www.border.gov.au (information about Australian visas)

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

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