



Maldives

Applying for an Australia Awards Scholarship

Australia Awards Scholarships in the Maldives

Australia's international development assistance in the Maldives helps promote prosperity, reduce poverty, and enhance political stability.

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.

Applicants are assessed on their professional and personal qualities, academic competence and, most importantly, their potential to impact on development challenges in the Maldives.

Applications are strongly encouraged from women and people with disability.

Priority areas of study

The priority areas of study for the Maldives for the 2019 intake are:

- economic development
- education
- environmental management
- good governance.

Applicants are free to nominate any Masters level course, provided they can justify how this course fits within one of the priority development areas listed above. As a part of the selection process, the assessors will determine the relevance of the applicants' chosen field of study to the priority areas listed above as well as to the broader development objectives of the scholarships.

Level of study

Australia Awards Scholarships provide citizens of the Maldives with the opportunity to obtain a Masters qualification at an Australian tertiary institution.

Awards will be offered for commencement in 2019.

Applicants must research two preferred courses, including information provided on institution websites, and ensure that they satisfy ALL admission requirements for their preferred courses, including the English language requirements

Australia Awards benefits

Australia Awards Scholarships 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 for the duration of the scholarship
- supplementary academic support and
- fieldwork allowance for research students and masters by coursework which has a compulsory fieldwork component.

Eligibility criteria

Australia Awards applicants must meet all eligibility requirements detailed in the *Australia Awards Scholarships Policy Handbook*, available at: dfat.gov.au/about-us/publications/Pages/australia-awards-scholarships-policy-handbook.aspx

Country-specific conditions

In addition to the eligibility requirements, candidates from the Maldives must also meet the following conditions:

- not have held a foreign scholarship in the 24 months preceding the application closing date

- not have obtained an academic qualification outside the Maldives in the 24 months preceding the application closing date, calculated from the date of arrival back in the home country
- have a tertiary qualification at least equivalent to an Australian Bachelor's degree
- select a Masters course not longer than two years in duration
- have worked in the Maldives for at least 24 months preceding the application closing date and after completing their Bachelor's degree.

Application dates

For study commencing in Australia in 2019

Opening date: 1 February 2018

Closing date: 30 April 2018

Applications and/or supporting documents received after the closing date will not be considered.

Applicants must consider course selections carefully before applying.

Special conditions

Applicants must also meet the following country specific condition:

- applicants return to the Maldives for at least two years after completing their scholarship, to contribute to the 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.

The application process

Online applications

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

We strongly advise applicants to commence their online application 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. Hard copy applications are not accepted.

Supporting documents

Applicants must submit with their application all of the relevant supporting documents listed in the *Australia Awards Scholarships Policy Handbook* available at:

<http://dfat.gov.au/about-us/publications/Pages/australia-awards-scholarships-policy-handbook.aspx>

Applicants must also provide the following documents to meet the specific requirements for the Maldives.

Documents requiring certification are specified in the table. 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
Birth certificate/ passport/ national ID	Proof of citizenship	Yes
Tertiary diploma/ degree certificates	Degree certificate	Yes
Academic grades	Academic transcript	Yes
IELTS/ TOEFL/ PTE test results certificate (valid at 1 January 2019)	Proof of English language proficiency	Yes
Certificate of special achievement or merit, if applicable	Other document	Yes
Employment letter (stating employment duration), if applicable	Other document	No
Curriculum Vitae (CV)	Other document	No
Development Impact Plan (DIP)	Other document	No
Relevance of study program to the priority study area	Other document	No
Masters by coursework applicants: one academic referee report (with referee's seal)* and one other referee report (e.g. a work supervisor). If employed, the second referee report MUST be from the immediate supervisor / employer.	Referee report*	No
Masters by research applicants: two academic referee reports (with referee's seal)* and one other referee report (e.g. a work supervisor) If employed, the second referee report MUST be from the immediate supervisor / employer.	Referee report*	No
Masters by research applicants: a research proposal. This proposal must include a proposed methodology, timeline and a brief literature review	Other document	No

* Template available at:
<http://dfat.gov.au/about-us/publications/Documents/referee.pdf>

Notes:

- Referee reports in other than the prescribed format will not be accepted and may make applications ineligible. Contact Australia Awards Maldives to clarify reference requirements.
- Research applicants short-listed for a selection interview must submit a well-developed research proposal by the date of the interview.
- Experience shows that it takes time for supervisors to complete referee reports. Please approach supervisors as soon as possible to obtain up-to-date referee reports. 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 will be contacted.

The selection process includes an interview. Applicants will be assessed against the following criteria:

- academic competence.
- potential outcome, specifically the contribution to development outcomes in the Maldives.
- professional and personal leadership attributes including relevant work experience.

Successful candidates will be notified no later than the end of September 2018.

Preparatory training

All successful applicants will be required to attend a visa mobilisation session and a pre-departure briefing and farewell event before they leave for Australia. They are also required to attend their university's Introductory Academic Program and other required preparatory study on arrival in Australia.

Further information

Information about the Australia Awards - Maldives can be found at www.australiaawardsmaldives.org

More general information about the Australia Awards, Australia's aid program, and studying in Australia can be found at the following links:

- <http://dfat.gov.au/people-to-people/australia-awards/Pages/australia-awards.aspx>
- studyinaustralia.gov.au

Information about visas and Australia Awards scholarship entitlements and conditions can be found in the *Australia Awards Scholarships Policy Handbook*: dfat.gov.au/about-us/publications/Pages/australia-awards-scholarships-policy-handbook.aspx

Contact details

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