



Sri Lanka

Applying for an Australia Awards Scholarship

Australia Awards scholarships in Sri Lanka

As set out in DFAT's Sri Lanka COVID-19 Development Response Plan, Australia's development cooperation program in Sri Lanka contributes to three objectives: health security, social stability and economic recovery from COVID-19, with a focus on inclusion and addressing vulnerability. The objectives of the Australia Awards Scholarships program in Sri Lanka are likewise guided by the Response Plan.

Australia Awards scholarships are prestigious international awards offered by the Australian Government to the next generation of global leaders for development in post-COVID Sri Lanka. 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 positively contribute to Sri Lanka's development.

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

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

Priority fields of study

The priority areas of study for **Sri Lanka** are:

| Priority sectors | Field of Study |
|------------------------|---|
| Health Security | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Public Health Health Management Health and Wellbeing Pandemic Control Epidemiology Food Security Counselling Psychosocial counselling Clinical Psychology |

| | |
|--------------------------|--|
| Stability | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Development Studies Disability Studies Human Resource Management Humanitarian and Disaster Management* Law Political Science Project Management Public Administration Public Policy Statistics Social and Economic Inclusion Environmental Resource Management Gender Studies Political Science Psychology Sociology |
| Economic Recovery | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Economics Agriculture Economics Business Administration Customs Administration* Development Economics Economics Educational Management Fisheries & Aquatic Resources Finance Information & Communication Technologies International Finance International Trade Maritime Studies Mathematics Tourism and Hospitality Trade and Investment Urban Planning |

The governments of Australia and Sri Lanka regularly review these areas of study together and adjust the emphasis of the program. Detailed information on priority areas of study can be found at the website: **Australia Awards Sri Lanka**

Level of study

Australia Awards scholarships provide citizens of Sri Lanka with the opportunity to obtain a qualification at an Australian tertiary institution.

Awards will be offered for commencement in 2022 within the following allocations:

- Masters level qualification (by coursework or research)

Options for mode of delivery and structure of the courses are currently reexamined to suit the post COVID context. These options could include a hybrid structure with components in Sri Lanka by Australian tertiary institutions that have already established a presence. Specific details on the structure and mode of delivery will depend on selected courses and could be found at **Australia Awards Sri Lanka** once finalized.

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 receive the following depending on the mode and structure of the selected course:

- 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 scholarship
- supplementary academic support,
- 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

English language proficiency

Applicants must 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 2022.

Commencement of study

All scholarships must be taken up in the year for which are awarded, this however also depends on travel restrictions due to COVID-19. Should an awardee not be able to commence study in 2022, the scholarship will be withdrawn.

Country-specific conditions

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

- 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 study.
- be employed and the following criteria must be confirmed by an employment letter:
 - **applicants from the public sector** 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.
 - **applicants from the private sector and civil society organisation** 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 degree.
- have an academic or professional background relevant to their proposed study program.
- public sector employees selected for an Australia Award scholarship will be required to provide a copy of their official leave approval document to the Australia Awards office prior to departure.
- 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.

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 Scholarships program 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 degree program that may be shorter in duration than what they have originally applied for.

Application dates

For study commencing in Australia in 2022:

Opening date: **1 February 2021**

Closing date: **30 April 2021 (11:59pm Canberra Time)**

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

The application process

Online applications

All applications must be lodged online through OASIS at: **Application**

Supporting documents

Applicants must provide the following documents to meet specific requirements for Sri Lanka:

| 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 2021 | Proof of English language proficiency | Yes |
| Masters coursework applicants: One academic referee report and one professional referee report (e.g. a work supervisor – with referee's seal) * | Referee Report | No |

| | | |
|--|----------------|----|
| Masters research applicants: two academic referee reports and one professional referee report (e.g. a work supervisor) (with referee's seal) * | Referee Report | No |
| 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 |

*Template available at: www.australiaawardssrilanka.org

Notes:

- 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.
- Referee reports in different formats cannot be accepted and may make applications ineligible. Contact the Australia Awards Sri Lanka & Maldives office to clarify reference requirements.

The selection process

- Applications will be shortlisted after eligibility checking.
- Only shortlisted candidates will be contacted.
- The selection process includes an interview. Applicants will be assessed against the following criteria:
 - academic competence
 - potential outcome, including contribution to development outcomes in Sri Lanka
 - professional and personal leadership attributes.
- Successful candidates will be notified no later than 31 August 2021.

Preparatory training

Successful applicants will be required to attend:

- course counselling
- pre-departure briefing
- university's Introductory Academic Program
- other required preparatory study on arrival in Australia.

Further information

Information about the Australia Awards—Sri Lanka can be found at www.australiaawardssrilanka.org

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

- [Australia Awards](#)
- studyinaustralia.gov.au

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

Contact details

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