



Department of External Resources

இதே, ஈர்ப்புக் கமிட்டிக்கு கீழ்க் குறிப்பிட்ட அமைப்புகள்
 மத்திய அமைச்சு (வெளி உறவு), த.பெ. இல. 277, கொழும்பு 00100, இலங்கை
 நிதி, பொருளாதார உறுதிப்படுத்துதல் மற்றும் தேசியக் கொள்கைகள் அமைச்சு
 செயலகம் (3ஆம் மாடி), த.பெ. இல. 277, கொழும்பு 00100, இலங்கை

Ministry of Finance, Economic Stabilization and National Policies
 The Secretariat (3rd Floor), P.O. Box 277, Colombo 00100, Sri Lanka

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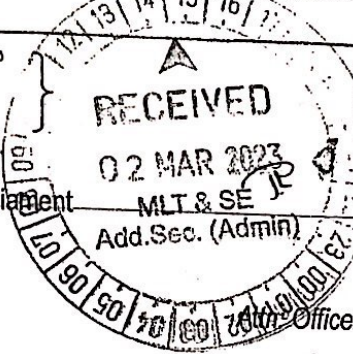
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 Your No

දිනය
 திகதி
 Date

e-mail: info@erd.gov.lk

20 February 2023

Secretary to the Cabinet/ Cabinet Office
 Secretary General of Parliament / The Parliament
 Secretaries / All Ministries
 Chairman / All Independent Commissions



Officer In-Charge Foreign Trainings

Dear Sir / Madam,

Australian Awards Scholarships (AAS) – Intake for Academic Year 2024

The Government of Australia has invited applications from eligible Government officials of Sri Lanka for the above scholarship programme for the academic year 2024.

The objective of the AAS is to enhance and strengthen the capacity of human resources in the public sector by providing knowledge, skills and qualifications and thereby improving the quality services for the general public while enhancing the economic growth of Sri Lanka. Scholarships are awarded on condition that participants should actively engage in development activities of Sri Lanka.

The eligible applicants with experience and ability to contribute for the development in the sectors of Economic Recovery, Stability & Health Security will be considered for AAS.

Therefore, well qualified and committed personal who can acquire wider knowledge and benefits from this programme and make use of them for the development of the country in an effective manner can be nominated for the programme.

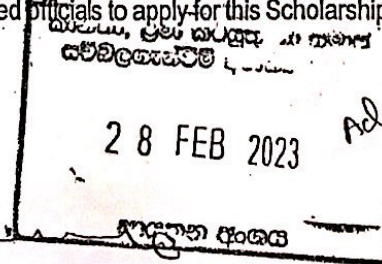
The following points are highlighted for your kind attention;

- Applicants must complete their application online on or before the deadline of 01st May 2023.
- Public sector applicants who are selected for an Australia Award Scholarship must submit a copy of the completed application form together with letter of Ministry approval and the "ERD form" once they are selected.
- Applicants are strongly advised to apply online well before the closing date via <https://oasis.dfat.gov.au/>
- All relevant details on the programme is attached and applicants are strongly advised to carefully go through the details prior to applying for the scholarship.

We would highly appreciate if you could kindly circulate this letter among all the agencies which are coming under the preview of your Ministry and encourage qualified officials to apply for this Scholarship programme.

Yours faithfully

Udeni Udugapattuwa
 Additional Director General
 for Director General



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 பணிப்பாளர் நாயகம்
 Director General

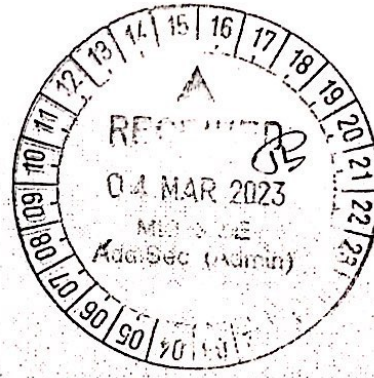
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Sri Lanka

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 in developing countries. Through study and research, recipients gain 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 make an impact on 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

Applicants may select an appropriate field of study in line with the following priority sectors:

Priority sectors	Field of study
Economic Recovery	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agriculture Economics • Business Administration • Customs Administration • Development Economics • Economics • Educational Management • Finance • Fisheries & Aquatic Resources • Information & Communication Technologies • International Finance • International Trade • Maritime Studies • Mathematics • Tourism & Hospitality • Trade & Investment • Urban Planning

Priority sectors	Field of study
Stability	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Climate Change Adaptation & Resilience • Development Studies • Disability Studies • Environmental Resource Management • Gender Studies • Human Resource Management • Humanitarian & Disaster Management • Law • Political Science • Project Management • Psychology • Public Administration • Public Policy • Social & Economic Inclusion • Sociology • Statistics
Health Security	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clinical Psychology • Counselling • Epidemiology • Food Security and nutrition • Health and Wellbeing • Health Management • Pandemic Control • Psychosocial Counselling • Public Health

The governments of Australia and Sri Lanka regularly review below broader areas of study and adjust the emphasis of the program as required.

- Support **economy recovery** including sustainable and inclusive livelihood opportunities for women and people with a disability; and
- Promote **stable, cohesive and inclusive societies** including activities relating to governance, environmental security, social protection and gender-based violence.
- Address **health security** including issues related to water, sanitation and hygiene, emergency health and public health awareness campaigns.

Detailed information on priority areas of study can be found at: www.australiaawardssrilanka.org

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 2024 within the following allocations:

- Masters level qualification (by coursework or research)

Specific details on the structure and mode of delivery will depend on selected courses and could be found at www.australiaawardssrilanka.org 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:

Australia Awards scholarships information for study commencing in 2024

- 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
- 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 Sri Lanka must also meet the following conditions:

- must meet the English language requirements as set out in the Australia Awards Scholarships Policy Handbook. Scores must be valid on 1 January 2024
 - applicants working in the priority districts, applicants with a disability and 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's degree.
- have an academic or professional background relevant to their proposed study program.

Special Conditions

- 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 compulsory 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.
- Awardees are required to sign a contract with the Commonwealth of Australia declaring they will comply with the conditions 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 2024:

Opening date: 1 February 2023

Closing date: 1 May 2023 (11:59PM AEST)

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

The application process

Online applications

All applications must be lodged online through OASIS at: <https://oasis.dfat.gov.au/>

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 2023	Proof of English language proficiency	Yes
Employment Letter*	Other Document	No
Master's 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
Master's research applicants: a research proposal. This proposal must include a proposed methodology, timeline and a brief literature review	Other Document	No
Any other document you wish to upload ensuring your eligibility	Other Document	No

*Template available at: www.austrailaawardssrilanka.org

Notes:

- Please refer the *Australia Awards Scholarships Policy Handbook* for certification requirements for documents requiring certification. If a document is not in English, the translated copy must also be certified.
- 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, specifically the contribution to development outcomes in Sri Lanka.
 - professional and personal leadership attributes including relevant work experience.
- Successful candidates will be notified no later than 31 August 2023.
- Awardee travel will be subject to meeting the requirements imposed by the Australian Government, as determined by the Department of Education, Skills and Employment, and must meet the requirements imposed by State and Territory governments.

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:

- <https://dfat.gov.au/people-to-people/australia-awards/Pages/australia-awards-scholarships.aspx>
- 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

Australia Awards - Sri Lanka & Maldives Office
Address: 75 1/1, Kynsey Road, Colombo 08,
Sri Lanka
Telephone: +94 115 772 977 – 80
Email: inquiries@australiaawardssrilanka.org



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.
- Australia Awards 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 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 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 development sectors and fields of study listed below. These are aligned to the development needs of Sri Lanka.

Priority sector	Fields of study
Economic Recovery	Agriculture Economics Business Administration Customs Administration Development Economics Economics Educational Management Finance Fisheries & Aquatic Resources Information & Communication Technologies International Finance International Trade Maritime Studies Mathematics Tourism & Hospitality Trade & Investment Urban Planning
Stability	Climate Change Adaptation & Resilience Development Studies Disability Studies Environmental Resource Management Gender Studies Human Resource Management Humanitarian & Disaster Management Law Political Science Project Management Psychology Public Administration Public Policy Social & Economic Inclusion Sociology Statistics
Health Security	Clinical Psychology Counselling Epidemiology Food Security & Nutrition Health & Wellbeing Health Management Pandemic Control Psychosocial Counselling Public Health

Applicants must research their two preferred courses, including information provided on institution websites, and ensure that they meet the institution's English language and other course-related requirements.

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 are open to eligible applicants from the public, private and civil society sectors 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 | • Anuradhapura | • Badulla |
| • Batticaloa | • Jaffna | • Killinochchi |
| • 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 dfat.gov.au/about-us/publications/australia-awards-scholarships-policy-handbook

In addition to these general 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 less than 6.0) or and equivalent TOEFL iBT or PTE score. Scores must be valid at 1 January 2024 and be submitted along with the Scholarship application.
- applicants working in the priority districts, and applicants with disability or those working in the disability sector will be considered with an overall IELTS band score of 6.0 with no individual band score less than 5.0 (or equivalent TOEFL iBT or PTE score). If offered an Australia Awards Scholarship, these applicants must meet the English language requirements of IELTS 6.5 or equivalent before commencing study.

Applicants must also:

- have completed a tertiary-level qualification at least equivalent to an Australian bachelor's degree
- have an academic or professional background relevant to their proposed study program
- 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.

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 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 australiaawardssrilanka.org.

Online applications

Applications must be lodged online using the Online Australia Awards Scholarships Information System (OASIS) at: 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 2024

Opening date: 1 February 2023

Closing date: 1 May 2023

Applications received after the closing 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 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.

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 on 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 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 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.

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 lesser 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 to cover 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 recipients whose family members do not accompany them).

Note: The Australian Government does not provide any financial or other support for the dependents 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 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 (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 they have the requisite mathematics/statistics background.

Find out more

Visit our website australiaawardssrilanka.org

Australia Awards information – Australian Government websites:

dfat.gov.au/people-to-people/australia-awards/Pages/how-to-apply-for-an-australia-awards-scholarship.aspx

australiaawards.gov.au

dfat.gov.au

dfat.gov.au/about-us/publications/Pages/australia-awards-participating-institutions

Study in Australia:

studyinaustralia.gov.au

Australia Awards Scholarships Policy Handbook:

dfat.gov.au/about-us/publications/australia-awards-scholarships-policy-handbook

Australian University courses: cricos.education.gov.au

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

Contact us

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