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வெளிநாட்டு வளங்கள் திணைக்களம்
Department of External Resources

65

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මහලේකම් කාර්යාලය (3 වැනි මහල), ත.පෙ. 277, කොළඹ 00100, ශ්‍රී ලංකාව
தேசிய கொள்கைகள் மற்றும் பொருளாதார அலுவல்கள் அமைச்சு,
செயலகம் (3 ஆம் மாடி), த. பெ. இல 277, கொழும்பு 00100, இலங்கை
Ministry of National Policies and Economic Affairs
The Secretariat (3rd Floor), P.O. Box 277, Colombo 00100, Sri Lanka

Web Site: www.erd.gov.lk

e-mail: info@erd.gov.lk

මගේ අංකය
எனது இல.
My No

AusAid/2018

ඔබේ අංකය
உமது இல.
Your No.

දිනය
திகதி
Date.

2017-02-08

Secretary to the President/Presidential Secretariat
Secretary to the Prime Minister/Prime Minister's Office
Secretary to the Cabinet Ministers/Cabinet Office
Secretaries/All Line Ministries
Secretaries/ All State Ministries
Chief Secretaries/All Provincial Councils
All Other Heads of the Departments and Government Institutions

Attn: Officer In-charge
of Foreign Training

Dear Sir/Madam

Australian Awards Scholarships (AAS) – Intake for Academic Year 2018

The Government of Australia has invited applications from eligible government officials in Sri Lanka for the above scholarship programme for the academic year 2018.

The objective of the AAS is to enhance and strengthen the capacity of human resources in the public sector by providing valuable knowledge, skills and qualifications in key areas of economic development, good governance & gender equality 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. On their return, the officers are requested to implement their action plans spanning at least 2 years, contributing to their skills for the development initiatives of the country.

Priority Sectors

Eligible applicants with experience and ability to contribute for the development in the sectors of economic development, good governance & gender equality will be considered for AAS.

- Scholarships in the priority sector of **Economic Development** included Economics, Mathematics, International Finance, International Trade, Business, Development Economics, Educational Management, Maritime Studies and Agriculture Economics, Urban Planning, Tourism, Architecture, Information and Communication Technologies and Construction Project Management.

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பணிப்பாளர் நாயகம்
Director General

94-11-2484693
94-11-2434876

කාර්යාලය
அலுவலகம்
Office

94-11-2484500
94-11-2484600
94-11-2484724

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தொலை நகல்
Fax

94-11-2447633

- Scholarships in the **Good Governance** Sector included Public Administration, Development Studies, Finance, Public Policy, Political Science, Law, Political Economy, Statistics, Disability Studies and Forensic Science.
- Scholarships in the priority sector of **Gender Equality** included Gender Studies, Political Science, Economics, Psychology and Sociology.

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.

Application 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

AAS has been focused to enhance the individual candidate's decision making ability by way of providing wide range of knowledge and skills through their Master' Programme, so that they can use them for the economic and social development of the country. However, this depends on the commitments and the well performance of the candidate. Therefore, you are kindly requested to nominate 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. It is also necessary to ensure that the development plans are implemented by them upon their return.

Eligibility Criteria

Australia Awards applicants must meet all eligibility requirements detailed in the Scholarships Policy Handbook, available at: <http://aid.dfat.gov.au/Publications/Pages/scholarhandbook.aspx>

In addition to these basic eligibility requirements, applicants must also meet the following country specific conditions.

- be a citizen of Sri Lanka
- They must not have previously received any Sri Lankan or overseas government-funded award (including Australian Government scholarships) for long-term academic studies in a foreign country. Long-term academic studies are defined as one year or longer in duration.
- 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 1st January 2018.

- Applicants working in Northern, Eastern, Sabaragamuwa and Uva Provinces and applicants with a disability 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). However, they must meet the English language requirements of their course, if offered an Australia Awards Scholarship.
- They must be employed in the public sector, and following criteria must be confirmed by an employment letter. (see*** in table of supporting documents below)
- They 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.
- They must not be currently studying at a university abroad.
- They must have completed a tertiary level qualification at least equivalent to an Australian Bachelor's degree.
- They must have an academic background relevant to their proposed study program.

How to Prepare

In order to be applying for AAS, applicants must:

- Satisfy eligibility requirements and conditions. Applicants should carefully read the information in this document, visit the Australia Awards website at <http://aid.dfat.gov.au/australiaawards/Pages/default.aspx> and the Scholarships Handbook available at <http://aid.dfat.gov.au/Publications/Pages/scholarhandbook.aspx>
- Be nominated by their employer. Applicants must submit an employment letter issued by the Secretary of relevant line Ministry / Chief Secretary with their application.
- Select preferred courses carefully. Applicants will not be able to change the course that they have selected except in exceptional circumstances. The course must have a clear link to the applicant's prior experience and support the applicant to contribute to development outcomes on their return to Sri Lanka.
- Submit a complete application with all necessary attachments, before the deadline. Late and incomplete applications will not be considered.

How to Apply

- **Online Applications**

We strongly advise applicants to apply online and to do so 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. 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 Documentation

The following documentation must be submitted by all AAS applicants at the time of application. Failure to provide these documents at the time of application will result in the applicant being deemed ineligible.

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 01 st 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 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: 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.

- **Information Session**

Information sessions for potential applicants will be scheduled during the application period. Proposed scheduled is attached.

Applicants must complete their application online on or before the deadline of 5.00 pm. (Sri Lanka Time) 30th April 2017.

Applicants who are awarded scholarships at the end of the selection process will be required to submit a valid Police Clearance Certificate at the time of visa application. Public sector applicants who are selected for an Australia Award Scholarship must also submit the “ERD form 2” once they are selected.

Further Information

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

Information about visas and Australia Awards Scholarship entitlements and conditions can be found in the Scholarships Policy Handbook, available at: <http://aid.dfat.gov.au/Publications/Pages/scholarhandbook.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 Australia visas) <http://aid.dfat.gov.au/Pages/home.aspx>

Commitments of Candidates for the development of the country mainly will be assessed based on the details given in their applications. Therefore, candidates are kindly requested to pay their attention about this matter when they fill up their applications.

Therefore, you are kindly requested to circulate this letter among the all agencies which are coming under the preview of your Ministry and encourage to apply all qualified officials for this Scholarship programme. It is also requested to grant official leave once they are selected to the programme.

Contact Details

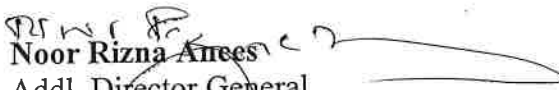
Australia Awards Office Sri Lanka
75 1/1, Kynsey Road, Colombo 08, Sri Lanka

Ph: +94 115772977-80

Email: inquiries@australiaawardssrilanka.org

Website: www.australiaawardssrilanka.org

Yours faithfully


Noor Rizna Annes
Addl. Director General
for Director General



Australia Awards



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 for 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 and people working in the Northern, Eastern, Sabaragamuwa, or Uva Provinces, and people who have not previously received a long-term international scholarship.

Level of study

Australia Awards Scholarships

These scholarships provide citizens of Sri Lanka with the opportunity to obtain a Master's 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 intake 2018 are:

Priority sectors	Field of Study
Economic Development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Economics • Mathematics • International Finance • International Trade • Business • Development Economics • Educational Management • Maritime Studies • Agriculture Economics • Urban Planning • Tourism • Architecture • Information & Communication Technologies • Construction Project Management
Good Governance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public Administration • Development Studies • Finance • Public Policy • Political Science • Law • Political Economy • Statistics • Disability Studies • Forensic Science
Gender Equality	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gender Studies • Political Science • Economics • Psychology • Sociology

Applicants must research two preferred courses, including information provided on institution websites, and ensure that they meet the institution's English language & 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; and
- 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 2018.
- Applicants working in Northern, Eastern, Uva and Sabaragamuwa Provinces, and applicants with a disability or those working in the disability area 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). However, they 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.
- must not be currently studying at a university abroad.

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

Special Conditions

- Applicants from the public sector must obtain necessary approvals from their Ministries 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 2018 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 2018 and must be submitted with a scholarship application.

Application dates (for study commencing in 2018)

Opening date: 1 February 2017

Closing date: 30 April 2017, 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 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: 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. If universities refuse to provide transcripts directly to applicants, contact the Australia Awards Office in Sri Lanka for a letter of request. 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 Office 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 mobilization 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 2017.

Contact Details

Australia Awards Office Sri Lanka
75 1/1, Kynsey Road, Colombo 08, Sri Lanka

Ph: +94 115772977 – 80

Email: inquiries@australiaawardsrilanka.org

Website: www.australiaawardsrilanka.org

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 Scholarships Policy Handbook, available at:

<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>

Information Session Schedule – Australia Awards Scholarships Intake 2018

S/L	Date	Time	Venue
1	Thursday, February 16, 2017	15:00 - 16:30	Kegalle District Secretariat
2	Friday, February 17, 2017	10:00 – 12:00	Ministry of Land
3	Friday, February 17, 2017	14:30 - 16:00	Central Provincial Council
4	Monday, February 20, 2017	10:00 - 12:00	Batticaloa District Secretariat
5	Monday, February 20, 2017	15:00 - 16:30	Ampara District Secretariat
6	Tuesday, February 21, 2017	10:00 - 12:00	Eastern Provincial Council
7	Thursday, February 23, 2017	10:00 - 12:00	Southern Provincial Council
8	Thursday, February 23, 2017	09:30 - 11:30	Puttalam District Secretariat
9	Friday, February 24, 2017	10:00 - 12:00	Ratnapura District Secretariat
10	Wednesday, March 1, 2017	14:30 - 16:30	Ministry of Finance
11	Thursday, March 2, 2017	10:00 - 12:00	Uva Provincial Council
12	Friday, March 3, 2017	10:00 - 12:00	Nuwera Eliya District Secretariat
13	Tuesday, March 7, 2017	10:00 - 12:00	North Central Provincial Council
14	Thursday, March 9, 2017	10:00 - 12:00	Northern Provincial Council
15	Friday, March 10, 2017	10:00 - 12:00	Vavuniya District Secretariat
16	Monday, March 13, 2017	10:00 - 12:00	Hambantota District Secretariat
17	Tuesday, March 14, 2017	10:00 - 12:00	Monaragala District Secretariat
18	Monday, March 20, 2017	10:00 - 12:00	Kurunegala District Secretariat

Confirmed

Pending Confirmation