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வெளிநாட்டு வள திணைக்களம்
நிதி திட்டமிடல் அமைச்சு

DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL RESOURCES
Ministry of Finance and Planning

මහලුකම් ගොඩනැගිලි (3වැනි මහල)
செயலகம் (3ஆம் மாடி)

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13 May 2009

All relevant Ministries & Institutions

Australian Development Scholarships (ADS) Academic Year 2010 Intake

The Government of Australia has invited nominations from eligible Government officials in Sri Lanka for the above Program. The details of this program are available in the Attachments A & B.

You are kindly requested to submit suitable nominations (equal number of male and female candidates) from relevant agencies coming under the portfolio of your Ministry. Each nominee should submit an **Expression of Interest** along with the **required documentation** to this Department on or before **3rd July 2009**. Candidates are allowed to submit official IELTS test result transcripts up to 10th July 2009. **Late applications will not be entertained under any circumstance.**

All potential candidates must:

- Be less than 45 years of age as at 1st January 2010.
- Have a first or second class degree in the relevant field from a recognized Sri Lankan or a foreign university. Preference will be given to applicants with post graduate qualifications.
- Have at least 3 years experience in the public sector.
- Have been confirmed in their jobs.
- Not have previously received Sri Lanka or overseas Government funded scholarship for a long-term (32 weeks or greater) academic studies in foreign country.
- Provide valid evidence of a **minimum in individual bands and overall IELTS score of 6.0 (Academic Module)** before the closing date for the submission of Expression of Interest or on or before 10th July 2009. Applications without such documentation will not be considered. Please note that most Australian Universities require an IELTS overall score of 6.5 for direct entry into their post graduate courses. A student with an IELTS overall score of 6.0 will have a very limited choice when it comes to selection of courses / institution.

Please make sure that all candidates receive attachments A & B and they strictly follow the instructions given in them.

The ERD Form No. 2 "Essential Information of the Nominee" must be completed and sent along with the above documentation for further processing by ERD. Therefore, kindly note that we will be constrained to reject the nomination if the application and the ERD form is not properly completed and submitted. The Government clearance to leave the country to participate in this program has to be obtained only after the offer is granted to your nominee.

A. Sooriyagoda
Director/Technical Assistance Division
for Director General

A. Sooriyagoda
Director - TA Division
Department of External Resources
Ministry of Finance & Planning
Colombo-01.

Attachment A

KEY FEATURES AND SELECTION PROCEDURES : AUSTRALIAN DEVELOPMENT SCHOLARSHIPS (ADS) 2010 INTAKE

Number of Awards

Subject to annual agreement between the Governments of Sri Lanka and Australia and Australian budget outcome, the actual number of new ADS for the 2010 academic year will be advised once the Australian budget outcome is known in May 2009.

In line with AusAID's policy on gender equity at least half the scholarships allocated to Sri Lanka are for women.

Category

Public Sector category only.

Training Location

In-Australia only

Scholarship length

Scholarships are offered for a maximum period of 2 years (4 semesters)

Fields of Study

Priority Sectors

Education

Environment

Peace Building & Conflict Resolution

Other Sectors

Economics

Public policy and management

Development administration

Gender and development

Australian Agency for International Development

Australian High Commission

21 Gregory's Road, Colombo 7, Sri Lanka Telephone 94 11 246 3200 Fax 94 11 2696468

Types of course not available under ADS

- training in areas related to nuclear technology and flying aircraft
- legal workshops

Level of Study

Public sector category awards will be for long term postgraduate study only eg. Graduate Diplomas & Masters. Coursework degree programs are encouraged. No scholarships will be granted for PhD studies.

Selection of Courses

Applicants are encouraged to communicate with the institution/s of their choice to ensure that their current qualifications, including IELTS scores match the direct entry requirements for the preferred course/s.

Selection Process

The Department of External Resources will invite submissions from Sri Lankan Government Departments/Ministries and select a pool of 18 to 21 applicants who have the minimum qualifications stipulated for ADS. ADS Application Forms will be sent only to the short listed applicants.

A Joint Selection Panel (JSP) consisting of 2 officers from DER and two Officers from the AusAID Office in Colombo (e.g. the AusAID Representative, the Senior Program Officer or other nominated person) will select the priority and reserve applicants.

Scholarship Eligibility

An Applicant must:

- be a citizen of Sri Lanka
- not have applied for Permanent Residency to Australia or New Zealand
- be less than 45 years on 1st January of the year of application
- have a first degree from a Sri Lankan or recognised foreign university. (preference will be given to applicants with a class pass and postgraduate qualifications).
- have at least 3 years work experience in the Sri Lanka public sector in a field relevant to the proposed course of study. Applicants must also be confirmed in their jobs.
- not already be following a course of study in a university abroad
- not have previously received any Sri Lankan or overseas government funded scholarship for long term academic studies in a foreign country

Selection Criteria

- Academic Merit as well as performance at interview with written test
- English language - applicants must have a minimum IELTS (academic module) overall score of 6.0 **with no band less than 6.0**
- Gender equity – a reasonably even distribution of male and female recipients
- Applicant must demonstrate potential for contribution to the development of the Sri Lankan public sector in their Statement of Purpose

English Proficiency Requirement

Evidence of a minimum overall IELTS (academic module) must be provided before the closing date for the submission of Expressions of Interest (i.e.-initial application). Applications without such documentation will not be considered for selection.

Please note that most Australian universities require an IELTS overall score of 6.5 for direct entry into their postgraduate courses. A student with an IELTS overall score of 6.0 will have a very limited choice when it comes to selection of courses/institution.

Every course has an IELTS entry requirement. Short listed applicants will only be able to choose a course compatible with their current IELTS score. The ADS scholarship does not include English language bridging.

Nominations

A government department will be eligible to nominate a maximum of 2 candidates (1 male and 1 female) only. The nominations must be accompanied by a submission from the applicant's relevant department explaining how the candidate will contribute to the development of the Sri Lankan public sector on his/her return. Individuals who have the ability to take on leadership roles in the public sector are encouraged to be nominated.

Statement of Purpose

Applicants must write no more than 500 words in total.

1. Explain why you are applying for an ADS.
2. Explain your experience, interest and the relevance of any courses or subjects you have taken in your selected area of study and what work you expect to be doing on return after training.
3. Demonstrate your awareness of the development issues related to Sri Lanka in the area of study you have selected.

4. Explain how the course of study and the skills you will acquire will contribute to national development and poverty reduction initiatives in Sri Lanka
 - a) What do you think are the personal qualities and attributes required to study overseas?
 - b) What challenges will you face as an international student in Australia if you are successful with this application.

GENERAL INFORMATION



Australian Government
AusAID

**Expression of Interest
(Initial Application)**

for an

**Australian
Development
Scholarship
(ADS)**

Administered by the

***Australian Agency for
International Development (AusAID)***

Australian Development Scholarships

Each year, the Australian Government grants Australian Development Scholarships (ADS) to Sri Lankan Public Sector employees for postgraduate study in Australia. By providing people with knowledge and skills to promote development in their home country, the ADS scheme aims to reduce poverty and contribute to the development of Sri Lanka's human resources. These scholarships play an important role in fostering and sustaining friendship and cooperation between Australia and Sri Lanka.

ADS are awarded on a competitive basis to individuals with excellent educational qualifications and aim to provide equal numbers of scholarships to men and women. The Australian Government will provide successful applicants' full course costs, a living allowance, travel to and from Australia and other ancillary expenses. The Australian Agency for International Development (AusAID) manages this program in partnership with the Government of Sri Lanka. There are currently more than 25 Sri Lankan ADS students currently studying at the Masters level.

Key Features and Selection Procedures (Attachment A)

Responsibilities of scholarship holders

The ADS scheme is primarily for the benefit of the student's home country. High standards of work and conduct are expected of scholars during and after their time in Australia.

The scholarship offered is for the appropriate field and level of study and the student cannot change enrolment without prior agreement of AusAID and the Government of Sri Lanka (this process may take at least 8 to 12 weeks).

Successful applicants will need to study full time, achieve satisfactory academic progress and meet all course requirements set out by the education institution. They must agree to the disclosure of information regarding their progress and not engage in employment outside vacation periods without prior agreement from the AusAID Liaison Officer at the institution and beyond the restrictions applying to their visa. Failure to comply with these terms may result in the scholarship being withdrawn by the Australian Government.

Scholars must return home at the end of their studies to promote development and pass on the knowledge and skills they have gained. They will be eligible to re-enter Australia for studies only after a lapse of 2 years commencing from the date of completion of their studies in Australia.

Scholars must agree to advise the AusAID Liaison Officer at the institution immediately, should they marry a person who is not a citizen of the same country as the scholar. An application for permanent residence of Australia during the period of scholarship may put the scholar in debt to the Commonwealth of Australia to the total value of the scholarship and an application for permanent residence within two years of scholarship completion will not be supported by AusAID.

Scholarship conditions

- Award holders must pass at least 80% of their first year units. No extensions for academic failure will be granted where students have failed 20% or more in their first year.
- Suspensions may be approved for a total period of up to 12 months in a scholarship. Award holders are required to return to their home country during periods of suspension. Stipends are not payable during suspension, including suspension due to illness.
- Award holders are required to maintain Overseas Student Health Cover (OSHC) for their families while in Australia to satisfy requirements for the issue of a visa for entry into Australia.

Study options

The fields of study are determined by the development needs of Sri Lanka. Priority is given to fields of study that have the greatest potential to reduce poverty and promote sustainable development.

ADS Information Kit

As a result of the new policy for the management of Australian Development Scholarships (ADS) that came into effect in January 2007, ADS scholars now benefit from a wider choice of institutions to study. A full list of these Institutions is available on AusAID's website www.ausaid.gov.au.

Given the broad institution eligibility to ADS, the ADS Information Kit which provided details on institutions and courses, will no longer be produced. Students will be required to research courses through existing materials, the internet, publications, and visits by Institutions, etc. Institutions may choose to provide information direct to students or posts. The AusAID scholarship website www.australianscholarships.gov.au will continue to provide generic information about the ADS terms and conditions and specific country program profiles.

Scholarship benefits

- Full tuition fees paid.

- Return economy air fare at the start and end of the scholarship.
- A reunion air fare at the completion of each successful year of study, except the final year. (Only available to students whose immediate family i.e. spouse or dependant child do not accompany them.)
- Fieldwork return air fare (Only available to eligible research students.)
- Establishment allowance (not taxed).
- Yearly stipend, CIP indexed annually each July.
- Tutorial assistance
- Overseas Student Health Cover (OSHC) for awardee for the duration of the award. No additional health benefits provided. As with other international students, ADS students may purchase additional "gap" cover.
- Provision of an AusAID Student Visa.

Only one rate of stipend

Significant changes have also been made to the ADS family entry policy. Accompanied stipend rates will be replaced by a flat yearly stipend for all ADS students, indexed annually as well as a generous establishment allowance and overseas student health cover for the duration of their award.

Successful scholars must satisfy the Department of Immigration and Multicultural Affairs' (DIMA) that they have adequate money in hand to cover 12 months living costs, schooling and medical insurance for family members.

The decision about the timing of travel to Australia by a scholar's family is made by individual institutions. The responsibility of obtaining visas for families lies with the student. It is important to note that the start of the academic year results in peak work flows for visa processing at the Australian High Commission in Colombo and visas for family entry are likely to be delayed.

Establishment allowance

The establishment allowance will cover medical insurance cost for family members, general service fees, contents insurance, excess baggage charges as well as rent deposit, text books, food and other basic settling in costs.

Extensions

Extensions of up to one semester may only be approved in the second or subsequent years of study. No time extensions for academic failure will be granted in the first year.

- Extension requests in second and subsequent years may be approved and funded by AusAID for a period of one semester for legitimate academic reasons (not health or family issues). Only one extension per student is permitted.
- Students may suspend for health or family reasons for a total period of one year during the length of the scholarship. During suspension, students would be required to return to their home country at their own expense.

Upgrades for exceptional students

In certain circumstances, upgrades for exceptional students will be permissible. At this stage, each upgrade request will be considered individually in consultation with the Colombo Post and approved centrally in AusAID

Expression of Interest and Required Documentation

Applicants will need to submit an Expression of Interest giving the following information.

1. Family and given names
2. Sex
3. Date of birth
4. Marital status
5. Number of dependents, spouse & children only
6. Country of Citizenship
7. Work and home addresses, contact details eg. phone/fax/email
8. Full name of proposed study program eg Graduate diploma of Environmental Studies, Master of Development Studies. Significant changes to proposed course of study are not encouraged once students are short listed.
9. Specific course focus eg. economics, commerce
10. Stipulate if the program is by coursework or research
11. Academic qualifications (copies of supporting documents must be attached)
 - For first degree (clearly specify type of class obtained, course duration, whether special or general.)
 - For other qualifications (clearly specify course duration, whether qualification obtained in country or overseas)
12. Current studies
13. Employment record

Required supporting documentation

14. Academic qualifications, evidence of English language proficiency, work experience. Supporting documents received after the closing date of **3 July 2009** will not be accepted.

15. If an applicant wishes to do a postgraduate course of study, which includes more than 50% research, a research outline of the proposed research project (up to 200 words) is required. The research outline should have a title, objectives, relationship of this research to previous work in this field by applicant or others, significance and possible application of the proposed research to applicant's home country. Where possible proposed research method and plan including estimated schedule for completion and each step in research and thesis writing should also be included.

16. Statement of Purpose (see attachment A)