



Australia Awards South Asia & Mongolia

Selection Criteria for Regional Short Course

Bridging Research to Policy 2: SRI LANKA

Purpose and Objectives

The Bridging Research to Policy Short Course seeks aligns with Australia's goal of supporting a stable, prosperous, and resilient Sri Lanka, as outlined in the Australia–Sri Lanka Development Partnership Plan. Following the successful implementation of the first iteration of the course, this course aims to contributing once again to accelerating economic growth by equipping participants with tools to drive innovation, productivity, and sectoral development, particularly in digitalization, tourism, agriculture, energy, and finance.

It will promote citizen engagement and community-driven progress while supporting effective, accountable governance and inclusive, sustainable economic growth. The course complements Australia's broader support for economic stabilization and governance reforms. Its overarching goal is to strengthen the link between research, evidence-based policymaking, and development outcomes.

It also seeks to build the capacity of another cohort of Sri Lankan professionals to lead positive change within their institutions, ensuring alignment with departmental mandates to secure participant and leadership buy-in.

Learning Outcomes

Participants will gain practical skills to:

- Accelerate economic growth through innovation and sectoral development
- Promote inclusive, community-driven participation
- Ensure equitable benefit sharing across regions
- Align policy with key sectors: digital, tourism, agriculture, energy, and finance
- Advance governance and social policy, including anti-corruption and poverty reduction
- Strengthen institutional relevance and policy coordination

By undertaking this course, participants will increase their competency to:

- implement and execute policy design
- understand the policy and administrative interface
- understand research for evidence-based policy making
- translate research into policy
- understand the language of policy

- coordinate public policy

Development of a Return-to-Work Plan (RWP) that applies the skills and knowledge gained in this Short Course is a key deliverable. The RWP will describe how Participants will apply their newly acquired skills to a specific project or set of activities.

Participant Profile & Eligibility Criteria

Up to 20 participants from Sri Lanka will be selected, particularly those who hold strategic roles in policy development (not technical roles) in their respective agencies and organizations.

The primary target group will be emerging leaders and middle management level leaders from the public, private and the civil society sectors.

Women, people from diverse ethnic backgrounds and people with disabilities who are working in relevant areas are strongly encouraged to apply.

Selected participants for this Short Course should be able to meet the following criteria:

- Be a citizen of Sri Lanka and currently residing in Sri Lanka.
- Not be applying for or hold permanent residency in either Australia or New Zealand, or be married, engaged to, or a de facto of a person who holds, or is eligible to hold, Australian or New Zealand citizenship or permanent residency. This criterion applies at any stage of the application, selection or mobilisation phases of the course.
- Be able to provide attested documents for processing a visa application to enter Australia for the duration of the Australian component of the course and satisfy all requirements of the Department of Home Affairs for an Australian Student Visa (Subclass 500).
- Not be a currently serving military personnel.
- Obtain the necessary study and travel approvals from their employer and be available and committed to participating in the course based on the anticipated course schedule outlined below.
- Not have undertaken an Australia Awards Short Course in the last two years.
- Have access to the internet and be computer literate.

Specific Eligibility Criteria

Participants will have the following qualifications, skills and experience:

- Hold strategic roles (not technical roles) in their respective agencies.
- Have a minimum of 2 years relevant work experience in their current or a related role.
- Not planning/scheduled to retire in the next 12 months after completing the Short Course.
- Be assessed as having a strong level of English to be able to participate in this course.
- Be able to commit to completing a Return-to-Work Plan (RWP).

Time Commitment Required

Selected participants must be committed and available to participate in the activity both in-person and online (as required) and must obtain the necessary study leave approvals from their organizations.

- **Preliminary Activities: 2 - 3 days from 16 – 18 February 2026**
- **Core Learning Elements (in-Australia): 2 – 13 March 2026**
- **Applied Learning Activity: 2 - 3days – 27 – 29 April 2026**

All dates and locations are tentative, and more information will be provided at the time of selection.

Application Process

To apply for this Short Course, applicants must follow the subsequent procedure:

- All applicants are required to complete their applications online on the Australia Awards South Asia and Mongolia Short Course portal at: <https://oscar.australiaawardssouthasiamongolia.org/> and upload the required documentation by **16 November 2025**. Only completed applications submitted online will be considered.
- All applicants must highlight their motivation for joining the Short Course, upload a CV outlining roles and responsibilities with relevant experience and qualifications, a signed and endorsed Head of Agency Endorsement Letter and a Letter of Nomination from their Organization (both of which templates are available on the Australia Awards Short Course portal).
- For more inquiries, contact the Australia Awards Sri Lanka office by emailing inquiries@australiaawardssrilanka.org