



Australia Awards

# Sri Lanka

## Applying for an Australia Awards scholarship

### Australia Awards scholarships in Sri Lanka

Australia's international development assistance in Sri Lanka aims to promote prosperity, reduce poverty, and enhance political stability.

Australia is a long-standing development partner to Sri Lanka. Over the past decade, Australia has supported a wide range of economic and governance reforms, as well as measures to strengthen civil society and build skills development.

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 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 contribute to the development challenges in Sri Lanka.

Applicants who wish to accept an Australia Awards scholarship will need to sign a contract with the Commonwealth of Australia declaring that they will comply with the conditions of the Australia Awards scholarship. Scholars are required to leave Australia after completing their scholarship remain outside Australia for a minimum of two years.

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

Ampara	Batticaloa	Trincomalee
Jaffna	Kilinochchi	Mullaitivu
Galle	Vavuniya	Anuradhapura
Polonnaruwa	Badulla	Monaragala
Puttalam	Ratnapura	Nuwera Eliya

### Priority fields of study

The priority areas of study for eligible Sri Lanka are:

- Climate Change and Disaster Risk Reduction
- Economic Development
- Education
- Gender Equality, Disability and Social Inclusion
- Governance
- Inclusive Growth and Stability

The governments of Australia and Sri Lanka regularly review these areas of study together and adjust the emphasis of the program. Detailed information on the Sri Lanka Development Partnership Plan can be found at: [Australia's Development Partnership with Sri Lanka | Australian Government Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade](#)

## 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 2027 within the following allocations:

- Master's level qualification by coursework or research

## 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:

- return air travel
- a one-off establishment allowance on arrival
- full tuition fees
- contribution to living expenses
- introductory academic program (IAP)
- 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.

### Country-specific conditions

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

- Applicants must meet the English language requirements as set out in the Australia Awards Scholarships Policy Handbook. Scores must be valid as at the start of your nominated program of study and should be submitted with your application.
- 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 in Australia
- 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.
- Should not have previously received an Australian government funded opportunity (incl. Australia Awards Short Courses, Fellowships and Australian Professional Opportunities) in the 24 months preceding the application closing date.

## 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. To obtain this approval, individuals must submit their application and institutional approval to the Department of External Resources.
- Awardees must 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.
- Applicants who want to accept an Australia Awards scholarship will need to sign a contract with the Commonwealth of Australia declaring that they will comply with the conditions of the Australia Awards scholarship
- Awardees are permitted to travel with family only after 6 months (1 semester) of study.
- 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 2027:

Opening date: Monday 2 February 2026 (14:00 AEST)

Closing date: Thursday 30 April 2026 (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 (<https://oasis.dfat.gov.au/>)

- Applicants must use their full name exactly as it appears on their passport, including first, middle, and last names.
- Applicants must not use nicknames, shortened versions, or abbreviations of their names.

### Supporting documents

Applicants must submit all the relevant supporting documents listed in the *Australia Awards Scholarships Policy Handbook*.

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

Required Documents	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
Curriculum Vitae (CV) *	Other Document	No
Development Impact and Linkages Plan (DILP) document*	Other Document	No
Certificates of special achievement or merit	Other Document	Yes
English language test (IELTS, TOEFL or PTE) results certificate valid on 1 January 2027		
Employment Letter*	Other Document	No
<b>COURSEWORK MASTER APPLICANTS:</b> One academic referee report and one professional referee report (e.g. a work supervisor with referee's seal) *	Referee Report	No
<b>RESEARCH MASTER APPLICANTS:</b> two academic referee reports and one professional referee report (e.g. a work supervisor with referee's seal) *	Referee Report	No
<b>RESEARCH MASTER APPLICANTS:</b> a research proposal. This proposal must include a proposed methodology, timeline, and a brief literature review (Guideline available*)	Other Document	No
<b>RESEARCH MASTER APPLICANTS:</b> Identify 2 supervisors from each of your nominated institutions and include details with your application	Other Document	No
Any other document you wish to upload ensuring your eligibility	Other Document	No

**\*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 regarding the outcome of the shortlisting process.
- 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 in late 2026.
- Awardee travel will be subject to meeting the requirements imposed by the Australian Government, as determined by the federal Department of Home Affairs and Department of Education and by the relevant Australian State or Territory governments.

**Preparatory training**

Successful applicants will be required to attend:

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

**Further information**

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

- [Australia Awards scholarships](#)
- [Study in Australia](#)

Information about visas and Australia Awards scholarship entitlements and conditions can be found in the [Australia Awards Scholarships Policy Handbook](#).

**Contact details**

Australia Awards - Sri Lanka and Maldives

Address: 75 1/1, Kynsey Road, Colombo 08, Sri Lanka

Telephone: +94 115 772 977 – 80

Email: [inquiries@australiaawardssrilanka.org](mailto:inquiries@australiaawardssrilanka.org)

[www.australiaawardssrilanka.org](http://www.australiaawardssrilanka.org)

Tagath