



Bhutan

Applying for an Australia Awards Scholarship

Australia Awards Scholarships in Bhutan

Australia's international development assistance in Bhutan helps promote prosperity, reduce poverty and enhance political stability.

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.

Applicants are assessed on their professional and personal qualities, academic competence and, most importantly, their potential to have an impact on development challenges in Bhutan.

Applications are strongly encouraged from women, people with disability and members of traditionally marginalised groups.

Priority areas of study

The priority areas of study for Bhutan are:

- Data Science/Analytics
- Economics
- Education (Curriculum Studies)
- Education Studies
- Food Science/Technology
- Forensic Accounting
- Human Resource Management
- Landscape Architecture
- Professional Accounting
- Tourism/Hospitality Management.

The governments of Australia and Bhutan regularly review these areas of study together and adjust the emphasis of the program. Detailed information on priority areas of study can be found at: australiaawardsbhutan.org

Applicants are encouraged to review the Australian Government's development policy *Partnerships for Recovery: Australia's COVID-19 Development Response* and consider their impact in a post-COVID-19 environment. Detailed information can be found at:

dfat.gov.au/publications/aid/partnerships-recovery-australias-covid-19-development-response

Level of study

Australia Awards Scholarships provide citizens of Bhutan with the opportunity to obtain a qualification at an Australian tertiary institution.

Scholarships will be offered for master's degree programs (by coursework or research) for study commencing in 2022.

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 entitlements:

- 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 those undertaking a master's degree by coursework that has a compulsory fieldwork component.

Eligibility criteria

Australia Awards applicants must meet all eligibility requirements, including citizenship and residency requirements, detailed in the *Australia Awards Scholarships Policy Handbook*, available at: dfat.gov.au/about-us/publications/Pages/australia-awards-scholarships-policy-handbook

English language proficiency

Applicants must have achieved an International English Language Testing System (IELTS) (Academic) score of 6.5 or higher (with no individual band score of less than 6.0) or an Internet-based Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) score of at least 84, with a minimum of 21 in all subtests, or a Pearson Test of English (PTE) Academic overall score of 58 with no communicative skill score less than 50. Scores must be valid on 1 January 2022.

Commencement of study

Scholarships for study commencing in 2022 must be taken up in the year for which they are awarded, this however also depends on travel restrictions due to COVID-19.

Qualifications

Scholarships will not be available for courses of study in Australia where the applicant has already achieved a qualification that is deemed to be equivalent to the Australian qualification.

Recognition of prior learning

The Australia Awards Scholarships program will request *recognition of prior learning* for all Scholarship recipients from Bhutan. If this request is granted, the recipient may be placed in a study program shorter in duration than originally applied for.

Country-specific conditions

In addition to the eligibility requirements, applicants from Bhutan must also:

- have completed a tertiary level qualification that is equivalent to an Australian bachelor's degree
- be currently employed in an organisation on a full-time basis
- have at least three years of relevant work experience, including probation period
- fit the target applicant profile of a field of study advertised for study commencing in 2022
- provide an employer nomination letter from the Human Resource Officer of the parent organisation/agency. In addition, applicants under the purview of the Ministry of Labour and Human Resources must also submit a nomination letter from the Department of Employment and Human Resources.

Special conditions

Applicants from Bhutan must also meet the following conditions:

- Applicants wishing to study for a master's degree by research must identify a potential supervisor and must

show proof of correspondence with their university / research supervisor.

- Scholarship recipients are required to return to Bhutan for at least two years after completing their studies.

Application dates

For Scholarships for study commencing in Australia in 2022:

Opening date: **1 February 2021**

Closing date: **30 April 2021 (11:59 pm Canberra time)**

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 (Online Australia Awards Scholarships Information System) at: oasis.dfat.gov.au

Supporting documents

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

Country specific document requirements can be found at: australiaawardsbhutan.org

The selection process

- Applications will be shortlisted after eligibility checking.
- All applicants will receive a letter notifying them of the outcome of their application. Shortlisted candidates will be contacted with additional information about selection interviews.
- The selection process includes a written exercise and a panel interview. Applicants will be assessed against the following criteria:
 - academic competence
 - professional and personal leadership attributes, including relevant work experience
 - potential outcome, specifically the contribution to development outcomes in Bhutan.
- Successful candidates will be notified by 30 August 2021, barring unforeseen disruptions.
- The selection process and planned schedule may change, depending on the operating environment and other conditions.

Preparatory training

Successful applicants will be required to attend or undertake:

- course counselling
- visa and mobilisation briefing
- pre-departure briefing
- Introductory Academic Program delivered by the host university
- other required preparatory study on arrival in Australia.

Further information

Information about Australia Awards – Bhutan can be found at: australiaawardsbhutan.org

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

- dfat.gov.au/people-to-people/australia-awards/pages/australia-awards-scholarships
- 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

Contact details

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