



# Laos

## Applying for an Australia Awards Scholarship

### Australia Awards scholarships in Laos

Australia's international development assistance in Laos 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 impact on development challenges in Laos.

**Applications are strongly encouraged from women, people with disability and other marginalised groups.**

**Applicants living with a disability and people living in the provinces are entitled to additional support and are strongly encouraged to contact the Laos Australia Institute (LAI) Scholarships Team (see contact details on the last page below).**

### Fields of Study Supported by the AAS

In recognition of the genuine development challenges across all sectors in Laos, applications are encouraged from all fields of study, **except for general business course and education management.**

Applicants should select courses that align with their experience and qualifications, or provide a strong justification for courses that represent a shift in career focus or direction.

### Priority fields of study for Laos

The governments of Australia and Laos regularly review the list of priority fields of study together and adjust the emphasis of the program.

For Intake 2022, field of studies for Laos reflect the Laos COVID-19 Development Response Plan the priority fields of study of the Lao Government.

- **Health Security:** public health, emergency operation management, communicable disease outbreak management, epidemiology, linkages between human and animal health and gender-based health care;
- **Stability:** basic education, stability in food and water supply, water resource management, human rights, gender equality, disability and social inclusion; and
- **Economic Recovery:** public financial management and economic governance, international trade and infrastructure management
- **Sustainable Environment:** environmental management, disaster management, forest and wildlife conservation and forestry resource management

### Level of study

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

Awards will be offered for commencement in 2022 within the following allocations:

- Vocational Education and Training (VET)<sup>1</sup>: diploma and advanced diploma,
- Masters Degree, and
- Doctorate Degree (PhD).

While applicants may nominate their preferred level of study, the final decision on which level of study to be offered will be determined by the selection panel.

### Australia Awards benefits

Australia Awards scholarships are offered for the minimum period necessary for the individual to complete the

<sup>1</sup> Vocational Education and Training (VET) was known as Technical and Further Education (TAFE)

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
- 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*, available at: [dfat.gov.au/about-us/publications/Pages/australia-awards-scholarships-policy-handbook.aspx](https://dfat.gov.au/about-us/publications/Pages/australia-awards-scholarships-policy-handbook.aspx)

Previous Australian government scholarship recipients who are planning to apply for an Australia Award this year are required to have resided outside of Australia for twice the length of the total time they were in Australia, as of 30 April 2021. For example, if you completed a Masters degree in Australia from January 2015 to December 2016, you are eligible to apply for another Australia Award after December 2020.

### Commencement of study

Successful applicants with an overall IELTS score of 6.5 with no band less than 6.0 and who are offered a scholarship, must take up the scholarship in the year for which they are awarded. This however also depends on travel restrictions due to COVID-19.

### Country-specific conditions

In addition to the eligibility requirements, applicants from Laos must also meet the following conditions:

- be a citizen of Laos (only);
- on the application closing date, be aged between 18 and 50 years old;
- have been residing in the Lao PDR for a minimum of two years as of 30 April 2021 (exceptions may be considered for Government Officials who have had diplomatic postings overseas); and
- provide all of the required supporting documents listed under "Supporting documents".

### VET applicants:

- must have completed upper secondary school; or
- if currently studying at tertiary level, must not have completed more than 2 years of diploma or undergraduate level study; or

- who already have a diploma or a bachelor degree, must have a minimum of two years' work experience and be seeking qualifications to fill a skills shortfall or to change career direction.

### Masters Degree applicants:

- must hold a Bachelor Degree; and
- must have a minimum of two years' work experience;
- who already have a Masters Degree (including from overseas) are eligible to apply, but may be given lower priority.

### PhD level applicants:

- must hold a Masters Degree;
- must have a minimum of three years' work experience relevant to a postgraduate qualification.
- must have an IELTS Certificate of overall 6.5 with no individual band less than 6.0 obtained after 1 July 2021.

### Application dates

For study commencing in Australia, and for English and Academic Preparation commencing in Laos, in 2022:

Opening date: **1 February 2021**

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

Applications and/or supporting documents received after the closing date will not be considered.

### The application process

For information on how to apply online and the supporting documents required **select the following link:** [Australia Awards Laos](#).

### Online applications

All applications must be lodged online through **OASIS**:

When applying online, all supporting documents must be uploaded to meet the specific eligibility requirements for Laos.

We strongly advise applicants to apply online 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.

For those who have no access to the internet and/or people living with a disability who need help to apply, kindly contact our Scholarships Team at LAI (see contact details on the last page).

### Supporting documents

Applicants must submit all of the relevant supporting documents listed in the table below.

Please note that documents do NOT have to be certified at the time of application.

Applicants should note that a failure to provide all of the

required documents may lead to the application being deemed ineligible.

***If you are unable to obtain any required documents, you should contact the Scholarships Team to discuss this as early as possible in the preparation of your application.***

Document	Document type
<b>ALL APPLICANTS</b>	
Family book (Lao) <b>OR</b> Passport	Proof of citizenship
Curriculum Vitae (Applicants <b>must</b> use the CV template referred to on Australia Awards Laos Website) - Maximum of 4 pages (except Research applicants, please see below)	CV or resume
<b>Public Sector/Government Official applicants</b>	
Government of Laos approval letter, dated, signed and stamped by a representative of your personnel department or head of your department. (Applicants <b>must</b> use the template referred to on Australia Awards Laos Website).	Employer or Nominating Authority Statement
<b>VET applicants</b>	
All official upper secondary diploma and/or tertiary education degree(s). Copy of the original and an English translation.	Degree certificate
All official upper secondary diploma and/or tertiary education transcript(s). Copy of the original and an English translation.	Academic transcript
For school leavers or year one/two university/college students only, please also submit: - all official year 10-12 upper secondary school academic transcript(s). - all official year 1-2 university/college academic transcript(s) where relevant. Copy of the original and an English translation.	Academic transcript
<b>Masters applicants</b>	
All official tertiary education degree(s). Copy of the original and an English translation.	Degree certificate
All official tertiary education transcript(s). Copy of the original and an English translation.	Academic transcript

<b>PhD applicants</b>	
All official tertiary education degree(s). Copy of the original and an English translation.	Degree certificate
All official tertiary education transcript(s). Copy of the original and an English translation.	Academic transcript
IELTS Certificate of overall 6.5 with no individual band less than 6.0 This certificate must be obtained after 1 July 2020	Proof of English language proficiency
<b>Research applicants only (Masters and PhD)</b>	
Two referee reports, at least one must be from an academic supervisor. The second referee report can be a current or former supervisor in a relevant field. Applicants <b>must</b> use the report template available on the Australia Awards Laos website.	Referee report
List of publications relevant to the research proposal	List of publications
A detailed Research Proposal (as submitted to the supervisor in Australia)	Other document
A letter from a supervisor in Australia stating his/her in-principle support for the research proposal that has been provided.	Other document
Curriculum Vitae (applicants <b>must</b> use the CV template referred to on Australia Awards Laos Website) - maximum of six pages.	CV or resume

### IELTS Requirements

To proceed to the interview, applicants must hold a valid Academic International English Language Testing System (IELTS) result with an overall score of at least 5.5 (no sub-band less than 5.0).

LAI will sponsor one IELTS test for candidates passing the application assessment round who have yet to meet the minimum IELTS requirements above.

Applicants holding an IELTS score of 6.5 overall with no individual band less than 6.0 will bypass the IELTS test sponsored by LAI.

Preference for interview consideration will be given to applicants with higher English language skills.

### The selection process

The selection process includes:

- application eligibility checking,
- an independent assessment of eligible applications against the selection criteria,
- a shortlisting,
- IELTS testing,

- interviews for shortlisted applicants with the requisite IELTS scores, and
- a moderation process taking into account gender, disability, government, non-government and private sectors, levels and areas of study.

### Selection Criteria

Applicants will be assessed and interviewed against the following criteria:

- academic competence
- potential outcome, specifically the contribution to development outcomes in Laos
- professional and personal leadership attributes including relevant work experience.

**Note:** Gender balance and other agreed targets may be applied to the selection process.

### Successful applicants offered an Australia Award

Successful applicants with an overall IELTS score of 6.0 with no band less than 5.5, and within half point of the score required for course placement may receive a provisional offer of an Australia Award for Intake 2022.

**Please note that the offer remains provisional until that awardees meet the following requirements or the scholarship offer will be withdrawn:**

- the provisional awardee attains the minimum English language requirement for placement, and no less than an overall IELTS score of 6.5 with no band less than 6.
- the provisional awardee is placed at an Australian university; and
- the provisional awardee is issued with the relevant visa by the Australian Department of Home Affairs.

Provisional awardees will be required to attend:

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

Depending on English language levels and academic background, provisional awardees may also be required to attend a:

- shorter English course in Australia (these applicants will also be required to attend a five-week academic readiness course in Vientiane); or
- a five-week academic readiness course in Vientiane.

Provisional awardees are not permitted to undertake employment during any pre-departure training. Short absences only from the course may be considered on a case by case basis.

### Successful applicants offered English and Academic Preparatory training

Successful applicants with an overall IELTS score of 5.5 with no band less than 5.0, and within one point of the score required for course placement, or other successful applicants at the discretion of LAI, may receive an offer

for an English and Academic Preparation (EAP) program in Vientiane of up to 12 months (or more for people with a disability).

EAP participants are not permitted to undertake employment during any preparatory training. Short absences only from the course may be considered on a case by case basis.

EAP participants who succeed in obtaining the overall IELTS score of 6.5 with no band less than 6.0, and with the score required for course placement will have their application considered for a provisional offer of an Australia Award for Intake 2023.

### Outcomes

All applicants will receive notification at each stage in the selection process if their application is not proceeding further. Applicants who are interviewed will be notified of the outcomes as soon as possible after the selection process concludes in late August 2021.

### Further information

Information about the Australia Awards — Laos can be found at: [www.australiaawardslaos.org](http://www.australiaawardslaos.org)

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

- **Australia Awards**
- **[studyinaustralia.gov.au](http://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.aspx](http://dfat.gov.au/about-us/publications/Pages/australia-awards-scholarships-policy-handbook.aspx)**

### Contact details

Australia Awards — Laos

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**Website:** **[Laos Australia Institute](http://LaosAustraliaInstitute)**