



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 (AAS) 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 impact on development challenges in eligible countries.

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 encouraged to contact the Laos Australia Institute (LAI) Awards Team (contact details are on the last page) for additional information.

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 courses (business, business administration and business management), 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

The governments of Australia and Laos regularly review priority fields of study together and adjust the emphasis of the program. For the 2025 Intake, the following fields of study are human resource development priorities:

- **Climate change and Environment:** environmental adaptation and resilience, waste management, renewable energy, sustainable tourism management, sustainable development, disaster management, forest and wildlife conservation, natural resource management, environmental management, sustainable agriculture and food stability.
- **Digital economy:** cyber security, critical technology (AI, robotics, etc.), information technology, digital transformation and multi-media communication.
- **Economic growth:** public financial management, economic governance, entrepreneurship and innovation, hospitality management, international trade, agribusiness, food science and technology, logistics and supply chain management, quality and standard management.
- **Gender, disability and social inclusion:** gender studies, disability policy and practices, inclusive education, and human rights.
- **Health:** public health, allied health, emergency operation management, communicable disease, epidemiology, linkages between human and animal health, gender-based health care, medical technology, nutrition and dietetics, food safety, occupational health and safety, mental health and psychology.

- **Infrastructure and connectivity:** construction and infrastructure management, digital telecommunication, urban planning, and architecture.
- **Other:** early childhood and basic education, pedagogy and teaching, engineering, human resource management and development, international law, public administration and policy, monitoring and evaluation, social work.

Level of study

Australia Awards Scholarships provide citizens of Laos with the opportunity to obtain a qualification at an Australian tertiary institution, including technical colleges.

Awards will be offered for commencement in 2025 within the following allocations:

- Vocational Education and Training (VET)¹: diploma and advanced diploma
- Master's degree
- Doctorate degree (PhD).

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
- 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

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 2024. For example, if you completed a master's degree in Australia from January 2018 to December 2019, you are eligible to apply for another Australia Award after December 2023.

Country-specific conditions

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

- be a citizen of Laos (only)
- be aged between 18 and 50 years old as of 30 September 2024
- have been residing in the Lao PDR for a minimum of two years as of 30 April 2024 (exceptions may be considered for Government Officials who have had diplomatic postings overseas)
- declare all previous studies undertaken whether it is complete or incomplete and
- provide all of the required supporting documents listed under "Supporting documents".

VET applicants:

- must have completed upper secondary school, or

¹ Vocational Education and Training (VET) was known as Technical and Further Education (TAFE)

- will complete upper secondary school by 30 September 2024, or
- currently studying at tertiary level or
- who already have a diploma or a bachelor's degree, must have a minimum of two years' work experience and be seeking qualifications to fill a skills shortfall or to change career direction.

Master's degree applicants:

- must hold a Bachelor's degree or equivalent and
- must have a minimum of two years' work experience.

* Note: Those who already have a Master's degree from overseas are eligible to apply; but may be given lower priority and must be seeking qualifications in different areas.

PhD applicants:

- must hold a Master's degree
- must have a minimum of three years' work experience and
- must submit an IELTS Certificate of overall score of at least 6.5 with no individual band less than 6.0 obtained after 30 March 2023.

* Note: IELTS test fee reimbursement will be paid to PhD applicants who meet all eligibility criteria.

Application dates

For study commencing in Australia in 2025:

Opening date: 1 February 2024

Closing date: 30 April 2024 (11:59PM AEST)

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

The application process

Information on how to apply online and the supporting documents can be found at **Australia Awards Laos**.
www.australiaawardslaos.org

Online applications

All applications must be lodged online through OASIS at <https://oasis.dfat.gov.au>

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 Awards Team at LAI (see contact details on the last page).

Find a university and course

Applicants must have researched their preferred courses and ensure that their courses are included on the Commonwealth Register of Institutions and Courses for Overseas Students (CRICOS) register.

Applicants are advised to use the CRICOS website <https://cricos.education.gov.au/> and individual university websites to undertake research about proposed courses of study and clarify:

- if a course is available to international student
- the details of the course content and topics covered
- the English language requirements for selected courses

But applicants do not need to apply separately to your selected university at this stage.

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 Awards Team to discuss this as early as possible in the preparation of your application.

ALL APPLICANTS

Required document	OASIS document type
Valid National Identity Card (Lao) OR Passport	Proof of citizenship
Curriculum Vitae (Applicants are recommended to use the CV template available on Australia Awards Laos Website) - Maximum of 6 pages	CV or resume

Public Sector/Government Official applicants

Required document	OASIS document type
Government of Laos approval letter, dated, signed and stamped by a representative of your personnel department or head of your department (Applicants must use the template referred to on Australia Awards Laos Website)	Employer or Nominating Authority Statement

VET applicants

Required document	OASIS document type
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 high school graduates or university/college students only, please also submit: - all official year 10-12 upper secondary school academic transcript(s) - all official university/college academic transcript(s) where relevant Copy of the original and an English translation	Academic transcript

Master's applicants

Required document	OASIS document type
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

PhD applicants

Required document	OASIS document type
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 score of at least 6.5 with no individual band less than 6.0 This certificate must be obtained after 30 March 2023	Proof of English language proficiency

Research applicants only (Master's and PhD)

Required document	OASIS document type
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 must use the referee report template available on 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

IELTS Requirements

Applicants are not required to submit a valid Academic International English Language Testing System (IELTS) result with their application.

LAI will sponsor one IELTS test for applicants passing the application assessment round who do not have a valid IELTS overall score of 6.5 with no individual band less than 6.0.

Preference for interview consideration will be given to applicants with a higher English language level and at least IELTS overall score of 5.5 no individual band less than 5.0 (submitted by 15 July 2024).

* Note: PhD applicants must meet IELTS requirements specified on the country specific conditions section (page 2) of this document.

The selection process

The selection process includes:

- application eligibility checking
- an independent assessment of eligible applications against the selection criteria
- shortlisting
- IELTS preparation and testing
- interviews for shortlisted applicants with the requisite IELTS scores
- a moderation process considering 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. Priority will be given to people with disability, people living in the provinces, people from ethnic minority backgrounds, and applicants from target ministries/organisations.

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 2024.

Successful applicants will remain provisional until meeting 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 6.0

- 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.
- Awardee travel is subject to meeting the requirements of the Australian Government, as determined by the Department of Home Affairs, Department of Education and by the relevant Australian State or Territory governments.

Provisional awardees will be required to attend:

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

English and Academic Preparatory training

Successful applicants holding:

- An overall IELTS score of at least 6.5 with no band less than 6.0 may receive an offer for an Academic Readiness Course (ARC) program in Vientiane of up to 5 weeks.
- An overall IELTS score of at least 6.0 with no band less than 5.5, and within half point of the score required for course placement may receive an offer for an English and Academic Preparation (EAP) program in Vientiane of up to 6 months.

Provisional awardees are not permitted to undertake employment during any preparatory training. A small stipend will be provided. Short absences only from the course may be considered on a case-by-case basis.

Further information

Information about the Australia Awards – Laos can be found at 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:

- dfat.gov.au/people-to-people/australia-awards/pages/australia-awards-scholarships
- <https://www.studyaustralia.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

Contact details:

Australia Awards – Laos

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