



Australia Awards

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 disabilities 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) 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 (e.g., business, business administration, business management, finance, and accounting), 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 Intake 2026, the following fields of study are human resource development priorities:

- **Economic development and trade:** economic governance, entrepreneurship and innovation, tourism and hospitality management, international trade, commerce, agribusiness, food science and technology, and quality and standard management.
- **Environment, climate change and clean energy:** environmental adaptation and resilience, waste management, clean energy, renewable energy, climate financing, disaster resilience and management, water resource management, forest and wildlife conservation, natural resource management, sustainable agriculture, and food security.
- **Gender, disability, and social inclusion:** gender studies, disability policy and practices, inclusive and specialised education, women's studies, social work, development studies, community service, youth work and international community development.
- **Governance and law:** public policy, public administration and management, public relations, international relations, international law, law and development, social justice, human rights, intellectual property law, legal studies, and monitoring and evaluation.



- **Health and wellbeing:** public health, allied health, emergency operation management, communicable disease, epidemiology, animal health, aged care, medical technology, nutrition and dietetics, food safety, occupational health and safety, mental health, and psychology.
- **Human resource development and education:** human resource management and development, early childhood, basic education, teaching English to speakers of other languages (TESOL), pedagogy and leadership management.
- **Infrastructure and connectivity:** engineering, cyber security, critical technology (AI, robotics, etc.), information technology, digital studies, data science and innovation, journalism and multi-media communication, logistics and supply chain management, construction and infrastructure management, urban planning, building design, graphic design, interior design, and architecture.

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 2026 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](#).

For previous Australian Government scholarship recipients, to be eligible to receive an Australia Awards Scholarship, applicants must not have previously received a long-term Australia Award in the previous four years. For example, if you completed a Master's degree in Australia from January 2019 to December 2020, you are eligible to apply for another Australia Award from February 2025 onwards.

Country-specific conditions

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

- be a citizen of Laos
- be aged between 18 and 50 years old as of 31 December 2025
- have been residing in the Lao PDR for a minimum of one year as of 30 April 2025 (exceptions may be considered for Government Officials who have had diplomatic postings overseas)
- declare all previous studies undertaken irrespective of whether it is complete or incomplete
- declare all previous and current international scholarships awarded
- provide all the required supporting documents listed under "Supporting documents", and
- must be ready to commence full-time Pre-departure Academic Preparation (either English Academic Preparation in October or Academic Readiness Course in November 2025).

VET applicants:

- must have completed upper secondary school, or
- will complete upper secondary school by 30 September 2025, 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

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

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 2024.
- * Note: IELTS test fee reimbursement will be paid to PhD applicants who meet all eligibility criteria.

Application dates

For study commencing in Australia in 2026:

Opening date: 1 February 2025

Closing date: 30 April 2025 (20:59 Laos Time or 23:59 Canberra Time)

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](#).

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 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 **The Australian Commonwealth Register of Institutions and Courses for Overseas Students (CRICOS)** 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 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 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 2024	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 11 July 2025).

* 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 disabilities, 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 September 2025.

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 will be subject to meeting the requirements imposed by the Australian Government Department of Home Affairs and 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:

- 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.
- Overall IELTS score of at least 5.5 with no band less than 5.0, 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.

Mekong Australia Partnership Scholarship

From 2026, additional Australian Awards Scholarship will be available for Laos, funded by the Australian Government's Mekong-Australia Partnership. More information about the [Mekong-Australia Partnership](#).

Australia Awards Scholarships funded by the Mekong-Australia Partnership (MAP) are prestigious international awards offered by the Australian Government to the next generation of leaders from Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar, Thailand and Vietnam to undertake Masters level coursework or research in priority fields aligning with MAP's key thematic areas: water security, climate action, transnational crime, economic resilience and subregional integration, and gender equality, disability and social inclusion.

Scholars will have exclusive access to the Mekong-Leaders Network, a dynamic enrichment program that includes events and development opportunities that foster collaboration and enduring connections between MAP scholars across the Mekong subregion.

Further information

Information about the [Australia Awards – Laos](#).

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 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 – Laos

Address: Laos Australia Institute, Foreign Languages Resource, Centre Building, Corner of Rue Setthathirath and Mahosot Road, Vientiane Capital, Lao PDR

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Facebook: [Australia in Laos](#) and [Laos Australia Institute](#)