



Australia Awards

# Papua New Guinea

## Applying for an Australia Awards scholarship

### Australia Awards Scholarships in Papua New Guinea

Australia's international development assistance in Papua New Guinea 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 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 Papua New Guinea.

Applications are strongly encouraged from women, people with disability, people living and working outside Port Moresby and other marginalised groups. Support is available to assist equal participation by these applicants.

### Priority fields of study

The awards support all study areas aligned with the development agenda of the Government of Papua New Guinea. 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. Applications focusing on gender, climate and disability-related studies are strongly encouraged.

The governments of Australia and Papua New Guinea regularly review these areas of study together and adjust the emphasis of the program.

### Level of study

Australia Awards scholarships provide citizens of Papua New Guinea with the opportunity to obtain a qualification from a tertiary institution in Australia or the Pacific region. Awards will be offered for commencement in 2026 within the following:

- Undergraduate
  - Offered for studies at Australian institutions in degree areas not available in Papua New Guinea (scholarships which are **not** available include arts, pilot training, business/commerce, law, management, medicine, nursing, public policy).
  - Only offered for Certificate IV Aircraft Maintenance Engineering – mechanical/avionic studies at Fiji National University to nominees from targeted partner agencies.
  - **People with disabilities** can apply for any undergraduate program open for international students in Australia.
- Master's by Coursework
  - **All** study areas are open for application at Australian institutions. Applicants must not have previously completed a master's degree overseas. Applicants who completed a master's degree from a PNG institution, can apply for another masters in a different subject area or field of specialisation.
- Master's by Research, Master's in Philosophy, PhD or Professional Doctorate
  - **All** study areas are open for application at Australian institutions. Academic and research staff of higher education and research institutions in Papua New Guinea will be given greater preference in this category.



## Category

- Open Category
  - Applicants from the private sector, state-owned enterprises, non-government organisations, religious, international development organisations and PNG government agencies not listed as a targeted agency in the Targeted Category.
- Targeted Category
  - A limited number of scholarships will be offered to applicants nominated by partner PNG government agencies who are supporting the shared priorities of Australia and PNG. All applicants must comply with the requirements as specified in the agreement between DFAT and these agencies.
  - Below is the list of targeted agencies for Intake 2026:
    - Department of National Planning and Monitoring
    - Department of Personnel Management
    - Department of Higher Education, Research, Science and Technology
    - Department of Education
    - Department of Justice and Attorney General
    - Department of Treasury
    - Department of Health
    - Department of Foreign Affairs
    - Climate Change and Development Authority
    - Autonomous Bougainville Government

## 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 general eligibility requirements, candidates from Papua New Guinea must also meet these conditions:

- must be a citizen of Papua New Guinea, without dual or additional citizenship and be residing and working in Papua New Guinea at the time of applying
- must not be an Australian citizen, hold permanent residency in Australia or be applying for a visa to live in Australia permanently
- must have a minimum of two-years work experience. **People with disabilities** are exempt from this requirement.
- must meet minimum English language proficiency, and
- must be applying for an upgrade of highest qualification.

### Applicants from PNG Government Agencies

In addition to the country-specific conditions noted above, **public servant applicants covered by General Order No. 6 on overseas training for public service staff** must also meet the Government of Papua New Guinea requirements, including:

- employment in a public sector agency for two years after permanent appointment
- applicant is listed in their agency's Learning and Development Plan,
- nomination from applicant's employment agency and endorsement from the Department of Personnel Management.

For details on General Order No. 6, public servant applicants may contact their agency human resource officers or the Department of Personnel Management.

## 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.

For scholars with a disability, disability support funding, including a carer support package, is also available.

## Application dates

For study commencing in Australia in 2026:

Opening date: 1 February 2025

Closing date: 30 April 2025 (11:59PM AEST)

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

## The application process

### Registration for Information Session

Eligible applicants are encouraged to attend information sessions across Papua New Guinea and must register their interest to attend via [Australia Awards Scholarships Intake 2026 Registration Form Survey](#) on or before 1 February 2025.

### Online applications

All applications must be lodged online through [OASIS](#).

### List of Supporting documents

Applicants must provide the following documents to meet the specific requirements for Papua New Guinea. Applicants must use the **AAPNG Intake 2026 template** (can be downloaded [Application Information - Australia Awards in PNG](#) for selected documents below.

Certified documents to be included in Papua New Guinea applications require a Commissioner of Oath certification (signed, dated and stamped 1 January 2024 or later).

Required document	OASIS document type
Reintegration plan (must use AAPNG template <a href="#">Application Information - Australia Awards in PNG - Templates</a> )	Reintegration Plan
Certified academic certificates: higher education certificates (i.e. bachelor/master's qualifications), vocational education and training certificates (i.e. certificate IV, diploma).	Degree certificate
Certified complete academic transcript in English. High school certificate/s if applying for undergraduate.	Academic transcript
Certified copy of proof of citizenship – <b>any</b> of the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>National Identity Card</li><li>driver's licence and birth certificate; or</li><li>valid passport.</li></ul>	Proof of citizenship
If previously undertaken, certified English language proficiency i.e. results from: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>IELTS – International English Language Testing System;</li><li>TOEFL – Test of English as a Foreign Language; or</li><li>PTE – Pearson English Language Test.</li></ul>	Proof of English language proficiency
Academic Referee report (must use AAPNG template <a href="#">Application Information - Australia Awards in PNG - Templates</a> ) <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Undergraduate and master's by coursework applicants: <b>one</b> academic referee report.</li><li>Master's by Research, Master's in Philosophy, Professional Doctorate, PhD applicants: two academic referee reports.</li></ul>	Academic Referee report
Professional Referee Report (must use AAPNG template <a href="#">Application Information - Australia Awards in PNG - Templates</a> ) – <b>one</b> for all levels of study.	Professional Referee report
Curriculum Vitae (must use AAPNG template <a href="#">Application Information - Australia Awards in PNG - Templates</a> )	Curriculum Vitae

Master's by Research, Master's in Philosophy, Professional Doctorate, PhD applicants

Required document	OASIS document type
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Research Proposal Summary (must use AAPNG template <a href="#">Application Information - Australia Awards in PNG - Templates</a>)</li><li>Evidence of communication with prospective supervisor (e.g., letter of agreement for supervision, email discussion)</li></ul>	Research Proposal Summary Research Supervisor

### The selection process

- Applications will be shortlisted after eligibility checking.
- Only shortlisted candidates will be contacted.
- 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 Papua New Guinea, and
  - professional and personal leadership attributes including relevant work experience.
- Successful candidates will be notified in late 2025.
- 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.

### Preparatory training

Successful applicants will be required to attend:

- course counselling
- three-week pre-departure training
- university's Introductory Academic Program, and
- other required preparatory study on arrival in Australia.

### Fraudulent documents and false statements

The Australian Government maintains a zero-tolerance stance on fraud. All application documents will be verified, and if any are found to be fraudulent, the applicant will be excluded from consideration for this scholarship and any future Australia Awards. If fraud is detected after a scholarship is awarded, the scholarship will be immediately terminated. Fraud includes failing to disclose relevant information for consideration in the scholarship selection process.

### Further information

More general information about the Australia Awards 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 Papua New Guinea

Address: Level 1, PwC Haus, Harbour City, Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea

Telephone: (+675) 321 1766/ (+675) 7373 3800

Email: [scholarships@australiaawardspng.org](mailto:scholarships@australiaawardspng.org)