



Australia Awards

Timor-Leste

Applying for an Australia Awards scholarship

Australia Awards scholarships in Timor-Leste

Australia's international development assistance in Timor-Leste 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 Timor-Leste.

Applications are strongly encouraged from women, people with disability, rural applicants, and other marginalised groups. At least 50% of the scholarships will be targeted at suitability qualified female applicants.

Priority fields of study

There are no priority areas of study for Timor-Leste. However, applicants must demonstrate the relevancy of their study area for Timor-Leste's development priorities, including for economic growth and diversification. Detailed information can be found at: [Australia Awards Timor Leste](#).

Level of study

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

Awards will be offered for commencement in 2026 within the following allocations:

- Diploma level (only available for people with a disability)
- Bachelor's/ Undergraduate degree (approximately 15% of awards)
- Master's degree (coursework or research)
- PhD (approximately 5% of awards) - a limited number of research awards will be offered to strengthen the capacity of Timorese academic and research institutions.

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](#).

Timor-Leste specific conditions

In addition to the global eligibility requirements, candidates from Timor-Leste must also meet the following conditions:

- be 18 years old by scholarship application opening period.
- be usually and currently residing in Timor-Leste and have lived in Timor-Leste for at least 10 years (cumulative) since 1999, with some exceptions for applicants working for the Government of Timor-Leste (GoTL) in a third country.
- if a recipient of previous scholarship, including GoTL scholarships, have worked in Timor-Leste for a minimum of two years cumulatively.
- not have citizenship of any developed country (exceptions may be made in some instances for Timorese citizens holding Portuguese citizenship).
- not currently holding another scholarship with the same benefits.
- not have been terminated or withdrawn from a previous Australian Government scholarship.

Applicants currently employed as public servants, including within semi-autonomous state institutions (e.g. Timor Gap) must:

- provide a signed letter of endorsement from the relevant senior government official e.g. Director General or National Director.
- check with the human resource department of the Civil Service Commission and confirm that they have permission to apply for an Australia Awards Scholarship prior to applying.
- if the applicant is a permanent public servant who was previously awarded a Government of Timor-Leste scholarship, the applicant must check with the relevant scholarship department to ensure all previous scholarship conditions have been fulfilled and that they are authorised to apply for an Australia Awards scholarship.
- if the applicant is not currently a public servant but was previously awarded a Government of Timor-Leste scholarship, the applicant must provide a confirmation letter from the relevant government scholarship department that they are authorised to apply for an Australia Awards scholarship.

Qualifications and English language requirements

i. Applicants with a disability applying for Diploma/Advanced Diploma studies must have:

- English language proficiency of at least an IELTS overall score of 5.0, with no band score less than 4.5; and
- graduated from senior high school with a Grade Point Average (GPA) of 7.00 or have graduated from the UNTL CBR diploma 1 with a GPA of at least 2.50.

ii. Applicants for Bachelor studies must have:

- English language proficiency of at least an IELTS overall score of 5.5, with no band score less than 5.5; and
- graduated from senior high school with a minimum Grade Point Average (GPA) of 7.00 with a minimum nine months professional (inclusive of volunteer) working experience or have graduated from the UNTL CBR Diploma 1 with a GPA of at least 2.50 and minimum nine months professional (inclusive of volunteer) working experience.

iii. Master's by coursework or research level applicants must have:

- English language proficiency of at least an IELTS overall score of 6.0, with no band score less than 5.5; and
- a recognised undergraduate degree with a GPA of at least 2.75, with a minimum two-year relevant work experience

iv. PhD level applicants must have:

- a GPA of at least 3.00; and
- English language proficiency of at least an IELTS overall score of 6.5, with no band score less than 6.0.

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

Online applications

All applications must be lodged online through [OASIS](#) with minimum of two course preferences.

Supporting documents

Applicants must submit all the relevant supporting documents listed in the Australia Awards Scholarships Policy Handbook. Applicants must also provide the following documents to meet the specific requirements for **Timor-Leste**.

Diploma/Undergraduate

Required document	OASIS document type	Certified
Copy of citizenship, i.e. Identity Card (BI), Electoral Card or Passport	Proof of citizenship	No
Copy of birth certificate, (RDTL) English version and certified by TL Ministry of Justice	Proof of citizenship	Yes
Current curriculum vitae (CV) <i>Refer to Templates on Australia Awards Timor-Leste website</i>	Curriculum vitae / Resume	No
Minimum of two current reference letters in English (one academic and one professional reference). <i>Refer to Templates on the Australia Awards Timor-Leste website.</i> <i>Reference letters must not be more than one year old.</i>	Other documents	No
Third year transcript (English version and copy of original)	Academic transcript	No (certified document required at interview stage)
Secondary school diploma (English version and copy of original) Any online diplomas and transcript must be certified in advance by the Ministry of Education	Degree certificate	No (certified document required at interview stage)
Returning home reintegration plan <i>Refer to Templates on Australia Awards Timor-Leste website</i>	Other documents	No
If available, IELTS results obtained after 1 January 2025	Proof of English Language Proficiency	No

Master's by Coursework, Master's by Research, and PhD

Required document	OASIS document type	Certified
Copy of citizenship, i.e. Identity Card (BI), Electoral Card or Passport	Proof of citizenship	No
Copy of birth certificate, (RDTL) English version and certified by TL Ministry of Justice	Proof of citizenship	Yes
Current curriculum vitae (CV) <i>Refer to Templates on Australia Awards Timor-Leste website</i>	Curriculum vitae / Resume	No
Minimum of two current reference letters in English (one academic and one professional reference). If applicant graduated more than 6 years ago, two professional references can be submitted. <i>Refer to Templates on the Australia Awards Timor-Leste website. Reference letters must not be more than one year old.</i>	Other documents	No
All official university degree certificates and academic transcripts (English version and copy of original). <i>Note: If no GPA is recorded on the transcripts, please obtain a statement from the university that confirms GPA equivalence.</i>	Academic transcript	No (certified document required at interview stage) Any online diplomas must be certified in advance by the Ministry of Education
Undergraduate or Master diploma (English version and copy of original). Any online diplomas and transcript must be certified in advance by the Ministry of Education	Degree certificate	No (certified document required at interview stage)
Returning home reintegration plan <i>Refer to Templates on Australia Awards Timor-Leste website</i>	Other documents	No
If available, IELTS results obtained after 1 January 2025	Proof of English Language Proficiency	No

Additional documents required for Master's by Research/PhD

Required document	OASIS document type	Certified
Two signed recent academic research referee reports <i>Refer to Templates on the Australia Awards Timor-Leste website.</i>	Other documents	No
Evidence (letter or email) that you have received in principle support for your research topic from potential supervisors of course preference 1 and 2 (PhD only)	Other documents	No
Outline of the proposed research project	Other documents	No
Details of proposed fieldwork with indicative timelines	Other documents	No

Additional documents required by public servants / previous GoTL scholarship awardees.

Required document	OASIS document type	Certified
Endorsement from your employer (line supervisor), e.g. Director General or National Director <i>Refer to Templates on the Australia Awards Timor-Leste website.</i>	Employer or nominating authority statement	No
Confirmation letter from the relevant government scholarship department that you are eligible to apply for the Australia Awards 2026 intake (if applicant has undertaken previous government-funded scholarship) <i>Refer to Templates on the Australia Awards Timor-Leste website.</i>	Other documents	No

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 Timor-Leste.
- professional and personal leadership attributes including relevant work experience.

Successful candidates will be notified in mid-August 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
- pre-departure briefing
- university's Introductory Academic Program
- other required preparatory study on arrival in Australia.

Further information

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

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