Bhutan

Applying for an Australia Awards Scholarship

Australia Awards Scholarships in Bhutan

Australia’s international development assistance in Bhutan targets human resource gaps in identified priority sectors.

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.

In Bhutan, the awards provide opportunities for study and professional development at the Master’s level, and aim to develop capacity and leadership skills so that individuals can contribute to Bhutan’s development.

Applicants will be assessed for their professional and personal qualities, academic competence and, most importantly, their potential to impact on development challenges in Bhutan.

Applications are strongly encouraged from eligible women, people with disability and people working in remote areas.

Priority fields of study (Development Themes)

The priority areas of study for Bhutan for Intake 2016 are detailed in the attachment to this document and are also available at www.australiaawardsbhutan.org.

Applicants must research two preferred courses, including information provided on institution websites, and ensure that they meet the institution’s English language & other course related requirements.

Level of study

Australia Awards Scholarships

These Scholarships provide citizens of Bhutan with the opportunity to obtain a Master’s qualification at an Australian tertiary institution.

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 generally 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
- visa expenses
- supplementary academic support
- fieldwork allowance - for research students and masters by course work which has a compulsory fieldwork component
- reunion airfare (for unaccompanied awardees).

Eligibility criteria

Australia Awards applicants must meet all eligibility requirements detailed in the Scholarships Policy Handbook, available at:


In addition to these basic eligibility requirements, applicants from Bhutan must also meet the following country-specific conditions.

- Have completed a tertiary level qualification at least equivalent to an Australian Bachelor’s degree.
- Have achieved a minimum academic IELTS overall score of 6.5 with no band less than 6.0; or a TOEFL paper-based test score of at least 580, with a minimum of 4.5 in the test of written English, or an internet-based TOEFL score of at least 92, with a minimum of 21 in all subtests, or a Pearson Test of English Academic (PTE Academic) overall score of 58, with no communicative skill score less than 50. Scores must be valid at 1 January 2016.
- Be employed on a full-time basis.
- Have at least three years of relevant work experience, including probation period.
- Provide an employer nomination letter from the Human Resource Officer (HRO) of the parent organisation/agency. In addition, applicants under the purview of the Ministry of Labour and Human Resources (MOLHR) must also submit
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- A nomination letter from the Department of Human Resources.
- Have relevant academic background for the proposed study program that the applicant is nominated against.
- Fall under the specified target group identified for a particular field of study for Intake 2016 as detailed in the attachment to this document titled “Australia Awards Bhutan – priority fields of study”.
- Meet any other eligibility criteria specified under the BCSR 2012 or the “Guidelines for Human Resource Development (HRD) support to private and corporate sector” of the Department of Human Resources, MOLHR - whichever applies.

Special conditions

Applicants must also meet the following special conditions:

- Recipients of awards are required to return to Bhutan for at least two years after completing their studies.
- Awards for intake 2016 must be taken up in the same year. They cannot be deferred to a future year.

Application dates (for study commencing in Australia in 2016)

Opening date: 1 February 2015
Closing date: 30 April 2015

Applications or supporting documents received after this date will not be considered.

The application process

Online applications

Apply online at: https://oasis.ausaid.gov.au/

We strongly advise applicants to apply online and to do so 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.

Hardcopy applications

If it is not possible to lodge an online application, contact the Australia Awards Office Bhutan for assistance, well in advance of the application closing date. Hardcopy applications will only be accepted from applicants who have difficulty in accessing the internet.

Supporting documents

Applicants must submit all of the following supporting documents with their application—these include generic documents requested in the Scholarships Policy Handbook and specific documents required for applicants from Bhutan.

Documents requiring certification are specified in the table. If the document is not in English, the translated copy must be certified. See the Scholarships Policy Handbook for certification requirements.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Document</th>
<th>Document type</th>
<th>Certified</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ordinary passport</td>
<td>Proof of citizenship</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Birth certificate</td>
<td>Proof of citizenship</td>
<td>Yes</td>
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The selection process
Following eligibility checking, applications will be assessed by independent consultants and then shortlisted by Australian Government representatives. Only shortlisted applicants will be invited to a selection interview, which will include a writing exercise using a computer. Applicants will be assessed against the following criteria:

- Academic competence
- Professional and personal leadership attributes
- Potential outcome, including contribution to development outcomes in Bhutan.

Applicants will be short-listed by the Australian Embassy New Delhi and interviewed by a panel comprising of representatives of the Australian Government and the Royal Government of Bhutan.

Preparatory training
All successful applicants will be required to attend a visa and mobilization briefing and a pre-departure briefing conducted by Australia Awards office.

Outcomes
All applicants will receive notification as to whether they have been successful in September 2015.

Further information
Further information about the Australia Awards can be found at:

Information about visas and Australia Awards Scholarship entitlements and conditions can be found in the Scholarships Policy Handbook, available at:

More general information about the Australia Awards and studying in Australia can be found at:
http://australiaawards.gov.au
http://aid.dfat.gov.au
http://studyinaustralia.gov.au

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