



Tonga

Applying for an Australia Awards Scholarship

Australia Awards scholarships in Tonga

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.

Applicants are assessed on their professional and personal qualities, academic competence and their potential to impact on development challenges Tonga.

Applications are strongly encouraged from women, people with disability and other marginalised groups.

Priority fields of study

Australia's international development assistance in Tonga helps promote prosperity, reduce poverty, and enhance political stability. Australia Awards scholarships prioritise areas of study that support these goals.

The priority areas of study for Tonga are:

1. Governance, economic and private sector development – develop a more efficient public sector, including in procurement and financial management and promote private sector growth
2. Health – reduce the prevalence of non-communicable disease risk factors such as smoking and obesity and strengthen Tonga's focus on primary health care and health systems strengthening
3. Skills Development including Technical and Vocational Education and Training – improving quality of education and building a more highly skilled workforce linked to industry demand
4. Cross cutting issues of Gender, Disability and Climate Change.

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

Level of study

Australia Awards Scholarships

These scholarships provide citizens of Tonga with the opportunity to obtain postgraduate qualification at an Australian tertiary institution.

Australia Awards Pacific Scholarships

These scholarships provide opportunities to Tongans to study at a tertiary institution in the Pacific for the benefit of development in Tonga. This type of scholarship is available for study at the undergraduate and postgraduate level.

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/Pacific 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 (only if this is a compulsory component and essential to study program).

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

English language proficiency

Applicants must have achieved an IELTS (Academic) score of 6.5 or higher (with no individual band score of less than 6.0) or an equivalent TOEFL or PTE score. Scores must be valid at 1 January 2021.

Commencement of study

All scholarships must be taken up in the year for which they are awarded. Should an awardee not be able to commence study by November in the year of the award, the scholarship will be cancelled.

Country-specific conditions

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

- Applicant must not be a dual citizen with either Australia or New Zealand;
- Applicant has not held a long term scholarship to study outside their home country in the 24 months preceding to time of application. In-country awards do not apply in this instance;
- Applicant must not have been terminated five (5) years preceding time of application; and
- Australia Awards Scholarships (AAS) applicants must have at least three years' work experience in the chosen field of study.

Institutional Requirements

Australia Awards Scholarship applicants **while not a condition**, it is advisable to have an IELTS or TOEFL at pass rate of 6.5 for each band that is current at the time of application.

Application dates

For study commencing in Australia and the region in 2021

Opening date: 1 February 2020

Closing date: 30 April 2020

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

The application process

Online applications

All applications must apply online at:
<https://oasis.dfat.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.

Special Note

We will still accept hardcopy applications from the outer islands. Application forms can be obtained from the High Commission Website:
<http://www.tonga.embassy.gov.au>.

Supporting documents

Applicants must submit all of the relevant supporting documents listed in the *Australia Awards Scholarships Policy Handbook*.

Applicants must also provide the following documents at the time of application (as indicated below). **Please note that none of the documents needs to be certified at the time of application but will be required after the short-listing process.**

Document type	AAS	AAPS
Proof of citizenship i.e. birth certificate /passport if available and photographic identification i.e. student card/drivers licence if passport is not available.	Yes	Yes
Tertiary degree certificates (Bachelors and Masters level)	Yes	Yes
Academic transcripts (where they are not in English please provide an English translation)	Yes	Yes
IELTS, TOEFL or PTE Academic results	NA	NA
Academic Referee Report with stamp: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 2x for Masters/PhD by Research• 1x for Masters by coursework Employment Referee Report with stamp (template for both Referee Reports can be obtained from the Australia Awards website: https://dfat.gov.au/about-us/publications/Documents/referee.pdf)	Yes	No
Academic Reference Letter with stamp and an Employment Reference Letter with stamp	No	Yes
Curriculum Vitae	Yes	Yes
Development Impact Plan, for Australia Awards Scholarships only.	Yes	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 Tonga

- professional and personal leadership attributes including relevant work experience.

Outcomes

All applicants will receive notification as to whether they have been successful by 30 November 2020.

Preparatory training

- All successful applicants will be required to attend a pre-departure briefing
- You may also be required to complete the following preparatory training and or testing:
 - University's Introductory Academic Program
 - IELTS-International English Language Testing System to assess English language competence.

Further information

Information about the Australia Awards—Tonga can be found at www.tonga.embassy.gov.au

More general information about the Australia Awards, Australia's aid program, and studying in Australia can be found at the following links:

- <https://dfat.gov.au/people-to-people/australia-awards/Pages/australia-awards-scholarships.aspx>
- studyinaustralia.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

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