



Maldives

Applying for an Australia Awards Scholarship

Australia Awards scholarships in Maldives

As set out in DFAT's Maldives COVID-19 Development Response Plan, Australia's development cooperation program in Maldives contributes to three objectives: health security, social stability and economic recovery from COVID-19, with a focus on inclusion and addressing vulnerability. The objectives of the Australia Awards Scholarships program in Maldives are likewise guided by the Response Plan.

Australia Awards scholarships are prestigious international awards offered by the Australian Government to the next generation of global leaders for development in post-COVID-19 Maldives. 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 positively impact on the Maldives' development.

Applications are strongly encouraged from women and people with disability.

Priority fields of study

Applicants may select an appropriate field of study in line with the following priority sectors:

Priority sectors	Field of Study
Health Security	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Public Health Health Management Health and Wellbeing Pandemic Control Epidemiology Food Security Counselling Psychosocial counselling Clinical Psychology
Stability	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Development Studies Disability Studies Human Resource Management Humanitarian and Disaster Management* Law Political Science Project Management Public Administration Public Policy

Priority sectors	Field of Study
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Statistics <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Social and Economic Inclusion Environmental Resource Management Gender Studies Political Science Psychology Sociology
Economic Recovery	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Economics Agriculture Economics Business Administration Customs Administration* Development Economics Economics Educational Management Fisheries & Aquatic Resources Finance Information & Communication Technologies International Finance International Trade Maritime Studies Mathematics Tourism and Hospitality Trade and Investment Urban Planning

The governments of Australia and Maldives regularly review priority areas together and adjust the emphasis of the program. Detailed information on priority areas of study can be found at: **Australia Awards Maldives**

Level of study

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

Awards will be offered for commencement in 2022 within the following allocations:

- Masters level qualification (by coursework or research)

Applicants must research two courses in participating institutions, including information provided on institution websites, and ensure that they meet the institution's English language and other admission/entry requirements.

Options for mode of delivery and structure of the courses are currently reexamined to suit the post COVID context. These options could include a hybrid structure with components through distant learning or in the region by Australian tertiary institutions that have already established a presence. Specific details on the structure and mode of delivery will depend on selected courses and could be found at www.australiaawardsmaldives.org once finalized.

In completing their applications, applicants should provide sound justification for course selection and demonstrate direct links with their Development Impact Plans, work experience and proposed outcome of study.

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 depending on the mode and structure of the selected course:

- 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 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***,

Commencement of study

All scholarships must be taken up in the year for which they are awarded, this however also depends on travel restrictions due to COVID-19. Should an awardee not be able to commence study in 2022, the scholarship will be withdrawn.

Country Specific Conditions

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

- must meet the English language requirements as set out in the Australia Awards Scholarships Policy Handbook. Scores must be valid at 1 January 2022.
- **not** have held a foreign scholarship in the 24 months preceding the application closing date.
- **not** have obtained an academic qualification outside the Maldives in the 24 months preceding the application closing date, calculated from the date of arrival back in the home country
- have a tertiary qualification at least equivalent to an Australian Bachelor degree
- select a Masters Degree course not longer than two years in duration
- have worked in the Maldives for at least 24 months preceding the application closing date and after completing their Bachelor's degree.

Special Conditions

- Public sector employees selected for an Australia Awards scholarship will be required to provide a copy of their official leave approval document to the Australia Awards office prior to departure.
- Awardees are required to return to the Maldives for at least two years after completing their Scholarship, to contribute to the economic and social development of the country. Failure to do so will incur a debt to the Commonwealth of Australia for the total value of the scholarship.
- Awards for studies in 2021 must be taken in that year. They cannot be transferred to a future year except for reasons provided in the *Australia Awards Scholarships Policy Handbook*.
- Awardees are required to sign a contract with the Commonwealth of Australia declaring they will comply with the conditions of the scholarship.
- English proficiency scores must be valid at 1 January 2022 and should be submitted no later than 31 May 2021.

Scholarships **will not** be available for courses of study in Australia where the applicant has already achieved that qualification and the qualification is deemed to be equivalent to the Australian qualification

Australia Awards Scholarships program will request recognition of prior learning for all scholarship recipients from Maldives. If this request is granted, the recipient may be placed in a degree program that may be shorter in duration than what they have originally applied for.

Application dates

For study commencing in Australia in 2022:

Opening date: **1 February 2021**

Closing date: **30 April 2021 (11:59pm Canberra Time)**

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

The application process

Online applications

All applications must be lodged online through **OASIS**.

Supporting documents

Applicants must submit all of the relevant supporting documents listed in the table below:

Required document	OASIS document type	Certified
Tertiary degree certificates	Degree Certificate	Yes
Academic grades for university qualifications	Academic Transcript	Yes
Passport/National ID/ Driving licence	Proof of citizenship	Yes
Birth certificate	Proof of place of birth	Yes
Curriculum Vitae (CV)*	Other Document	No
Development Impact Plan (DIP) document	Other Document	No
Certificates of special achievement or merit	Other Document	No
English language test (IELTS, TOEFL or PTE) results certificate valid at 1 January 2021	Proof of English language proficiency	Yes
Masters coursework applicants: One academic referee report and one professional referee report (e.g. a work supervisor with referee's seal) *	Referee Report	No
Masters research applicants: two academic referee reports and one professional referee report (e.g. a work supervisor with referee's seal) *	Referee Report	No
Masters research applicants: a research proposal. This proposal must include a proposed methodology,	Other Document	No

Required document	OASIS document type	Certified
timeline and a brief literature review		
Employment Letter*	Other Document	No
Any other document you wish to upload ensuring your eligibility	Other Document	No

*Template available at: www.australiaawardsmaldives.org

Notes:

- All documents must be certified. If the document is not in English, the translated copy must be certified. See the **Australia Awards Scholarships Policy Handbook** for certification requirements.
- Referee reports in different formats cannot be accepted and may make applications ineligible. Contact the Australia Awards Sri Lanka & Maldives office to clarify reference requirements.

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, including contribution to development outcomes in the Maldives
 - professional and personal leadership attributes.
- Successful candidates will be notified no later than 31 August 2021.

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

Further information

Information about the Australia Awards—Maldives can be found at www.australiaawardsmaldives.org

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

- **Australia Awards**
- **Study in Australia**

Information about visas and Australia Awards scholarship entitlements and conditions can be found in the **Scholarships Policy Handbook**

Contact details

Australia Awards - Sri Lanka & Maldives Office

Address: 75 1/1, Kynsey Road, Colombo 08, Sri Lanka

Telephone: +94 115 772 977 – 80

Email: inquiries@australiaawardsmaldives.org