



Bhutan

Applying for an Australia Awards Scholarship (Intake 2018)

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 based on 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 of Bhutan. At least 50 per cent of the Awards will be given to qualified women applicants.

Priority areas of study

The priority areas of study for Bhutan for Intake 2018 are 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 and other course related requirements.

Level of study

Australia Awards Scholarships

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

Australia Awards Scholarships benefits

Australia Awards Scholarships for Bhutan are offered for a maximum of two years or for the minimum period necessary

for an 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 Australia Awards Scholarships Policy Handbook, available at:

<http://dfat.gov.au/about-us/publications/Pages/australia-awards-scholarships-policy-handbook.aspx>

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 2018.
- Be employed in an organisation 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 a nomination letter from the Department of Human Resources, MoLHR.
- Have a relevant academic background for the proposed study program that the applicant is nominated against.
- Fall under the specified target groups identified for the fields of study under the priority study areas for Intake 2018 as detailed in www.australiaawardsbhutan.org.
- Meet any other eligibility criteria specified under the BCSR 2012 or the “Guidelines for Human Resource Development support to private and corporate sector” of the Department of Human Resources, MoLHR - whichever applies.
- All applicants must submit a Development Impact Plan. Template available at: www.australiaawardsbhutan.org

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 2018 must be taken up in the same year. They cannot be deferred to a future year.

Application dates (for study commencing in 2018)

Opening date: 1 February 2017

Closing date: 30 April 2017

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

The application process

Online applications

Apply online at: <https://oasis.dfat.gov.au/>

Applicants are strongly advised to submit applications online well before the closing date through Online Australia Awards Scholarships Information System (OASIS). 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 unable to lodge an application online, please contact the Australia Awards Bhutan Country Office for assistance, well in advance of the application closing date. Hardcopy applications will only be accepted from applicants who have no internet access. All hardcopy applications will need to be submitted on or before 15 April 2017.

Supporting documents

Applicants must submit all of the following supporting documents with their application, including 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 *Australia Awards Scholarships Policy Handbook* for certification requirements.

Required Document	OASIS Document Type	Certified
Ordinary passport	Proof of citizenship	Yes
Birth certificate	Proof of citizenship	Yes
National citizenship ID card	Proof of citizenship	Yes
Degree certificate and/or PG Diploma certificates (if applicable)	Degree certificate	Yes
Academic transcripts/mark sheets*	Academic transcripts	Yes
IELTS or TOEFL or PTE certificate (valid at 1 January 2018)	English language proficiency	Yes
Certificates of special achievement or merit (if any)	Other document	Yes
Evidence of previous scholarships (if any)	Other document	No
Nomination letter from employer**	Other document	No
Additional nomination letter from the Department of Human Resources (DHR), MoLHR (for applicants under the purview of MoLHR)**	Other document	No
Development Impact Plan (DIP)	Other document	No
Security clearance certificate (copy of online approval)****	Other document	No
Curriculum Vitae (CV)**	Other document	No
Recent passport-size photograph	Photograph	No
Applicants for Masters by Coursework		
Two referee reports – one professional, one academic (use the same template)***	Referee report	No
Applicants for Masters by Research		
Three referee reports – one professional, two academic (use the same template)***	Referee report	No

Evidence (letter or email communication) that the applicant has received in-principle support for their research topic from a potential supervisor	Other document	No
Research proposal (inclusive of a proposed methodology, timeline and a brief literature review)**	Other document	No

* Applicants should submit both consolidated and year-by-year transcripts.

** Templates are available at:
www.australiaawardsbhutan.org

*** Templates are available at <http://dfat.gov.au/people-to-people/australia-awards/Pages/how-to-apply-for-an-australia-awards-scholarship.aspx>

**** Shortlisted applicants will be required to produce hard copy security clearance certificates at the time of interview.

Notes:

- Experience shows that it takes time for supervisors to complete referee reports. Approach supervisors as soon as possible to obtain up-to-date referee reports. References should come from employers, senior colleagues or academics familiar with the applicant's academic, professional skills and achievements. Referee reports from family members or spouses are not acceptable.
- Referee reports other than the prescribed format will not be accepted and may make applications ineligible. Contact the Australia Awards Bhutan to clarify this requirement, if necessary.

The selection process

Following eligibility checking, applications will be assessed by independent consultants and then short-listed by Australian Government representatives. Only short-listed 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.

Preparatory training

All successful applicants will be required to attend a visa and mobilization briefing session and a pre-departure briefing/farewell event before they leave for Australia.

Outcomes

All applicants will receive notification as to whether they have been successful in August 2017.

Further information

Further information about the Australia Awards can be found at:

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

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

<http://dfat.gov.au/about-us/publications/Pages/australia-awards-scholarships-policy-handbook.aspx>

Other useful websites:

<http://studyinaustralia.gov.au>

<http://cricos.education.gov.au/default.aspx>

www.border.gov.au (information about Australian visas)

Contact Details

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