



Australia Awards

# Africa

## Applying for an Australia Awards scholarship

### Australia Awards scholarships in Africa

Australia's international development assistance promotes a prosperous, resilient and stable Africa.

The Australia Awards program aims to support partner countries in achieving their development goals through education, knowledge exchange, and building enduring relationships with Australia. It equips emerging leaders with the skills, networks, and experience needed to contribute to sustainable development and foster international cooperation.

Applicants are assessed on their professional and personal qualities, academic competence and, most importantly, their potential to exercise leadership and impact on development challenges in eligible countries.

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

### Eligible Countries

Algeria, Angola, Botswana, Côte d'Ivoire, Democratic Republic of Congo, Egypt, Ethiopia, Ghana, Guinea, the Gambia, Kenya, Madagascar, Malawi, Mauritius, Morocco, Mozambique, Namibia, Nigeria, Rwanda, Sierra Leone, South Africa, Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia, and Zimbabwe.

### Priority fields of study

The priority areas of study for eligible African countries are:

- agriculture and food security
- climate change
- foreign policy and international security
- gender, disability, and social inclusion
- mining and energy



The Government of Australia regularly reviews these areas of study and adjust the emphasis of the program. Detailed information on priority areas of study can be found at [Australia Awards Africa](#).

### **Level of study**

Australia Awards scholarships provide citizens of eligible African countries 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 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](#).

### **Country-specific conditions**

In addition to the eligibility requirements, to be considered for awards in 2027, candidates from eligible African countries must also meet the following conditions:

- be a minimum of 25 years of age on 1 February 2027.
- at minimum, have 5 years of post-graduate work experience, working in a field relative to their field of study
- be employed at the time of applying for the scholarship
- be a citizen of Algeria, Angola, Botswana, Côte d'Ivoire, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Egypt, Ethiopia, Ghana, Guinea, the Gambia, Kenya, Madagascar, Malawi, Mauritius, Morocco, Mozambique, Namibia, Nigeria, Rwanda, Sierra Leone, South Africa, Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia, and Zimbabwe and be residing in and applying for the scholarship from their country of citizenship, unless working for an African Regional Organisation or working on diplomatic mission for their home country
- not already hold or be undertaking a master's degree or equivalent (equivalent to a master's degree in home country)
- already hold an undergraduate degree (equivalent to an Australian undergraduate degree)
- not have previously received a long-term Australia Award,
- meet the minimum English language proficiency of at least 6.5 in IELTS with no band less than 6.0 (an internet based TOEFL score of at least 84, with a minimum of 21 in all subtests, or PTE Academic overall score of 58 with no communicative skill score less than 50). Scores must be valid on 1 January 2026 (excluding candidates if their first language is English and they have undertaken their education in English).

The Program also makes access adjustments for people with disabilities and for prospective students wanting to specialise in disability rights and inclusions.

Please visit [GEDSI Support Hub](#) for additional information about how the Program supports inclusivity.

## Application dates

For study commencing in Australia in 2027:

Opening date: 1 February 2026 (09:00 AEDT)

Closing date: 30 April 2026 (14:00 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](#).

- Applicants must use their full name exactly as it appears on their passport, including first, middle, and last names.
- Applicants must not use nicknames, shortened versions, or abbreviations of their names.

### Supporting documents

Applicants must submit all the relevant supporting documents listed in the *Australia Awards Scholarships Policy Handbook*. Applicants must compile documents into single PDFs by document category, name the files appropriately (e.g. “Certificates”, “Referee Reports”), and ensure that the scanned documents are in colour, legible, in correct page order and orientation.

Applicants must also provide the following documents to meet the specific requirements for Australia Awards Africa.

Required document	OASIS document type	Certified
Passport	Proof of Citizenship	Yes
Undergraduate Degree Certificate	Degree Certificate	Yes
Undergraduate Academic Transcript	Academic Transcript	Yes
Curriculum Vitae	Curriculum Vitae	Yes
Employer Referee Report	Referee Report	Yes
Academic Referee Report	Referee Report	Yes
IELTS/TOEFL/Peason Test Certificate (excluding candidates if their first language is English and they have undertaken their education in English)	Proof of English language proficiency	Yes

Successful candidates will be required to produce original documents for certification.

## The selection process

- Applications will be shortlisted after eligibility checking.
- Only shortlisted candidates will be contacted regarding the outcome of the shortlisting process.
- 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 Africa
  - professional and personal leadership attributes including relevant work experience.
- Successful candidates will be notified in late 2026.
- Awardee travel will be subject to meeting the requirements imposed by the Australian Government, as determined by the federal 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 in Australia](#)

Information about visas and Australia Awards scholarship entitlements and conditions can be found in the [Australia Awards Scholarships Policy Handbook](#).

## Contact details

Australia Awards Africa

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