



Australia Awards

Solomon Islands Australia Awards Scholarships – 2022 intake

Online application information kit

Introduction

The online application information kit is to assist you to complete a competitive application for an Australia Awards Scholarship. On reading this information, and after consulting the *Australia Awards Policy Handbook* and the *Solomon Islands Country Profile*, if you have any further questions or require additional assistance, please email: australiaawards-solomonislands@sirf.com.sb. We aim to respond within two working days.

It is important that your application form is complete, accurate, and true if it is to be considered for an Australia Awards Scholarship. Do not leave it until the last minute to complete the application form because it requires from you detailed information and supporting documents. The three-month period between the Opening Date and Closing Date for scholarship applications is in acknowledgement of this.

The Australia Awards Scholarships online information system, OASIS, enables you to enter and leave your application form until it is complete. However, you must submit the application form before the **Application Closing Date, 31 May 2021**. OASIS will not let you access or submit the form after this date. The application form is available at <https://oasis.dfat.gov.au>

A list of Frequently Asked Questions is available on p. 10.

Eligibility criteria

In order to be eligible for an Australia Awards Scholarship, you must meet **ALL** the Eligibility Criteria outlined below i.e. General Eligibility Criteria and Eligibility Criteria for Solomon Islands. **If you do not meet all the Eligibility Criteria your application will not be considered.**

General Eligibility Criteria

The Australian Government offers Australia Awards Scholarships in around 45 countries, including Solomon Islands. Applicants from all countries must meet the following Eligibility Criteria:

- i. be a minimum of 18 years of age on 1 February of the year of commencing the scholarship;
- ii. be a citizen of a participating country (as listed on the Australia Awards website) and be residing in and applying for the scholarship from their country of citizenship;
- iii. not be a citizen of Australia, hold permanent residency in Australia or be applying for a visa to live in Australia permanently;
- iv. not be married to, engaged to, or a de facto of a person who holds, or is eligible to hold, Australian or New Zealand citizenship or permanent residency, at any time during the application, selection, or mobilisation phases;

- v. not be current serving military personnel;
- vi. not have previously received a long-term Australia Award unless they have resided outside of Australia for twice the length of the total time that they were in Australia (for example, a previous awardee who has been on an Australia Awards Scholarship in Australia for four years will not be eligible to apply for another Australia Awards Scholarship until they have resided outside Australia for eight years);
- vii. not hold convictions or currently under investigation of criminal activities including those relating to Child Protection and Preventing Sexual Exploitation, Abuse and Harassment (PSEAH);
- viii. have satisfied any specific criteria established by the Country Program Area or the government of the applicant's country of citizenship (e.g. having worked a certain number of years in an appropriate sector);
- ix. be able to satisfy the admission requirements of the institution at which the award is to be undertaken (this may mean that Program Areas will need to withdraw an award offer if the recipient cannot satisfy the institution's admission requirements. This may not be known until Program Areas request a placement at selected institutions);
- x. be able to satisfy all requirements of the Department of Home Affairs to hold a Student Visa (subclass 500). This may mean that the Program Area will need to withdraw an award offer if the recipient cannot satisfy the visa requirements;
- xi. not be applying for a scholarship for a course of study at an academic level lesser than they have already achieved (e.g. be applying for a Master's Degree level scholarship when they already hold a PhD); and
- xii. applicants must inform the Australia Awards Program of any connection or relationship to staff employed at Program Areas (including locally engaged staff at post) or with managing contractors so that the application may be properly and transparently managed. **This does not deem you ineligible for a scholarship.**

Additional Eligibility Criteria for Solomon Island applicants

Most countries have additional Eligibility Criteria for an Australia Awards Scholarship. For Solomon Islands, applicants:

- i. must have completed Form 6 and have an aggregate score higher than 11;
- ii. may apply while completing Form 7 in 2021. Final Form 7 results must be submitted once received;
- iii. must not hold an equivalent qualification or higher qualification at time of application, or commencement of award;
- iv. must not be serving an existing scholarship bond with Solomon Island Government (SIG) or any other government e.g. requirement to remain in Solomon Islands for a specified period of time; and
- v. may seek an exemption from General Eligibility Criterion ii) that applicants cannot apply from outside Solomon Islands, due to current travel restrictions imposed by COVID-19 responses. DFAT will consider exemptions on a case-by-case basis if the request is made and approved before lodging an application.

English language requirements

Australian institutions will require you to meet a minimum level of spoken and written English before you will be offered a placement at the institution. English language testing will be arranged by the Australia Awards Program in Honiara, for those applicants identified to receive a scholarship and for those identified as a reserve should a scholarship become available.

English language scores are not negotiable. All applicants must meet the following requirements:

- i. an Academic IELTS result with an overall score of at least 6.5, with no band less than 6.0, or
- ii. an internet-based TOEFL score of at least 84, with a minimum of 21 in all subtests, or
- iii. PTE Academic overall score of 58 with no communicative skill score less than 50.

Successful applicants and reserves (those identified to receive a scholarship should one become available) are therefore required to undertake an English language test. Accepted English language tests are:

- International English Language Testing System Academic (IELTS)
- Test of English as a Foreign Language internet-based test (TOEFL-iBT), or
- Pearson Test of English Academic (PTE Academic).

Levels of study and priority fields

Australia Awards Scholarships are available for undergraduate and postgraduate study in Australia. (Awards are not available for vocational education and training, Diploma, or Graduate Diploma studies).

Applications are encouraged across a broad range of priority fields of study for the development of Solomon Islands:

- **Health (postgraduate only):** including Health Informatics; Pharmacy; Mental Health; Epidemiology; Remote Medicine; Obstetrics; Midwifery; Paediatric Medicine/Nursing; Emergency Medicine/Nursing; Intensive Care Nursing; Public Health; and Health Policy and/or Administration;
- **Education (postgraduate only):** including but not limited to school leadership and management; Technical Vocational Education and Training (TVET); and training for teachers;
- **Development studies:** including Gender Equality;
- **Environment:** including Disaster Risk Reduction and Adaptation; Climate Change; Climate Finance/Economics; Conservation; Waste Management; Water Management; and Environment and Resource Economics;
- **Economic Growth:** including Economics; Supply Chain Management; Business Studies; Accounting; Information Technology; Tourism and Hospitality; Marketing and Public Relations; and Art and History Curating;
- **Counselling and Social Work:** including child protection;
- **Infrastructure:** Engineering (including biomedical, civil, water, sanitation, electrical, maritime, biomedical, construction and mining); Surveying; Building and Construction; Urban Planning; Architecture; and Landscape Design;
- **Agriculture, Fisheries, Forestry and Veterinary Science;** and

- **Governance:** including Statistics; Public Sector Reform; Public Financial Management; Procurement; and Contract Management.

Completing an application form

Before completing the application form you **must** read the *Australia Awards Scholarships Policy Handbook* (at <http://www.dfat.gov.au/about-us/publications/australia-awards-scholarships-policy-handbook>) and the Solomon Islands Country Profile (at [Solomon Islands - information for Australia Awards intake commencing 2022 \[PDF 200 KB\] \(dfat.gov.au\)](http://www.dfat.gov.au/australia-awards-scholarships-policy-handbook/solomon-islands-information-for-australia-awards-intake-commencing-2022)).

You must complete all questions in the application form. Read the questions carefully and ensure that you have provided responses to the full question. An incomplete application will not be considered.

Should a question include * you will not be able to proceed to the next section of the application form without completing that question (* indicates a mandatory field). **You can save and leave the online application form while you seek additional information.**

Supporting documents

You are required to supply documents to support your scholarship application. They are:

- i. a certified copy of original formal degree graduation certificate (i.e. testamur) and, if not in English, a certified translation of the degree;
- ii. a certified copy of original formal degree graduation certificate and academic transcript/s from Form 6 and Form 7 if completed, as well as from university if completed - including GPA, grading scale, and explanatory page and, if not in English, a certified translation copy of the transcript/s;
- iii. a certified copy of a citizenship document (e.g. passport);
- iv. a certified copy of original birth certificate and, if not in English, a certified translation;
- v. a curriculum vitae (CV) briefly detailing work history and responsibilities (and research experience, if relevant to the application);
- vi. two referee reports less than six months old: at least one academic referee report and at least one other referee report (e.g. a work supervisor). Master's Degree by Research or PhD applicants should provide two academic referee reports. A template for the preferred format of a referee report is available at <http://dfat.gov.au/people-to-people/australia-awards/pages/how-to-apply-for-an-australia-awards-scholarship.aspx>;
- vii. a certified copy of original English language test (IELTS OR TOEFL OR PTE) results certificate valid until 1 January of the year in which the studies will commence. (For example, as results are normally valid for two years, the test date would need to have been taken after 1 January 2020 for an application for a scholarship to commence studies in 2022);
- viii. PhD candidates only - evidence (e.g. letter or email communication) that the applicant has received in-principle support for their research topic from a potential supervisor; and
- ix. PhD candidates only – if an Australia Awards Scholarship is awarded, an additional research proposal for Program Areas to submit to institutions.

Certification of documents

Documents accompanying a scholarship application that require certification must be certified in accordance with the requirements below.

The original document has been sighted and the copy has been sworn to be a true copy of the original by an authorised person at one of the following:

- i. the official records department of the institution that originally issued the document/s, or;
- ii. an Australian overseas diplomatic mission; or
- iii. a Notary Public.

The authorised person must:

- i. write 'This is a certified true copy of the original document as sighted by me'; and
- ii. sign and print his/her name, address, contact telephone number, profession or occupation or organisation and the date verified; and
- iii. include the official stamp or seal of the verifier's organisation on the copy, if the organisation has such a stamp.

Application form questions

1. Personal details

The details that you provide here must match your passport, birth certificate, or other official documents you provide for identification.

2. Contact details

Make sure your contact details are correct and advise the Australia Awards Program in Solomon Islands of any changes, otherwise they will not be able to contact you if your application proceeds.

3. Spouse details and 4. Children details

This information must be provided regardless of whether your spouse and children will be accompanying you to Australia.

Spouse is defined as your husband, wife, or de facto partner. Children are those children or step-children under 18 years of age; and are not married or engaged to be married, or in a de facto relationship. The *Australia Awards Scholarships Policy Handbook* and other information sources will refer to them as your dependants.

Please note there is no additional scholarship funding if you choose to bring your spouse and/or children with you.

5. Emergency contact details

This is a family member or friend that should be contacted in case of an emergency while you are on scholarship.

6. Previous scholarships

Only enter details of scholarships or fellowships that supported tertiary-level studies. This is important information in the assessment of your application.

If you have previously held a long-term Australian Government scholarship you will be required to have been outside Australia twice the duration of your scholarship (e.g. if you studied in Australia for four years, you must have been living outside Australia for eight years).

7. Other scholarship applications

Provide details of other scholarships that you will be applying for this year. This information will not disadvantage your application for an Australia Awards Scholarship.

Have you previously applied for a DFAT (or AusAID) scholarship but were unsuccessful? Please state the years in which you did apply and whether you were interviewed as part of that application process.

8. Proposed study

Scholarships are for undergraduate or postgraduate study at university level (not technical and vocational education-level study).

You are asked to provide two course preferences on your application form.

Choose a field of study from the list of priority fields above.

You are not required to have course placement (enrolment) confirmed by the education institution at the time of application. However, you should have undertaken extensive research to determine what course and education institution best suits your study needs. **This is an important component of the assessment of your application for a scholarship.** You are encouraged to put forward different education institutions for each preference.

How to find information about where to study

There are 43 universities in Australia, most of which participate in the Australia Awards Scholarships program. Selecting an education institution that is best for you takes careful consideration. Participating institutions can be found at <https://www.dfat.gov.au/about-us/publications/Pages/australia-awards-participating-institutions>

Information about living and studying in Australia can be found at: www.studyinaustralia.gov.au. This is an Australian Government website that provides links to each education institution and the courses it offers, and an email address for enquiries. It also provides useful information about how to enrol, accommodation etc.

Should your application be successful, you will receive further assistance to finalise your study program in Australia.

Postgraduate research proposals

The application form requires applicants wishing to undertake a postgraduate Master's Degree by Research or a PhD to provide well established project outlines. An under-developed and vague research project will disadvantage your application. (Please note that the requirement for a research proposal does not apply to applicants for undergraduate or postgraduate coursework degrees.)

You must keep within the word limit.

Be prepared to discuss your research project at interview.

Finding a PhD supervisor

A suitable supervisor is someone whose field of research and area of specialisation are similar to yours. Australian universities require you to identify a supervisor prior to applying for admission to the university.

To find a supervisor in your area of research:

- Check university websites for academic profiles or a search tool to identify researchers
- Use search engines or databases for academics e.g. <https://researchdata.edu.au/> or Microsoft Academic <https://academic.microsoft.com/home>
- Conduct a literature search in your area of research interest
- Ask friends, colleagues, and academics with whom you have previously studied

Once you have identified a suitable supervisor, email them providing:

- a brief description of your research proposal
- the reasons why you want to work with them and how their interests align with your own
- proof of your academic achievements
- your availability to start
- details of the Australia Awards Scholarship

Once you have reached agreement with a supervisor, you can commence formal enrolment procedures with the university. You will need to have developed a full research description to apply for admission.

9. Qualifications

Start with the highest qualification you have obtained (even if it has not yet been completed), provide information about all qualifications you have undertaken, including incomplete studies. You must provide a Certified Copy of all official transcripts of all courses listed (including those not completed). See advice above on what is required to certify a document (p.5).

Check that you have completed all required details of every qualification listed.

10. English language details

This section requires information about your level of English language proficiency. As outlined in *English Language Requirements* (p. 3), shortlisted applicants will be required to undertake an English language test before being offered an Australia Awards Scholarship.

11. Computer literacy and 12. Computer Training

These sections are to assist Australian institutions to determine how much additional computer training you will require to successfully complete your study program. It is not part of the assessment process.

13. Current employment

Current employment includes work experience and voluntary work, as well as paid employment.

It is important to clearly outline how your proposed education qualification will assist your workplace when you return (if you are returning to the same workplace) or what your plans are when you complete your studies and return to Solomon Islands. Your responses to these questions form part of the assessment process.

14. Previous relevant employment

Previous employment includes work experience and voluntary work, as well as paid employment. Only complete this section if the employment, work experience, or voluntary work relates to your study program. Give this careful consideration as it will demonstrate leadership qualities, community-mindedness or other qualities that would support your application.

15. Supporting statement

This is an important component of the assessment process. Take time and care in completing this section and ensure you have answered every question comprehensively (but noting the 400-word limit per question).

Questions 1 and 2 demonstrates whether you have considered carefully what you want to study and why it is important to you.

Australia Awards Scholars are expected to become leaders in their field, organisation, or community when they return to Solomon Islands. **Question 3** asks you about your knowledge and experience of leadership. It does not necessarily have to be in a formal workplace but a situation where your leadership made a difference.

Question 4 is to assess whether you have considered how the scholarship might benefit you, your organisation, or your community and how you might do that on your return to Solomon Islands. Frank discussion about possible constraints demonstrates that this has been closely considered by you.

The Australian Aid Program has development priorities. **Question 5** asks what development theme your proposed study program would best sit within.

Question 6 asks you to identify any connection or relationship you may have to DFAT staff or the Australia Awards Program staff at Cardno. This does not exclude your application, it enables DFAT to take the necessary steps to ensure a fair and transparent selection process.

Question 7 expects you to answer honestly whether you are subject to any criminal or civil proceedings currently awaiting legal action.

Question 8 asks whether you have been convicted of any offence in any country.

Question 9 asks whether you have a disability (physical or mental). This question is to ensure that the necessary support is provided to you through the application process and while on scholarship. DFAT encourages applications from people with a disability who are eligible for a scholarship.

16. Professional membership

You are asked to list those associations or organisations with which you have membership. Membership of relevant organisations may strengthen your application.

17. Communication

This section is to help DFAT to identify the best way to promote Australia Awards Scholarships in Solomon Islands so that we have a broader outreach to the community.

18. Checklist of documentary evidence

Please use the check list provided, ticking the square if you have attached the required document. **An incomplete application form or missing supporting documents will not be considered. Missing documents will not be followed up with the applicant.**

Links to useful information

AAS enquiries	Mailbox	Australiaawards-solomonislands@sirf.com.sb
General information about AAS	Australia Awards website	http://www.dfat.gov.au/people-to-people/australia-awards/Pages/australia-awards-scholarships
AAS information for SI	AHC website	http://solomonislands.embassy.gov.au
AAS SI Country Profile	Flyer	Solomon Islands - information for Australia Awards intake commencing 2022 [PDF 200 KB] (dfat.gov.au)
AAS Policy Handbook	AAS website	http://www.dfat.gov.au/about-us/publications/australia-awards-scholarships-policy-handbook
AAS online application form	AAS website	http://oasis.dfat.gov.au
Information about studying in Australia	Australian Government website	studyinaustralia.gov.au
Participating Australian education institutions	AAS website	http://www.dfat.gov.au/about-us/publications/Pages/australia-awards-participating-institutions
Visas	Department of Immigration and Border Protection	http://www.border.gov.au
CRICOS	Commonwealth Register of Institutions and Courses for Overseas Students	HTTP://cricos.education.gov.au
IELTS	English language test	http://ielts.org/
TOEFL	English language test	http://www.ets.org/toefl
PEARSON	English language test	www.pearsonpte.com



Australia Awards

Solomon Islands Australia Awards Scholarships

Frequently asked questions

- Potential applicants should be encouraged to first refer to the Australia Awards Scholarships website for current general information about the Australia Awards program: <https://www.dfat.gov.au/people-to-people/australia-awards/Pages/australia-awards-scholarships>
- Potential applicants should also refer to the *Australia Awards Scholarships Policy Handbook* for detailed information about Australia Awards: <https://www.dfat.gov.au/about-us/publications/australia-awards-scholarships-policy-handbook>
- For information specific to applicants from Solomon Islands refer to the Country Profile at: [Solomon Islands - information for Australia Awards intake commencing 2022 \[PDF 200 KB\] \(dfat.gov.au\)](#)

Q. What is the application opening date?

1 February 2021

Q. What is the application closing date?

31 May 2021. Late applications are not accepted.

Q. How do I apply?

Applicants are required to apply online. Online applications can be accessed and must be lodged at: <https://oasis.dfat.gov.au>

Hard copy applications will only be accepted under exceptional circumstances and must have prior approval. To request a hard copy application form, applicants should email australiaawards-solomonislands@sirf.com.sb or phone 738 7322.

Q. Am I eligible for a scholarship?

The Eligibility Criteria can be found at:

- Section 2.2 of the *Australia Awards Scholarships Policy Handbook* <https://www.dfat.gov.au/about-us/publications/australia-awards-scholarships-policy-handbook> provides the Eligibility Criteria for applicants from all participating countries.
- In addition to the above criteria, Eligibility Criteria for Solomon Island applicants can be found in the Solomon Islands Country Profile at: [Solomon Islands - information for Australia Awards intake commencing 2022 \[PDF 200 KB\] \(dfat.gov.au\)](#)

Q. Is there an age limit?

No.

Q. What can I study?

Australia Awards Scholarships are available for undergraduate and postgraduate study in Australia. (Awards are not available for Vocational Education and Training (TVET), Diploma or Graduate Diploma studies).

Applicants from the Solomon Islands must select a course from one of the priority fields of study identified by the Australian Government. They are listed in the Solomon Islands Country Profile at: [Solomon Islands - information for Australia Awards intake commencing 2022 \[PDF 200 KB\] \(dfat.gov.au\)](#)

Q. What are the scholarship benefits?

Scholarship benefits are provided on the Australia Awards website at: <https://www.dfat.gov.au/people-to-people/australia-awards/Pages/australia-awards-scholarships>

Q. Can I apply for an Australia Awards Scholarship if I have another scholarship?

You may apply for other scholarships, but you cannot hold an Australia Awards Scholarship at the same time as another scholarship (from Australia, Solomon Islands Government, or any other country).

Further, Australia Awards Scholarship holders must not be serving an existing scholarship bond with Solomon Islands Government or any other government.

Q. Can I apply for an Australia Awards Scholarship if I am not currently living in Solomon Islands?

To be eligible, applicants should live in Solomon Islands. However, given current COVID-related restrictions on international travel and return to Solomon Islands, DFAT will consider exemptions on a case-by-case basis if a request is made and approved before lodging an application.

Q. Can I apply for an Australia Awards Scholarship if I have previously had an Australian Government scholarship?

Yes. However, if you have previously held a long-term Australian Government scholarship you will be required to have been outside Australia twice the duration of your scholarship (e.g. if you studied in Australia for four years, you must have been living outside Australia for eight years).

Q. Where can I study?

A list of participating Australian education institutions can be found at: <https://www.dfat.gov.au/about-us/publications/Pages/australia-awards-participating-institutions>

Q. Can I study in the Pacific?

The 2022 intake will only offer scholarships for study in Australia. No Australia Awards Scholarships will be offered for study in the Pacific region.

Q. Do I have to be accepted by an Australian education institution before I apply for a scholarship?

No, you do not have to have your placement at the education institution confirmed at the time of application. You do have to nominate the course(s) and education institution(s) in which you would like to enrol on your application form.

Q. What is the selection process?

- Applications will be first checked that they meet the Eligibility Criteria.
- Only short-listed applicants will be contacted.
- The selection process includes an interview.
- Applicants will be assessed against the following Selection Criteria:
 - academic competence;
 - potential outcome, specifically the contribution to development outcomes in Solomon Islands; and
 - professional and personal leadership attributes including relevant work experience.

Q. When will I be notified of the outcome of my application?

Due to the high number of applications, only successful applicants will be notified if they have been shortlisted for interview. Applicants who are not short-listed for interview will not be individually notified that their application was unsuccessful. We will update the Australian High Commission website, Facebook page, and advertise through local media when the shortlisting process has been completed.

Q. Do I have to take an English language test?

Yes, you must have a valid English language test (IELTS or TOEFL) prior to commencing studies in Australia. You must achieve an IELTS (Academic) score of 6.5 or higher (with no band score less than 6.0), or an equivalent TOEFL or PTE (Academic) score. Scores must be valid on 1 January 2022.

Q. Can I bring my family on scholarship?

Yes, you can bring your spouse and children. However, there is no additional funding for air travel for your family or funding to support your family while they are living in Australia.

Q. Can I work while I am in Australia?

Yes, you can work up to 20 hours per week under the Student Visa (subclass 500) on which you will be residing in Australia.