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பிரதான செயலாளர் அலுவலகம் - தென் மாகாணம்
CHIEF SECRETARY'S OFFICE - SOUTHERN PROVINCE

මගේ මාංකය
எனது இல
My Ref.

CSS/2/8/1/Australia

ඔබේ මාංකය
உ.எ.து இல
Your Ref.

දිනය
திகதி
Date 03 03 2021

All Secretaries of the Southern Provincial Council,

03 MAR 2021
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Australian Awards Scholarships (AAS) - Intake for Academic Year 2022

I enclose herewith a copy of the letter No: Au said/Intake2020 and dated 08.03.2021 addressed to me by the Director General of the Department of External Resources on the above subject.

02. Accordingly, you are kindly requested to take necessary action and inform the Heads of Departments under your purview in this regard and instruct to nominate Suitable officers for the above Programme.

W.U.P.Premachandra,
Deputy Chief Secretary(Personnel & Training),
For Chief Secretary,
Southern Province.

W.U.P. PREMACHANDRA
Deputy Chief Secretary (Personnel & Training)
For Chief Secretary
Southern Province

Copy: Director General, Department of External Resources, Colombo 01. - F I.



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 வெளிநாட்டுவளங்கள் திணைக்களம்
 Department of External Resources

මුදල් අමාත්‍යාංශය
 මහලේකම් කාර්යාලය (3වැනි මහල), ක.පෙ. 277, කොළඹ 00100 ශ්‍රී ලංකාව.

நிதி அமைச்சு
 செயலகம் (3ஆம் மாடி), த. பெ. இல. 277 கொழும்பு 00100 இலங்கை
 Ministry of Finance
 The Secretariat (3rd Floor), P.O. Box 277, Colombo 00100, Sri Lanka

Web Site: www.erd.gov.lk

e-mail: info@erd.gov.lk

මගේ අංකය
 எனது இல
 My No

} Au said / Intake 2022

ඔබේ අංකය
 உமது இல
 Your No

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දිනය
 திகதி
 Date

} 08 March 2021

Secretaries/All Line Ministries
 Secretaries/ All State Ministries
 Chief Secretaries/All Provincial Councils
 All Other Heads of the Departments and Government Institutions

Attn: Officer In-charge
 of Foreign Training

Dear Sir/Madam

Australian Awards Scholarships (AAS) – Intake for Academic Year 2022

The Government of Australia has invited applications from eligible government officials in Sri Lanka for the above scholarship programme for the academic year 2022.

The objective of the AAS is to enhance and strengthen the capacity of human resources in the public sector by providing valuable knowledge, skills and qualifications and thereby improving the quality services for the general public while enhancing the economic growth of Sri Lanka. Scholarships are awarded on condition that participants should actively engage in development activities of Sri Lanka.

Priority Sectors

The eligible applicants with experience and ability to contribute for the development in the sectors of economic development, good governance & gender equality will be considered for AAS.

- Scholarships in the priority sector of **Health Security** included Public Health, Health Management, Health and Wellbeing, Pandemic Control, Epidemiology, Food Security, Counselling, Psychosocial counselling, Psychosocial counselling and Clinical Psychology.
- Scholarships in the **Stability** included Development Studies, Disability Studies, Human Resource Management, Humanitarian and Disaster Management, Law, Political Science, Project Management, Public Administration, Public Policy, Statistics, Social and Economic Inclusion, Environmental Resource Management, Gender Studies, Political Science, Psychology and Sociology.
- Scholarships in the priority sector of **Economic Recovery** included Economics, Agriculture Economics, Business Administration, Customs Administration, Development Economics, Educational Management, Fisheries and Aquatic Resources, Finance, Information and Communication Technologies, International Finance, International Trade, Maritime Studies, Mathematics, Tourism and Hospitality, Trade and Investment and Urban Planning.

Detailed information on priority areas of study can be found at www.australiaawardssrilanka.org

Applications are strongly encouraged from eligible women, people with disability, those working in the disability sector and people working in the following priority districts.

Ampara	Batticaloa	Trincomalee
Jaffna	Kilinochchi	Mullaitivu
Mannar	Vavuniya	Anuradhapura
Polonnaruwa	Badulla	Moneragala
Puttalam	Ratnapura	NuwaraEliya

AAS has been focused to enhance the individual candidate's decision-making ability by way of providing wide range of knowledge and skills through their Master' Programme, so that they can use them for the economic and social development of the country. However, this depends on the commitments and the well performance of the candidate.

Therefore, you are kindly requested to nominate well qualified and committed personal who can acquire wider knowledge and benefits from this programme and make use of them for the development of the country in an effective manner. It is also necessary to ensure that the development plans are implemented by them upon their return.

Eligibility Criteria

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-scholarship-policy-handbook.aspx

In addition to these basic eligibility requirements, applicants must also meet the following country specific conditions.

- be a citizen of Sri Lanka
- An IELTS (Academic) score of at least 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 1st January 2022.**
- They must be employed in the public sector, and following criteria must be confirmed by an employment letter. (see*** in table of supporting documents below)
- They must have at least 3 years post qualification experience in the public sector with 2 years in a field relevant to the proposed course of study and be confirmed in their current positions.
- They must have an academic or professional background relevant to their proposed study programme.
- They must have completed a tertiary level qualification at least equivalent to an Australian Bachelor's degree.

How to Prepare

In order to be applying for AAS, applicants must:

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

*Template available at: www.australiaawardssrilanka.org

- **Information Session**

Information sessions for potential applicants will be scheduled during the application period.

Applicants must complete their application online on or before the deadline of 30th April 2021.

Applicants who are awarded scholarships at the end of the selection process will be required to submit a valid Police Clearance Certificate at the time of visa application. Public sector applicants who are selected for an Australia Award Scholarship must also submit the "ERD form" once they are selected.

Further Information

Information about the Australia Awards – Sri Lanka can be found at www.australiaawardssrilanka.org

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, available at: <http://aid.dfat.gov.au/Publications/Pages/australia-awards-scholarships-policy-handbook.aspx>

Commitments of Candidates for the development of the country mainly will be assessed based on the details given in their applications. Therefore, candidates are kindly requested to pay their attention about this matter when they fill up their applications.

- Select preferred courses carefully. Applicants will not be able to change the course that they have selected except in exceptional circumstances. The course must have a clear link to the applicant's prior experience and support the applicant to contribute to development outcomes on their return to Sri Lanka.
- Submit a complete application with all necessary attachments, before the deadline. Late and incomplete applications will not be considered.

How to Apply

- **Online Applications**

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

- **Supporting documents**

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

- **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.

Required supporting Documents

The following documents must be submitted by all AAS applicants at the time of application. Failure to provide these documents at the time of application will result in the applicant being deemed ineligible.

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 01 st January 2021	Proof of English language proficiency	Yes

You are kindly requested to circulate this letter among all the agencies which are coming under the preview of your Ministry and encourage to apply all qualified officials for this Scholarship programme. It is also requested to grant official leave once they are selected to the programme.

Contact Details

Australia Awards - Sri Lanka and Maldives Office
75 1/1, Kynsey Road, Colombo 08, Sri Lanka

Ph: +94 115772977-80

Email: inquiries@australiaawardssrilanka.org

Yours faithfully



Udeni Udugahapattuwa
Additional Director General
for Director General



Australia Awards

Sri Lanka

Applying for an Australia Awards Scholarship

Australia Awards scholarships in Sri Lanka

As set out in DFAT's Sri Lanka COVID-19 Development Response Plan, Australia's development cooperation program in Sri Lanka 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 Sri Lanka 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 Sri Lanka. 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 contribute to Sri Lanka's development.

Applications are strongly encouraged from eligible women, people with disability, those working in the disability sector and people working in the following priority districts:

Ampara	Batticaloa	Trincomalee
Jaffna	Kilinochchi	Mullaitivu
Mannar	Vavuniya	Anuradhapura
Polonnaruwa	Badulla	Moneragala
Puttalam	Ratnapura	Nuwera Eliya

Priority fields of study

The priority areas of study for Sri Lanka are:

Priority fields 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 • Statistics • 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 Sri Lanka regularly review these areas of study together and adjust the emphasis of the program. Detailed information on priority areas of study can be found at the website: [Australia Awards Sri Lanka](http://AustraliaAwardsSriLanka)

Level of study

Australia Awards scholarships provide citizens of Sri Lanka 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)

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 in Sri Lanka 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 [Australia Awards Sri Lanka](http://AustraliaAwardsSriLanka) once finalized.

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 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*, 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 2022.

Commencement of study

All scholarships must be taken up in the year for which 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 Sri Lanka must also meet the following conditions:

- applicants working in the priority districts, and applicants with a disability or those working in the disability sector will be considered with an overall IELTS band score of at least 6.0 with no band less than 5.0 (or equivalent TOEFL or PTE score).
If offered an Australia Awards scholarship, these applicants must meet the English language requirements of IELTS 6.5 equivalent before commencing study.
- be employed and the following criteria must be confirmed by an employment letter:
 - **applicants from the public sector** must have at least 3 years' post qualification experience in the public sector with 2 years in a field relevant to the proposed course of study and be confirmed in their current positions.
 - **applicants from the private sector and civil society organisation** must have at least 3 years' post qualification experience in a field relevant to the proposed course of study.
- have completed a tertiary-level qualification at least equivalent to an Australian Bachelor degree.
- have an academic or professional background relevant to their proposed study program.
- public sector employees selected for an Australia Award 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 Sri Lanka for at least two years after completing their scholarship, to contribute to 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.

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 Sri Lanka. 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**

Australia Awards scholarships information for study commencing in 2022

Enquiries
For more information on the awards, visit our website at www.austlii.edu.au/au/other/dfat/page/australianawards.html

How to apply
Applications should be submitted to the Australian Awards Office, Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Canberra, Australia.

- **Application deadline**
- **Application fee**

Information
Information on the awards is available on our website at www.austlii.edu.au/au/other/dfat/page/australianawards.html

Contact details

Australian Awards Office

Address: 75-81, Victoria Road, Canberra, Australia

Telephone: +61 (0)2 6261 2000

Email: australianawards@dfat.gov.au

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 at: **Application**

Supporting documents

Applicants must provide the following documents to meet specific requirements for Sri Lanka:

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

*Template available at: www.australiaawardssrilanka.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 Sri Lanka
 - 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 in Australia