Australia Awards Scholarships are long term development awards administered by the Australian Government. They provide study opportunities for Papua New Guineans to obtain a tertiary qualification at an Australian tertiary institution.

The overall aim of Australia Awards Scholarships is to provide men and women with the skills and knowledge to drive change and influence Papua New Guinea’s economic and social development.

**Priority Sectors**

The priority sectors target key development areas for Australia Awards in Papua New Guinea and include:

- Health
- Education
- Governance
- Law and justice
- Transport and infrastructure
- Agriculture

For information about the eligible fields of study for each priority sector refer to www.australiaawardspng.org.

**Level of Study**

The majority of awards will be provided to postgraduate studies at the Graduate Diploma and Masters level of study.

- Diploma: will only be considered for special circumstances where the applicant is unable to remain in Australia for an extended period of time (for example people living with a disability)
- Undergraduate: a limited number will be awarded on the basis of outstanding application quality and merit in addressing the priority areas
  - Masters: Course work and/or Research
  - Doctoral (PhD)

**Category**

There are two categories in which applicants can apply for an Australia Awards Scholarship:

1. Public Category: permanent public sector employees nominated by their Head of Agency and endorsed by the Department of Personnel Management (DPM).
2. Open Category: employees from the private sector endorsed by the General Manager of their employing organisation. The applicants must be able to demonstrate that their intended studies will contribute to Papua New Guinea’s development. Self-employed applicants will require the endorsement of their pastor or a senior community leader.

**Target Groups**

Women, people living with disabilities (and their carers) and people from the provinces - especially remote locations - are encouraged to apply.
Eligibility
To be eligible you MUST:
• Be a citizen of Papua New Guinea;
• Be able to provide all relevant academic documentary evidence;
• Have worked and lived in PNG for at least the past two years;
• Have proof of sufficient funds to support your dependents (even if you do not intend to bring them with you for your studies);

You are not eligible if you:
• Currently hold an Australian Government funded scholarship;
• Hold citizenship or permanent resident status in Australia; and
• Are married or engaged to be married to someone who holds or is entitled to hold citizenship or permanent residency in Australia.

Selection Criteria
Selection is based on merit including demonstration of sound past academic history, relevant work experience, statement of claim and referee support of against the nominated priority sector.

Applications that progress for further assessment will be required to undergo Special Tertiary Admissions Test (STAT), International English Language Testing System (IELTS) and group/individual interviews depending on their proposed level of study.

Visit the following websites for more information:
• STAT – http://www.acer.edu.au/stat/
• IELTS – http://www.ielts.org/

Special Considerations
Previous recipients of Australian Government sponsored scholarships must spend twice the duration of their scholarship study in PNG before they are eligible to apply for another award (e.g. a 3 year scholarship = 6 years in PNG).

No undergraduate course can be of more than 4 years duration or available in PNG.

The proposed course must be progressive (i.e. of a higher academic level than any qualification currently held).

Applicants under the Public Category, if endorsed by the Department of Personnel Management in line with the General Orders, can expect financial support from their employer while on-award and employment upon return to PNG. Public category awardees should clarify eligibility and entitlements with their agency before submitting an application and accepting an award offer.

Applicants under the Open Category are encouraged to consult with their current employers regarding possible support, career progression and re-engagement prospects. A quota of Australia Awards Scholarships will be allocated for people working in the PNG Higher Education and Research sector including academic, Researchers and Administrators. Applications will be assessed for the potential to strengthen the PNG higher education and research sector.

Applicants whose applications are progressed for further assessment are required to secure a student visa. You should begin early planning on student visa requirements.

More information on this is available at the DIBP website.

Department of Immigration and Border Protection – http://www.immi.gov.au/students/students/choosер/

Benefits
The awards are offered for the minimum period required for the individual to complete a tertiary qualification at an Australian tertiary institution, including any preparatory training.

For a full listing of benefits provided to Australia Awards Scholarship recipients visit http://aid.dfat.gov.au/australia-awards/pages/studyin.aspx

Award Conditions
Applicants accept the award will need to sign a contract with the Commonwealth of Australia declaring that they will comply with the conditions of the scholarship.

Should you receive the award you are required to leave Australia for a minimum of two years after completing your scholarship. Failure to do so will result in the awardee incurring a debt for the total accrued cost of their scholarship.

For More Information
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