



Australia Awards

# Australia Awards Scholarship Intake 2027

## Study with a disability



Israel Kine (scholar with disability), Bachelor of Human Services with fellow Intake 2025 Somare-Whitlam Scholars

**Australia Awards Scholarships are prestigious international awards offered by the Australian Government to Papua New Guinea's current and future leaders.**

### Study areas and levels study open for people with disability

- People with disability can apply for undergraduate, masters and research courses, in line with the eligibility requirements for scholarships for these levels of study.
- People with disability can apply for a bachelor's degree for any study areas offered for international students in Australia, or for masters and research degrees as applicable.
- Applicants are encouraged to apply for the level of study most relevant to their capability and previous academic and work history.
- Applications focusing on gender, climate and disability-related studies are welcomed.

### To be eligible you must:

- be a citizen of, work and reside in PNG
- apply for a progressive qualification (i.e. apply for a masters if you already have a bachelor's degree; if you have a master's degree from a PNG institution, apply for another masters in a different subject area or field of specialisation)
- meet the Australian institution course requirements and all visa requirements have high English language proficiency be committed to returning to PNG
- public servants must meet the Government of PNG training bid process requirements. Please refer to [www.dpm.gov.pg](http://www.dpm.gov.pg) for more information.

### You are not eligible if you:

- currently hold an Australian Government-funded scholarship
- hold citizenship or permanent resident status in Australia
- are married or engaged to be married to someone who holds or is entitled to hold citizenship or permanent residency in Australia.

### Frequently Asked Questions

#### What is defined as a disability?

Under Australian law, disability includes physical, intellectual, psychiatric, sensory, neurological and learning disability, physical disfigurement, and the presence in the body of disease-causing organisms. More information on the Australian definition of disability and the rights of people with disability in Australia is available on the Australian Human Rights Commission's website at <https://www.humanrights.gov.au/our-work/disability-rights>

Australia Awards PNG applies this legal definition while taking a practical, rights-based approach. The program focuses on understanding functional difficulties and identifying barriers that may affect participation, so appropriate and reasonable support can be provided throughout the scholarship process.

#### What is not considered a disability?

Illness that can be corrected with interventions is not considered a disability. Examples may include asthma that can be treated with medication and short-sightedness that can be corrected with glasses.

### **Does a person with disability need to complete the scholarship application form and meet other requirements?**

Yes, all applicants are required to meet the eligibility requirements and complete the application. If an applicant with disability has questions or concerns about the application requirements, they should contact the Australia Awards PNG team.

### **Does declaring a disability limit your chances of getting a scholarship?**

No, declaring a disability will not disadvantage you in any way. Australia Awards encourages applicants with disability to declare their circumstances. If Australia Awards knows about the disability, reasonable adjustments and accommodations can be made to reduce barriers to participation. For example, visually impaired applicants may have their test read to them and a scribe provided, rather than being expected to read the questions and write the answers.

### **Does declaring a disability guarantee a scholarship space?**

As the Australia Awards program is an academic program, scholarship places are awarded on a merit basis. There is no guarantee of a scholarship place, as it is a highly competitive academic program. However, applicants with disability are strongly encouraged to apply.

### **What is reasonable adjustment and reasonable accommodation?**

Reasonable adjustments are measures that can be made to ensure students with disability can meet the academic standards of their course of study and participate on the same basis as other students. Examples might include alterations to the physical environment and other facilities, and changes to the way skills are assessed. Reasonable accommodation is the provision of support, modifications and/or adjustments that meet the individual needs of people with disability to ensure they enjoy and exercise all human rights and fundamental freedoms on an equal basis to others. Examples might include the provision of accessible transportation, sign-language interpreters, and documents in accessible formats.

### **What reasonable adjustments and accommodations will be made during the selection process?**

At the application stage, applicants must declare their disability to allow AAPNG determine the appropriate support they require to attend the orientation session, complete the online application and submit the supporting documents. Support may include assistance from an AAPNG staff in completing the online application, transportation to and from information session venue or support for internet access.

If shortlisted, an independent assessment will be arranged for the applicant with disability. The assessment will be undertaken by a medical professional or disability adviser, and the assessment report will be used to guide the Australia Awards office in making reasonable adjustments and accommodations. Reasonable adjustments and accommodations will differ depending on the disability and the individual's needs. Examples of reasonable adjustments and accommodations may include extending testing time for people with vision impairment.

### **What support is available on-scholarship for people with disability?**

Detailed information about support available for awardees with disability is included in the Australia Awards Scholarships Policy Handbook (in particular refer to Chapter 9). <https://dfat.gov.au/about-us/publications/australia-awards-scholarships-policy-handbook>  
If selected for an Australia Award, the awardee will work closely with the DFAT Disability Support Consultant to develop a Disability Support Plan prior to going to Australia. This plan will be tailored to the needs of the individual and outlines the support required to successfully live and study in Australia. Support may include provision of a carer, assistive devices or other support required to successfully live and study in Australia. The requirements set out in the Disability Support Plan will be pre-approved and included in the awardee's scholarship entitlements.

Each institution has a Student Contact Officer who is the primary point of contact for all Australia Awards recipients at the university. Many Australian institutions also have a dedicated disability service or disability officer to support students with disability to fully participate in university life. The Student Contact Officer will help awardee with disability access and the institution's disability services.

### **How are people with disability considered in Australia?**

In Australia, the Disability Discrimination Act 1992 protects individuals across Australia from unfair treatment in many parts of public life. The Act makes disability discrimination unlawful and promotes equal rights, equal opportunity and equal access for people with disabilities.

### **Important Information**

Applicants are encouraged to email the ScholarshipsTeam at **[scholarships@australiaawardspng.org](mailto:scholarships@australiaawardspng.org)** immediately to ensure timely access to individualized assessment and consultation. This process enables AAPNG to identify and implement appropriate accommodations that support equal participation.

**Applications close on Thursday 30 April 2026 (2:00pm PNG Time).**