



Australia Awards

Papua New Guinea

Applications closed

Applying for an Australia Awards scholarship

Australia Awards scholarships in Papua New Guinea

Australia's international development assistance in Papua New Guinea promotes a peaceful, stable and prosperous future for Australia and in the region.

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 are strongly encouraged from women, people with disability, people living and working outside Port Moresby and other marginalised groups. Support is available to assist equal participation by these applicants.

Priority fields of study

The awards support all study areas aligned with the development agenda of the Government of Papua New Guinea. Applicants should select courses that align with their experience and qualifications or provide a strong justification for courses that represent a shift in career focus or direction. Applications focusing on gender, climate and disability-related studies are welcomed.

The governments of Australia and Papua New Guinea regularly review these areas of study together and adjust the emphasis of the program.

Level of study

Australia Awards scholarships provide citizens of Papua New Guinea with the opportunity to obtain a qualification from a tertiary institution in Australia. Following are the levels of study offered:

- Undergraduate
 - offered for studies at Australian institutions in degree areas not available in Papua New Guinea (scholarships which are **not** available include arts, pilot training, business/commerce, cybersecurity/computer science/IT, law, management, medicine, nursing, public policy)
 - **people with disability** can apply for any undergraduate program open for international students in Australia.
- Master's by Coursework
 - **all** study areas are open for application at Australian institutions. Applicants must not have previously completed a master's degree overseas. Applicants who completed a master's degree from a PNG institution, can apply for another masters in a different subject area or field of specialisation.
- Master's by Research, Master's in Philosophy, PhD or Professional Doctorate
 - **all** study areas are open for application at Australian institutions. Academic and research staff of higher education and research institutions in Papua New Guinea will receive greater consideration in this category.

The scholarship is open to all sectors, including both public and private organisations. Eligible organisations include state-owned enterprises, non-governmental organisations, religious institutions, international development organisations, and PNG government agencies.

Public Sector Priority Skills Scholarships

A limited number of scholarships will be offered to staff from eligible PNG government agencies listed below for study in priority skill areas. Scholarships will be for graduate certificates or diploma, with the option to upgrade to a Master's based on academic performance. Staff from eligible agencies must be recommended for the scholarship by their agency head, to address priority skills gaps identified in that agency's Learning & Development Plan. Scholarships will be awarded through a competitive, merit-based process.

For 2026, these were the eligible agencies:

- Department of National Planning and Monitoring
- Department of Personnel Management
- Department of Higher Education, Research, Science and Technology
- Department of Education
- Department of Justice and Attorney General
- Department of Treasury
- Department of Health
- Department of Foreign Affairs
- Department of Defence
- Department of Information and Communications Technology
- Department of Prime Minister and National Executive Council
- Department of Transport
- Climate Change and Development Authority
- PNG Customs Service
- PNG Immigration and Citizenship Authority
- Internal Revenue Commission
- PNG Correctional Services
- Autonomous Bougainville Government

Interested staff from these agencies may contact their human resource officers for details.

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, and
- 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 general eligibility requirements, candidates from Papua New Guinea must also meet the following conditions:

- must be a citizen of Papua New Guinea, without dual or additional citizenship and be residing and working in Papua New Guinea at the time of applying
- must not be an Australian citizen, hold permanent residency in Australia or be applying for a visa to live in Australia permanently

- must have a minimum of two-years work experience. **People with disability** are exempt from this requirement
- must meet minimum English language proficiency, and
- must be applying for an upgrade of highest qualification.

Applicants from PNG Government Agencies

In addition to the eligibility requirements noted above, **public servant applicants covered by General Order No. 6 on overseas training for public service staff** must also meet the Government of Papua New Guinea requirements, including:

- employment in a public sector agency for two years after permanent appointment
- applicant is listed in their agency's Learning & Development Plan and therefore, nominated for overseas training, and
- nomination from applicant's employment agency and endorsement from the Department of Personnel Management.

For details on General Order No. 6, public servant applicants may contact their agency human resource officers or the Department of Personnel Management.

Application dates

Applications for intake 2027 are closed. Information on intake 2028 applications will be available in February 2027.

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 provide the following documents to meet the specific requirements for Papua New Guinea. Applicants must use the **AAPNG template** (will be available in February 2027 at <https://www.australiaawardspng.org/>) for selected documents below.

Certification for Papua New Guinea applications require a Commissioner of Oath certification (signed, dated and stamped 1 January 2026 or later).

Required document	OASIS document type	Certified
Reintegration plan (must use AAPNG template)	Reintegration Plan	No
Certified academic certificates: higher education certificates (i.e. bachelor/master's qualifications), vocational education and training certificates (i.e. certificate IV, diploma).	Degree certificate	Yes
Certified complete academic transcript in English. High school certificate/s if applying for undergraduate.	Academic transcript	Yes
Certified copy of proof of citizenship with photo ID – any of the following: • National Identity Card, or • driver's licence and birth certificate, or • valid passport.	Proof of citizenship	Yes
If previously undertaken, certified English language proficiency i.e. results from: • IELTS – International English Language Testing System, or • TOEFL – Test of English as a Foreign Language,; or	Proof of English language proficiency	Yes

• PTE – Pearson Test of English.		
Academic Referee report (must use AAPNG template) • One academic referee report for undergraduate and master by coursework applicants. • Two academic referee reports for Master's by Research, Master's in Philosophy, Professional Doctorate, PhD applicants	Academic Referee report	No
Professional Referee Report (must use AAPNG template) – one for all levels of study	Professional Referee report	No
Curriculum Vitae (must use AAPNG template)	Curriculum Vitae	No
Additional documents for Master's by Research, Master's in Philosophy, Professional Doctorate, PhD applicants 1. Research Proposal Summary (must use AAPNG template) 2. Letter of agreement for supervision with prospective supervisor (must use AAPNG template)	Research Proposal Summary Research Supervisor	No

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 Papua New Guinea, and.
 - professional and personal leadership attributes including relevant work experience.
- Successful candidates will be notified .
- 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 training
- university's Introductory Academic Program, and
- other required preparatory study on arrival in Australia.

Fraudulent documents and false statements

The Australian Government maintains a zero-tolerance stance on fraud. All application documents will be verified, and if any are found to be fraudulent, the applicant will be excluded from consideration for this scholarship and any future Australia Awards. If fraud is detected after a scholarship is awarded, the scholarship will be immediately terminated. Fraud includes failing to disclose relevant information for consideration in the scholarship selection process.

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 Papua New Guinea

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Website: <https://www.australiaawardspng.org/>