



Australia Awards

# Australia Awards Scholarships Intake 2025

## Research Degrees



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

**To be eligible for a research scholarship you must :**

- be a citizen of and reside in Papua New Guinea
- have at least two years of work experience in your sector
- currently hold a research or teaching position at a PNG higher education and research institution
- have secured a research supervisor and provide written confirmation of this
- have developed a proposal for your intended research
- have high English language proficiency
- meet the Australian institution course requirements and all visa requirements
- be committed to returning to PNG
- public servants must meet the GoPNG training bid process requirements - please refer to [www.dpm.gov.pg](http://www.dpm.gov.pg) for more information

For PhD applicants:

- have successfully completed an honors or master's program preferably with a research or thesis component.

**Doctoral and Masters by Research Applications:**

- Australia Awards offer research scholarships to support capacity development at higher education and research institutions in PNG
- A very limited number of Doctorate and Masters by Research awards are offered each year. All scholarship awards, including for research, are awarded on a merit basis.

**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.

**PhD applicants must submit an Expression of Interest and contact Australia Awards PNG for a pre-application interview on or before 29 February 2024 before submitting their application online.**

**For details, please email:  
[scholarships@australiaawardspng.org](mailto:scholarships@australiaawardspng.org)**

## Frequently Asked Questions

### What is a Higher Degree by Research (HDR) program?

- Doctorates and Masters by Research are HDR programs. Doctorate degrees are the highest level of study. There are two types of doctorate degrees a Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) and a Professional Doctorate.
- A PhD is an advanced academic qualification that usually takes three years to complete and involves the development of a thesis of approximately 80,000 words. The thesis must make a significant contribution of new knowledge to the discipline area. The thesis reports on an independently completed and academically supervised research project.
- A professional doctorate is similar to a PhD and is an advanced academic qualification that usually takes three years to complete. A professional doctorate involves practical application of knowledge and theory.
- A PhD typically requires both coursework and development of a dissertation. A Professional Doctorate is beneficial to those who wish to deepen knowledge with a focus on practice.
- A Master of Philosophy (MPhil) or Masters by Research is a post-graduate research qualification, which takes 1.5-2 years to complete. It involves the development of a thesis (usually approximately 40,000 words) that demonstrates the candidate's capacity for critical analysis and specialist knowledge.

### Who is eligible to apply for research scholarships?

- Research scholarships are reserved for applicants who teach and/or undertake research at PNG higher education and research institutions. Administrators and managers at institutions who do not hold teaching and research positions are not eligible to apply for research scholarships.
- Applicants from government institutions must comply with the Government of PNG training bid process. Please refer to [www.dpm.gov.pg](http://www.dpm.gov.pg) for more information.

### Application requirements for research scholarships

- completed OASIS application
- certified academic certificates and transcripts
- certified valid ID (NID or valid passport or driver's license + birth certificate)
- reintegration plan (use AAPNG template)
- two academic referee reports (use AAPNG template)
- one professional referee report (use AAPNG template)
- a letter (or email confirmation) from the proposed supervisor at the Australian institution
- research proposal summary
- any journal articles or other publications (if applicable)
- CV (use AAPNG template)

### Research proposals should make clear:

- the research problem, why it is important and what will be achieved by the research
- the new knowledge your research will contribute to the discipline area
- the research methods planned and fieldwork locations
- proposed timeline for the research

### Supervisor's role:

The supervisor works closely with the research student. The supervisor is an expert in the specific discipline area and guides the student's research and provides support.

Applicants should search for potential supervisors using the university's website. Applicants must contact the potential supervisor and confirm their agreement to be a supervisor for the research project, prior to submitting the scholarship application. Written confirmation from the proposed supervisor must be attached to your scholarship application.



**For more information:**  
[scholarships@australiaawardspng.org](mailto:scholarships@australiaawardspng.org)

**Applications close on  
Tuesday, 20 April 2024**

**Find out more**

**[www.australiaawardspng.org](http://www.australiaawardspng.org)**