



Australian Scholarships THE PATHWAY TO EXCELLENCE

South Asia

AUSTRALIAN DEVELOPMENT SCHOLARSHIPS

Information for Intakes Commencing 2009

Regional Strategy

Human resource development is a basic building block for development across various sectors in any country. In the South Asian region, Australian Development Scholarships (ADS) are offered to partner countries in **Bangladesh, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Maldives** and **Bhutan**.

ADS aims to strengthen human resource capacity by providing valuable knowledge, skills and qualifications in key target areas, with the objective of providing better services to the poor in the region. ADS also assists in developing a well educated cadre in the public as well the private sector and has an important role to play in fostering and sustaining Australia's relationship with partner countries in the South Asia region.

Type, Level and Number of Scholarships

Australia offers scholarships across the South Asia region for Masters level study (except for Bhutan and Maldives where there are a mix of awards, see details below). Public category awards are open to government employees, while the Open/ Equity category is for the general public who meet necessary selection criteria.

For the 2009 intake, it is estimated that the total number of scholarships will be broken down as follows:

Bangladesh: 55 awards (35 Masters, and 20 Masters/Bachelors for CHT candidates)

Bhutan: Up to 22 awards, Public and Open (postgraduate only)

Maldives: Up to 12 awards, Public and Open (mix of undergraduate and postgraduate)

Pakistan: Up to 15 awards, Open only

Sri Lanka: Up to 6 awards, Public only (postgraduate only)

Gender balance is a priority for the Government of Australia and female candidates are encouraged to apply. Fifty per cent of the total number of awards are reserved for women. Scholarships are offered for the minimum period in which an individual could be expected to complete the academic program.

Priority Sectors

During annual consultations, priority sectors are agreed between individual governments and Australia. In general, priority sectors are education, health, natural resource management and governance. However, these may vary depending on the needs of a particular country.

Closing Dates for Applications

Except for Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Maldives and Bhutan, submission of applications are to be made to the relevant Australian High Commission/Australian Embassy by the following dates.

Bangladesh: 31 May 2008 (to the Australian High Commission, Dhaka, for Government of Bangladesh candidates; through HR section for ICDDRB candidates; to UNDP-CHTDF for ADS-CHT candidates)

Bhutan: 31 August 2008 (through the Royal Civil Service Commission, Thimpu, Bhutan)

Maldives: 30 June 2008 (to the Department of Higher Education and Training)

Pakistan: 4 May 2008 (through the Australian High Commission).

Sri Lanka: 21 July 2008 (through the Department of External Resources, Ministry of Finance and Planning)

The Application Process

In all cases, the application process is based on the principles of transparency and merit. Specific information on the application process for individual countries will be outlined in advertisement of scholarships or can be obtained from the relevant Australian High Commission/Australian Embassy.

English Language Testing

It is mandatory for candidates to sit for an IELTS or TOEFL exam as a pre-condition of placement.

A minimum score of 6.5 is required for admission to Australian universities, although some technical and vocational courses may have lower minimum requirements (contact relevant Australian High Commission/Australian Embassy for details).

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Scholarships in some countries may cover preparatory programs including English language tuition. Preparatory programs are normally limited to one year.

NOTE: -

- For Visa purposes, TOEFL results are not acceptable for Bhutanese candidates.
- Maldivians who have London GCE O/level passes in English (grade C or better) or London GCE A/Level passes in English (grade C or better) may not be required to sit the IELTS test.

Country Specific Eligibility Criteria and Restrictions

Eligibility criteria and restrictions specific to individual countries are outlined below.

Bangladesh

Applicants must:

- be less than 40 years old at the time of applying;
- be a citizen of Bangladesh.
- meet visa requirements of the Australian Department of Immigration and Citizenship (DIAC).
- must not have Australian citizenship, permanent residence status, nor be in the process of applying.
- must not be married or engaged to be married to a person who holds or who is eligible to hold Australian or New Zealand citizenship or permanent residence status.
- have completed a university level qualification which is at least equivalent in standard to an Australian Bachelors degree. Candidates with high level academic results in one or more university level degrees are encouraged to apply.
- have at least two years work experience in the area they are applying for; and
- have undertaken the IELTS Academic Test with a score of at least 6.5, no earlier than 1 November 2006. IELTS exam taken earlier than 1 November 2006 will not be accepted and the application will be disqualified

Bhutan

Candidates should not be more than 45 years old on 1 January 2005. The Royal Government of Bhutan does not permit family entry to be financially supported under the scholarship program. Families may join candidates at the candidates' personal costs.

Maldives

Applicants must:

- be less than 30 years of age for undergraduate studies and 45 years of age for postgraduate studies on 1 January of the year of application; and
- be a citizen of Maldives.

For **undergraduate study**, applicants must have obtained in one sitting three GCE A/Level passes of grade C or above

For **postgraduate study** must have a first degree from a recognised university.

Pakistan

Applicants must:

- be seeking a course relevant to their current employment;
- be applying for courses that fall within the priority areas;
- have a high standard of academic background with a suitable level of previous study and a minimum of 60 per cent average grades to ensure that they are capable of successfully undertaking the proposed course of study in the minimum time;
- have a satisfactory command over the English Language as indicated by at least an overall IELTS Band of 6.5 with no band less than 6.0. The IELTS result must be current (a test result obtained anytime after October 2005 will be considered current);
- have completed sixteen years of education;
- have a minimum of two years relevant work experience; and
- be less than 40 years of age on 4 May 2008.

Sri Lanka

Applicants must:

- be a citizen of Sri Lanka;
- be less than 45 years of age on 1 January of the year of application;
- have a first degree with preferably a second class pass from a Sri Lankan or recognised foreign university;
- have at least two years' work experience in the Sri Lankan public sector in a field relevant to the proposed course of study;
- not have previously received any Sri Lankan or overseas government funded award for long term academic studies in a foreign country; and
- have a minimum IELTS overall score of 6.0 with no band less than 6.0.

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Additional Information

It is a pre-condition of accepting an ADS award that scholarship holders return to their home country to take up a position that utilises their study for a minimum period of two years. Scholarship awards must be taken in the year of offer and cannot be transferred to the next academic year.

Applicants must not have applied for permanent residency in Australia or New Zealand. Applicants must not already be following a course of study at a university abroad.

Contact Information

Bangladesh

Australian High Commission
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Bhutan

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Maldives

The AusAID Office in Colombo
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Tel: (0094-11) 246 3200 ext# 227
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Website: www.srilanka.embassy.gov.au

Pakistan

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Sri Lanka

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