AusAID Australia Awards Scholarships for Latin America

Introduction

Australia Awards is an initiative of the Australian Government which aims to promote knowledge, education links and enduring ties between Australia and the global community.

The Australia Awards program allows for a variety of educational, research and professional development opportunities through the Australian Agency for International Development (AusAID), the Department of Industry, Innovation, Science, Research and Tertiary Education (DIISRTE), and the Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research (ACIAR).

The AusAID Australia Awards Scholarships, managed by the Australian Agency for International Development, are aligned with the Australian assistance for development in Latin America and aim to overcome the lack of human resources specialised in specific development sectors identified as priorities.

Through the Australia Awards, Australia is committed to building the capacity and leadership skills of Latin Americans to enable them to contribute effectively to development in their home countries. These scholarships also aim to build people-to-people linkages at the individual, institutional and international level to help awardees overcome challenges collaboratively for sustainable development.

For the academic year 2014, approximately 90 Awards will be offered to Latin American applicants at Masters by coursework or research, and at PhD level.
**Priority Sectors**

The Awards are offered to study a Masters or PhD program related to at least one of the five sectors identified as priorities for the region, and in which Australia has important strengths. The applicant must choose academic programs, that will allow him/her upon his/her return, to contribute to his/her country’s development in one of the priority sector(s).

Important: The topics listed beneath each of the five priority sectors are for reference only; that is to say, they are examples of some of the main areas related to the development in the sector. The applicant can refer to other areas in his or her application, as long as they are related to the development of at least one of these sectors.

**Water**
- Public and community access to ground and surface water;
- Improved policy development and effective water management;
- Identifying and reducing the impact of mining, agriculture and industry on the water table;
- Water saving methods.

**Natural Resource Management**
- Good environmental practice;
- Increased employment generation;
- Adapting crops and products to the effects of climate change;
- Increasing food security;
- Community engagement in decision making.

**Mining Industry**
- Improving the social impact of mining operations;
- Promoting a more equitable distribution of the benefits;
- Increased opportunities for skills development to improve local employment;
- Improved environmental management and practice associated with mining.

**Governance**
- Development and implementation of public policy;
- Improved financial practices and accountabilities at the central and provincial levels;
- Increased engagement of community sector organisations with the planning and allocation of public funds and resources;
- Increased transparency.

**Rural Livelihoods**
- Local support and policies that lead to improved operation of small holder properties;
- Improved quality of produce for market;
- Providing micro-finance for starting up small scale enterprises;
- Improved skills for enhanced local employment options.
Participating Countries

Applicants must be citizens and residents, at the time of application, of one of the following countries: Argentina, Bolivia, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Peru, Paraguay, Uruguay or Venezuela.

Requirements

Latin American applicants must satisfy all the requirements indicated on the website: [www.AusAIDAASLatAm.org](http://www.AusAIDAASLatAm.org)

These are some of the requirements:

- To be a citizen and resident of one of the participating countries.
- To be able to satisfy all the academic requirements needed to be accepted in the Masters or PhD of their election in an Australian university.
- To have verifiable working experience related to one of the five priority sectors of the program.

Benefits

These are some of the benefits that the awardees receive:

- **Course tuition**: Paid directly by AusAID to the Australian academic institution.
- **Introductory Academic Program (IAP)**: With duration of 4 to 6 weeks, it is specially designed for AusAID Awardees.
- **Mobilisation Travel expenses**: Return flight from home country to Australia, via the most direct route available in tourist class (economy).
- **Establishment allowance**: A once-only contribution of 5,000 AUD for initial expenses such as a deposit or guarantee fee for rental accommodation, texts, study materials, and some types of insurance.
- **Contribution to living expenses**: 30,000 AUD per year, paid fortnightly to contribute to living expenses, such as accommodation, food and transport.
- **Health Insurance**: Overseas Student Health Cover for the Awardee.

Additionally, depending on the specific situation of each recipient there could be further benefits, such as:

- **Pre Course English (PCE)**: The Australian university will determine if this course is necessary for the scholar to be able to complete his or her studies during the required period.
- **Supplementary Academic Support**: This academic support can be provided if the institution determines that it is essential in order to ensure the Awardee’s good academic performance.
- **Fieldwork**: Air travel within Australia or to home country, provided that this is a compulsory requirement of the study program and that the details of this activity have been registered in the Awardee’s original application.
- **Australia Awards Leadership Program**: Exclusive for the 200 most outstanding Australia Award Scholarship recipients in the world. Covers all expenses related to the student’s participation in this program.

### Scholarship Level of Study Duration Scholarship Entitlements Note

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Scholarship</th>
<th>Level of Study</th>
<th>Duration</th>
<th>Scholarship Entitlements</th>
<th>Note</th>
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<tr>
<td>Australia Awards Scholarships (AAS)</td>
<td>Postgraduate studies</td>
<td>Up to 4 years for PhD</td>
<td>Includes course tuition, travel and living expenses, medical insurance and other related expenses.</td>
<td>The applicant is not required to have been admitted into an Australian education provider at the time of application. Awardees must return to their home country after finishing their studies in Australia.</td>
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<td>Masters by coursework or research, and PhD</td>
<td>Up to 2 years for Masters</td>
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Scholarship Level of Study Duration Scholarship Entitlements Note

- The applicant is not required to have been admitted into an Australian education provider at the time of application.
- Awardees must return to their home country after finishing their studies in Australia.
Application and Additional Information

The application period to study in Australia in the academic year 2014 **opens on 1 February, 2013 and closes on 30 April, 2013** (at 23:59, Australian Eastern Standard Time -AEST-).

Application must be made online; however, if the applicant does not have internet access and is unable to apply online, the application can be sent via the postal service.

Before applying, applicants must check the AusAID Australia Awards Scholarships for Latin America website in detail, and read the conditions in the Australia Awards Scholarships Policy Handbook and Country Profile, also available on the same website.

To obtain detailed information about the AusAID Australia Awards Scholarships for Latin America, eligibility criteria, conditions and information on how to apply, we invite you to visit the Australian Government’s official site for this program:

www.AusAIDAASLatAm.org