Australia Awards in Latin America

Australia’s international development assistance program in Latin America aims to help people overcome poverty through sustainable economic development. Australia’s development assistance program is managed by AusAID and focuses on areas of greatest need and where Australia can make a difference, including food security, rural livelihoods, climate change and natural resource management.

AusAID’s Australia Awards are aligned with Australia’s development assistance in Latin America targeting human resource needs in identified priority sectors. They aim to provide awardees with the skills and knowledge to drive change and influence economic and social development.

AusAID will assess applicants for their professional and personal qualities, academic competence and, most importantly, their potential to impact on development challenges in Latin America.

AusAID offers awards on the basis of merit, transparency and equal access. We strongly encourage applications from women, people with disability and ethnic minorities.

Priority sectors

The priority areas of study for AusAID Australia Awards Scholarships for in Latin America are:

**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 Industries**: 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**: the 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 of one of the following countries:

Argentina, Bolivia, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Uruguay or Venezuela.
Level of study

Australia Awards Scholarships

These are long-term development scholarships providing citizens of the countries listed above with opportunities to obtain tertiary qualifications at Australian tertiary institutions.

For the 2014 Intake approximately 90 scholarships will be offered to Latin American applicants at Masters by research/coursework and PhD level.

Australia Awards Leadership Program

Up to 200 outstanding Australia Awards Scholarships awardees across the globe will be offered a place in the Australia Awards Leadership Program in addition to their Australia Awards Scholarships. There is no separate application process.

The Program will bring awardees together in Australia for leadership training, development discussions and the chance to build valuable networks.

Eligibility criteria

Applicants must meet all eligibility requirements detailed in the Scholarships Policy Handbook, available at:


Special conditions

Applicants must also meet the following conditions:

- demonstrate English Language Proficiency with an IELTS (International English Language Testing System) test result of 6.0 with no band score less than 5.5 in the areas of Writing, Listening, Speaking and Reading,

or TOEFL equivalent (Test of English as a Foreign Language™)

- have relevant and demonstrable work experience in one of the priority sectors listed in this document.

Application dates (for study commencing in Australia in 2014)

Opening date: 1 February 2013

Closing date: 30 April 2013

Applications or supporting documents received after this date will not be considered.

The application process

Online applications

AusAID prefers online applications through: http://oasis.ausaid.gov.au. The online application can commence on the opening date. Information entered will be saved until the application is completed. The application must be completed and submitted no later than the closing date but can be submitted before the closing date.

Please make sure you have correctly completed your online application with all required information before submitting.

AusAID advises applicants submitting online to do so well before the closing date. The online application facility (OASIS) experiences peak usage in the days leading up to the closing date and applicants may experience delays.
Hardcopy applications

Applicants may submit their application in hardcopy. Hardcopy applications, including the application form (correctly completed in English) together with all supporting documents, must be couriered to AusAID.

Additionally, a receipt of express post with the applicant’s name must be emailed to AusAIDASLatAM@studyinaustralia.gov.au no later than 25 April 2013.

Hardcopy applications received after 30 April 2013, 05.00PM Chilean time will not be considered.

To request the hard copy application form and AusAID’s postal address in Latin America please write to AusAIDASLatAM@studyinaustralia.gov.au

Selection of Academic Programs

Applicants are required to select two (2) academic programs in priority order when applying. Applicants should only consider courses that align with the priority sectors (please see above) and that are available from participating universities. These institutions are listed here: www.ausaid.gov.au/australia-awards/documents/australian-institutions.doc

To find information regarding courses, you can choose one of the following options:

1. Visit www.AusAIDASLatAm.org for a range of university profiles containing specific information about programs that align with the priority sectors.

2. Visit www.studyinaustralia.gov.au, the Australian Government’s official website for international students and use the ‘Course Search’ function.

3. Visit the websites of the participating institutions directly and search for a course.

Important: when selecting a course please ensure that it will be offered in the 2014 academic year and that it has a CRICOS Code. Please visit www.cricos.deewr.gov.au to verify the CRICOS code of your preferred courses and contact the institution officer who can confirm the availability of such courses for 2014.

An offer letter or acceptance letter from the university is not required to apply for this scholarship. When a successful applicant has been recommended for an AusAID Australia Award, the final admission into the applicant’s preferred course will be managed by a dedicated team on behalf of the applicant.

Supporting documents

Applicants from Latin America must submit with their application all of the supporting documents listed below:

1. English proficiency results: The original results certificate of the English language test – either IELTS or TOEFL.
   The results certificate must be valid until 1 January 2014. Results are normally valid for two years; this means the test date cannot be earlier than 1 January 2012.

2. Proof of citizenship: The passport details page with photograph, or national identity card or birth certificate.

3. *Tertiary certificates/degrees: document(s) required with official certification. If the document was not issued in English, please provide a professional translation.
4. **Tertiary academic transcripts**: document(s) required with official certification. If the document was not issued in English, please provide a professional translation.

5. **Student Academic Ranking**: an original document issued by the tertiary institution which certifies the position in which the student graduated in comparison to the other students of the same program (undergraduate and/or post-graduate, if applicable). If the ranking document was not originally issued in English, please additionally provide a professional translation of same. If academic ranking documents are not issued for a particular program or by a particular university, an official document is required from the university concerned to confirm this.

6. **Course descriptions**: the descriptions (downloaded from the university website) of the applicant’s three preferred academic programs. Applications including descriptions of only one or two preferences will not be considered.

7. **Referee Reports**: At least one academic referee report and at least one other referee report (e.g. a work supervisor). Masters by Research or PhD applicants should provide two academic referee reports plus one work referee report. If the referee cannot provide the report in English, please provide a professional translation. The template for referee reports is available at the website: [http://www.ausaid.gov.au/australia-awards/pages/how-to-apply.aspx](http://www.ausaid.gov.au/australia-awards/pages/how-to-apply.aspx)

8. **Work Experience**: A letter or certificate issued by the relevant employer which certifies that the applicant has relevant and demonstrable work experience in one or more of the five priority sectors described in this document. If the letter or certificate cannot be written in English, please provide a professional translation. Note: If the referees (see 7 above) can certify the applicant’s work experience, a separate letter is not necessary. Alternatively, the referee reports can also provide this information.

9. **Brief Curriculum Vitae (CV)**: A 2-page document in English detailing relevant work history and responsibilities (and research experience, if relevant to the application).

10. **Only for Research Courses, i.e. Masters by Research and PhDs.**
   a) A Publication list in English with details of date and place of publication. If available, publication extracts should also be provided. Note: A research thesis is also considered a publication.
   b) Proof (for example an email exchange) that the applicant has made contact with a supervisor for at least the application’s first preferred program) and the supervisor is available.

11. **Optional Documents**: The applicant may provide a range of other documents that she or he considers will support the application. These may include letter of support from current employer(s); copies of other academic degrees; volunteer work certificates and or development work; participation in congresses, conferences and/or workshops. If these documents were not issued in English, please provide a professional translation.

   For online applications the above supporting documents must be uploaded onto OASIS in PDF format with a maximum size of 2MB per file. For hardcopy applications these documents must be attached to the application form.
*Official certification and translation of documents*

Official certification for undergraduate and postgraduate degrees

For academic degrees issued in member countries of the International Apostille Convention, the Apostille certification is required.

The participating countries of the AusAID Australia Awards Scholarships for Latin America which are members of the Apostille Convention are Argentina, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, El Salvador, Honduras, Mexico, Panama, Peru, Uruguay and Venezuela.

For academic degrees issued in non-member countries of the International Apostille Convention, applicants are required to submit their documents with certifications from the Ministry of Education AND the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

The participating countries of the AusAID Australia Awards Scholarships for Latin America which are not members of the Apostille Convention are Bolivia, Chile, Guatemala, Nicaragua and Paraguay.

This list of member and non-member countries is just for reference. To confirm if your home country is a member of the Apostille Convention, please visit the official website: [http://www.hcch.net/index_en.php?act=conventions.status &cid=41](http://www.hcch.net/index_en.php?act=conventions.status &cid=41)

For more information on Apostille, please visit [http://www.hcch.net/upload/abc12e.pdf](http://www.hcch.net/upload/abc12e.pdf)

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Professional translation

Translations are required to be prepared by a professional translator or a Qualified Education Agent Counsellor (QEAC). More information available at [www.pieronline.org/qeac](http://www.pieronline.org/qeac)

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**The selection process**

The selection process includes a face-to-face interview to be conducted between June and July 2013 (exact date to be confirmed) and takes into account relevant work experience, the link between undergraduate studies and the proposed postgraduate course and, most importantly, the potential impact/contribution of the applicant to the development challenges of his/her home country. Only short-listed applicants will be contacted for interview.

Successful applicants are required to participate in a Pre-Departure Briefing (PDB) session prior their departure to Australia. This is a compulsory event and will be conducted between October and November 2013 (exact date to be confirmed).

Both the interview and PDB might require that applicants travel to a different city and/or country in the region. All travel costs are covered by AusAID and are applicable only for travel from applicant’s city of residence to the city where the interview or PDB will be conducted.

Successful applicants should be available to depart to Australia from December 2013 (exact date to be confirmed) in order to commence studies in Australia in early January 2014.
Preparatory training: Pre Course English

Successful applicants who have not reached the minimum English requirement for their preferred course, are entitled to a Pre Course English (PCE) program in Australia prior to the commencement of academic studies. The maximum length of the in-Australia PCE is six months. This benefit will only apply to awardees who are likely to reach the required level of English for their preferred course in six months. Applicants who are not able to obtain the minimum English within six months will not be given the scholarship.

To participate in the Australia Awards Leadership Program, applicants are required to demonstrate a minimum English level of 6.5 in IELTS or its TOEFL equivalent.

Further information

Further information about AusAIDAustralia Awards can be found at:


Information about Visas and award entitlements and conditions can be found in the Scholarships Policy Handbook, available at:


More general information about the Australia Awards, AusAID and studying in Australia and can be found at:

www.australiaawards.gov.au
www.ausaid.gov.au
www.studyinaustralia.gov.au

Contact details

Organisation: Australian Trade Commission
Embajada de Australia
Programa de Becas AAS – Latinoamérica

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