



Australia Awards

SAMOA

Applying for an Australia Awards scholarship

Australia Awards scholarships in Samoa

Australia's international development assistance in Samoa helps promote prosperity, reduce poverty, and enhance political stability.

Australia Awards scholarships are prestigious international awards offered by the Australian Government to the next generation of global leaders for development. Through study and research, recipients develop the skills and knowledge to drive change and help build enduring people-to-people links with Australia.

Applicants are assessed on their professional and personal qualities, academic competence and, most importantly, their potential to impact on development challenges in Samoa.

Applications are strongly encouraged from women, people with disability and other marginalised groups.

Priority fields of study

The priority areas of study for Samoa are:

- Education (focus on Inclusive Education and Early Childhood Education)
- Health (focus on Allied Health and specialised technical fields)
- TVET
- Agriculture, Environment, and Fisheries
- Community and Social Development (focus on gender and rural development)
- Commerce and Industry
- Information Communication Technology
- Infrastructure, Utility and Transport
- Public Administration
- Tourism
- Law and Justice (focus on specialisations in areas such as Maritime, Environmental, Commercial and International Law, Forensics and Drafting).

The governments of Australia and Samoa regularly review these areas of study together and adjust the emphasis of the program. Detailed information on priority areas of study can be found at: <https://www.psc.gov.ws/>.

Level of study

Australia Awards scholarships provide citizens of Samoa with the opportunity to obtain an undergraduate or postgraduate (Masters) qualification at an Australian or regional tertiary institution.

We will offer a mix of Australia Awards scholarships for study in Australia, in the region, and online.

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 and reunion 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
- fieldwork allowance for research students and master's 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*, available at: dfat.gov.au/about-us/publications/Pages/australia-awards-scholarships-policy-handbook.aspx.

English language proficiency

Applicants must have achieved an IELTS (Academic) score of 6.5 or higher (with no individual band score of less than 6.0) or an equivalent TOEFL or PTE score. Scores must be valid at 1 January 2021.

Commencement of study

All scholarships must be taken up in the year for which they are awarded. Should an awardee not be able to commence study by November in the year of the award, the scholarship will be cancelled.

Country-specific conditions

In addition to the eligibility requirements, candidates from Samoa must also meet the following conditions:

- Applicant must request a new course of study and not seek support for a course already commenced;
- Applicant must be applying for an upgrade of their highest qualification;
- Samoan citizens holding citizenship of any other developed country (including American Samoa/USA, Australia) are ineligible to apply;
- Must be currently employed and have worked in Samoa for more than 2 years (Open Category);
- Must be residing in Samoa / have resided for a minimum of 2 consecutive years at the time of application;
- Must sign a Government Scholarship Bond prior to departure for study;
- Applicants must have a valid email address in order to receive notifications on the status of their application.

Application dates

For study commencing in Australia in 2021:

Opening date: **1 February 2020**

Closing date: **30 April 2020**

Applications and/or supporting documents received after the closing date will not be considered.

The application process

Online applications (Open Category only)

All AAS and AAPS applications must be lodged online through OASIS.

Foundation Students applications

All completed application forms must be submitted to DFAT Apia to be entered on OASIS.

AOSS (DFL) applications

A completed application form is submitted to SMFAT Apia and then to DFAT for external evaluation.

Supporting documents

Applicants must submit all of the relevant supporting documents listed in the *Australia Awards Scholarships Policy Handbook*.

Applicants must also provide the following documents to meet the specific requirements for Samoa:

Proof of Citizenship	Passport/Birth Certificate	Yes
Academic Transcript	Certificate, Undergraduate, Postgraduate	Yes
Degree Certificate (Open Category)	Certificate, Undergraduate, Postgraduate	Yes
Referee Report (Open Category)	Academic Mentors, Employers	Yes

The selection process

- Applications will go through an eligibility check before being ranked according to the assessment criteria below through an external evaluation process.
- Applicants will be shortlisted based on the external evaluation report.
- Only shortlisted candidates will be contacted.
- 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 Samoa
 - professional and personal leadership attributes including relevant work experience.
- Successful candidates will be notified no later than 1 August 2020.

Preparatory training

Successful applicants will be required to:

- attend course counselling
- sit the IELTS test if required
- attend pre-departure briefing
- attend the university's Introductory Academic Program
- attend other required preparatory study on arrival in Australia (e.g. – English for Academic Purposes).

Required document	OASIS document type	Certified
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Further information

Information about the Australia Awards—Samoa can be found at <https://dfat.gov.au/about-us/publications/Pages/samoa-information-for-intake.aspx>

More general information about the Australia Awards, Australia's aid program, and studying in Australia can be found at the following links:

- dfat.gov.au/people-to-people/australia-awards/pages/australia-awards-scholarships
- studyinaustralia.gov.au

Information about visas and Australia Awards scholarship entitlements and conditions can be found in the Scholarships Policy Handbook:

dfat.gov.au/about-us/publications/Pages/australia-awards-scholarships-policy-handbook.aspx

Contact details

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