



Australian Government
AusAID



Australia Awards
DEVELOPMENT AWARDS

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What are the Australia Awards?

The Australia Awards initiative brings together under a single recognisable brand, the Australian Development Scholarship (ADS), the Australian Leadership Award Scholarship (ALAS) and the Australian Leadership Award Fellowship (ALAF) administered by the Australian Agency for International Development (AusAID) and the Endeavour Awards (EA) administered by the Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations (DEEWR).

Australia Awards, Caribbean is funded and implemented through AusAID. AusAID is the Australian Government agency that manages Australia's overseas aid program. Australia's aid program aims to help developing countries to reduce poverty and achieve sustainable development.

Program Aims

The Australia Awards – Caribbean is designed to:

- Promote knowledge, education links and enduring ties between Australia and the Caribbean community;
- Offer a range of opportunities for study and professional development of Caribbean citizens,
- Showcase Australia's cutting-edge capabilities in the education sector; and
- Demonstrate Australia's ongoing commitment to building closer and enduring ties with the Caribbean region.

The Australia Awards – Caribbean initiative seeks to aid the development of:

- the capacity and leadership skills of Caribbean nationals so that they can contribute to the development of their home country;
- Caribbean countries' own capacity to progress towards the Millennium Development Goals; and
- Building people-to-people linkages at the individual, institutional and country levels between the Caribbean and Australia.

Who Can Apply?

To be eligible to apply for an Australia Award (ADS & ALAS):

- Candidates must be a citizen of the following Caribbean countries residing in the region at the time of application:
 - Antigua and Barbuda, Belize, Cuba, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Grenada, Guyana, Haiti, Jamaica, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines and Suriname.
- Candidates must be willing to return to the region to work for 2 years after the completion of their studies.
- Candidates should not have obtained an academic qualification outside of the region in the 24 months preceding the application closing date, calculated from the date of arrival back in the home country.
- Candidates must be willing to comply with the regulations set forth by their home government for citizens accessing international scholarships. Potential applicants should ensure that they are familiar with the requirements of their country.
- Citizens of Haiti, Cuba, Suriname or the Dominican Republic and individuals whose BA, BSc, MA or MSc. was completed in a language other than English (e.g. French, Spanish, Chinese, Dutch etc.) will be required to do an IELTS or TOEFL test.
- Candidates must be pursuing studies at the Masters (up to 2 yrs) and PhD (up to 4yrs) levels only (scholarships are not offered for distance or online courses).
- Applicants must apply for areas of study within the designated priority areas.

AusAID encourages persons with disabilities who meet the criteria to apply.

What Are The Priority Areas For Study?

The priority areas that have been identified are as follows:

Climate change/natural resource management (marine science, environmental management, coastal resource management, forestry management, extractive industries, renewable energy, water resource management);

Regional integration/economic resilience (trade facilitation, public policy and administration, tourism management including eco-tourism, disaster management including structural design);

Education (science, technology, distance education management, special needs education, sport administration/management);

Food security (agricultural and fisheries management).

Target Groups

The Australia Awards, Caribbean initiative is designed to target:

Public sector employees,

Academic staff of public universities and

Employees of relevant regional development organisations.

Preference will be given to applicants from these three sectors. Desired applicant profiles are available in PDF format at www.trinidadandtobago.embassy.gov.au/ptsp/study.html

What are the Scholarship Entitlements?

The Australia Awards, Caribbean scholarships cover travel, tuition, field work, contribution to living allowance (stipend), supplementary academic support (if necessary), reunion airfare and Overseas Student Health Cover (OSHC or health insurance). Further information can be found in the Australia Awards handbook at

www.ausaid.gov.au/scholar/publications.cfm

Application Process

1. To apply for the Australia Development Scholarship (ADS) and the Australian Leadership Award Scholarship (ALAS) applicants **MUST**:
 - research thoroughly their Australian university of choice.
 - ensure that all desired documentation is gathered.
 - visit <http://cricos.deewr.gov.au> and <http://studyinaustralia.gov.au>.
 - visit <http://www.trinidadandtobago.embassy.gov.au/ptsp/study.html> for a list of some of the priority areas and the Universities at which they are offered.
 - ensure that their university of choice is **CRICOS approved** (indicated by a CRICOS code attached – see CRICOS website above).
2. Applications are open to the public from **February 1st to April 30th 2012** at <http://oasis.ausaid.gov.au>
3. **Online applications are preferred**, however hardcopy application forms can be obtained from caribbeanscholarships@ausaid.gov.au
4. In completing an online application, the candidate must upload all necessary documents in the documentary evidence section of the online application form.
5. Documents must be appropriately labelled and uploaded as complete documents and not as individual pages.
6. **All supporting documents must be certified as copies of the original document by an authorized body e.g. Justice of the Peace, police etc.** The certification must include the organisation's stamp, date, and full name, position title and signature of the certifier.
7. Applicants must provide a police certificate of character at the time of application. This document must be uploaded to the online application.
8. Australian universities will also require **certified copies** of applicant's academic transcripts and other important documents (e.g. birth certificate etc.). It is imperative that candidates obtain from their university, as early as, possible all necessary documents to be forwarded to the Australian High Commission, Port of Spain if necessary.
9. The Australian university assessment process is lengthy, in order to avoid delays provide all required documentation in the online application form.

Queries may be sent to caribbeanscholarships@ausaid.gov.au.

What is the selection criteria?

The selection process is based on merit and applicants will be assessed against the following criteria:

Academic Competence

- Level of results achieved in a degree/s from a recognised university
- Relevant prizes and awards (including prestige and influence of awarding body)
- Publications (quality rather than quantity)
- Link between past studies and proposed field of study

Professional and personal leadership attributes

- Relevant work experience in field related to the candidate's proposed course of study
- Career progression evident, including promotions
- Membership of professional bodies
- Community work (e.g. church, university communities, union organisations, other voluntary work)
- Community awards and acceptance
- Achievements beyond academia and personal barriers overcome
- Leadership attributes pertinent to a development practitioner (e.g. strategic thinking and an inspirational approach)

Potential outcomes

- How well the candidate's background fits the preferred profile(s) defined for AusAID's country/regional program objectives (or closest equivalent)
- How well the candidate's proposed course of study and initial reintegration plan match relevant AusAID country/regional program objectives



For more information

Australian High Commission

P.O. Box 4640, St. James
Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago,
West Indies

Further information is available at:

Phone: +1 868 822 5450

Fax: +1 868 822 5490

Email: caribbeanscholarships@ausaid.gov.au

Website: www.trinidadandtobago.embassy.gov.au
www.australiaawards.gov.au
www.ausaid.gov.au/scholar



Frequently Asked Questions

1. Is the Australian academic year similar to that of the Caribbean?

No, the Australian academic year runs from January to December. If a candidate applies in 2012 and is selected, actual study will begin in January 2013.

2. How long after my application will I know whether or not I am successful?

Candidates will be alerted as to whether or not they have been successful by the end of August 2012.

3. What areas of study are not available for funding under Australia Awards – Caribbean?

Scholarships are not available for: undergraduate medical and veterinary science programs, training in areas related to nuclear technology or flying aircraft, legal workshops, double degrees - unless these are included in the original offer and can be completed within the normal time limit for the level of qualification (i.e. two years for Masters, four years for PhD) - courses at the undergraduate level, military training, training of police in counter-subversion method and the suppression of political dissent or intelligence procurement.

4. Can I apply for a scholarship for a university outside of Australia?

No, you must apply for study at a CRICOS approved Australian institution in Australia. AusAID will also not fund distance or online courses.

5. Can I apply for a second Masters or PhD?

No, applicants can not apply for a second Masters or PhD.

6. Do I apply directly to the Australian university?

No, you must apply online (at <http://oasis.ausaid.gov.au>) stating your choice of university and your area of study in the designated fields. Applicants must carefully research their university choices and provide no less than two (2) university preferences on the online application form.

7. Can my family join me for the duration of my scholarship?

Yes, your family can join you for the duration of your scholarship but AusAID will **NOT** be responsible for **ANY cost** incurred in relocating family members to Australia. Scholarship holders must also provide financial evidence to the Department of Immigration and Citizenship (DIAC) upon application for dependent visas that they are capable of caring for and financially supporting their families in Australia for the duration of the scholarship.

8. Can I get an extension on my visa if I want to continue studies in Australia?

No, visa extensions will not be granted. The Australia Awards scholarships are development focused and individuals must return to the region for 2 years as stipulated in the contract. Candidates must also be willing to comply with the regulations set forth by their home government for citizens accessing international scholarships.



9. Is English Language proficiency a requirement for this scholarship?

Yes, AusAID will not award a Scholarship unless the applicant has reached, or can reach, the minimum standard of English language required for their chosen course, as determined by their university of choice. Non – English speaking Caribbean applicants are required to provide current results of the International English Language Testing System (IELTS) or the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL). These results must be uploaded to your online application. If an individual’s BA or MSc. was completed in a language other than English (e.g. including but not limited to French, Spanish, Chinese, Dutch) the applicant will also be required to do an IELTS or TOEFL test.

10. What is the difference between the Australia Development Scholarship (ADS) and the Australian Leadership Award Scholarship (ALAS)?

The Australia Development Scholarship (ADS) are long term development scholarships providing individuals with the opportunity to obtain tertiary qualifications at an Australian tertiary institution. Up to 200 of the most outstanding ADS applicants across the globe will be offered an Australian Leadership Award (ALAS) in addition to their scholarship. The extra entitlements under the ALAS will include a Leadership for Development Program designed to enhance leadership knowledge and skills. Recipients will be brought together with other Australian Leadership Awardees from around the world for leadership training, development discussions and the chance to build valuable networks. Selections will be

based on the applicant’s professional and personal qualities, academic competence and, most importantly, their potential impact on development challenges in their country or region.

11. Where can I find more information about Australia in general?

Additional information on living in Australia is available at:

- www.immi.gov.au (the website of the Australian Department of Immigration and Citizenship see also the Beginning a Life in Australia booklets)
- www.abs.gov.au (Australian Bureau of Statistics)
- www.gov.au
- www.studyinaustralia.gov.au

12. What is the Endeavour Award and can I apply for it?

The Endeavour Award is an internationally competitive and merit based award. There is no development focus and as such there are no restrictions on subject matter. This award is offered globally for study, research and professional development abroad. The Endeavour Awards are also available to Australian students, researchers and professionals who wish to undertake an international learning experience. This scholarship is not offered through AusAID but through the Australian Government Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations (DEEWR).

Further information on the Endeavour Award can be found at <http://www.deewr.gov.au/International/EndeavourAwards/Pages/Home.aspx>



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