



Australian Government



Australia Awards

AUSTRALIAN DEVELOPMENT SCHOLARSHIPS

## SCHOLARSHIPS FOR POSTGRADUATE STUDY IN AUSTRALIA

Consult [www.adsafrica.com.au](http://www.adsafrica.com.au) for more information

The Australian Government is offering scholarships to suitably qualified students from Sierra Leone commencing in January 2012. The scholarships are for university studies for a period of 12-24 months at Masters-level in Australia in selected sectors of priority for the Sierra Leone Government.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation is assisting in the coordination and promotion of this scholarships program in Sierra Leone to ensure it meets with government human resource development priorities.

Scholarships cover airfares, tuition fees, medical cover and a living allowance in Australia. Female applicants and people with disabilities are encouraged to apply.

Study in Australia is subject to the successful applicant being issued with a visa by the Australian Department of Immigration & Citizenship (DIAC). As part of the visa application process, immigration authorities require candidates to undergo a full medical examination including a chest X-ray and an HIV/AIDS test.

Information about priority sectors, target groups and eligibility criteria for the scholarships is outlined in the attached 'Desired Applicant Profile'.

**Applicants can access the online application form (via a link to a registration site) or download the preliminary application form and other documents from the Sierra Leone page of [www.adsafrica.com.au](http://www.adsafrica.com.au).**

**Alternatively applicants who meet the criteria outlined in the 'Desired Applicant Profile' should submit the following documents to Australian Awards Program Manager, Private Bag X38, Hatfield, Pretoria, 0028 South Africa or Fax: +27 86 602 3719 or Email: [application@adsafrica.org](mailto:application@adsafrica.org)**

- a completed preliminary application form (or complete an online application form);
- a current curriculum vitae in English;
- a certified copy of your university degree(s) and transcripts;
- a certified copy of your IELTS or TOEFL test results;
- a certified copy of your identity document;
- all other documents, statutory declarations and other requirements as given in the Checklist (Point 4) of the Preliminary Application Form.

**Failure to complete the preliminary application form provided and submit all documentation requested will lead to automatic disqualification.**

**The deadline for submission of preliminary applications is 31 May 2011.**

An independent selection panel, including representatives from the Government of Australia, will shortlist the candidates who best meet the criteria listed in the 'Desired Applicant Profile'. This will be undertaken during June 2011.

If you have not been contacted by end July 2011 for an interview, please consider your application unsuccessful. Only successful applicants will receive further communication.

Short-listed candidates will be invited for a subsequent face-to-face interview from mid-June to mid-July 2011.

**The Australian Government reserves the right to vary the number and conditions of scholarships available.**



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## DESIRED APPLICANT PROFILE – SIERRA LEONE MASTERS AWARDS

<b>Priority Fields</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Food Security/Agriculture</li> <li>▪ Natural Resources Management (including mining related fields)</li> <li>▪ Health (including HIV/AIDS)</li> </ul>
<b>Target Group</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ You are a national of Sierra Leone</li> <li>▪ You are an early or mid-career professional working in a public, private or civil society sector role in one of the listed priority fields of study. Those from the private sector or civil society should refer to the relevant Desired Applicant Profile for each of these sectors.</li> <li>▪ You wish to undertake a Masters degree in Australia in one of the listed priority fields of study</li> <li>▪ You have a clear vision for how you will use the knowledge gained through the Masters degree to improve policy, practice or education in Sierra Leone in the proposed field of study</li> <li>▪ Female candidates and people with a disability are encouraged to apply</li> </ul>
<b>Eligibility</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ You must not be more than 50 years of age at the date of your application</li> <li>▪ You possess, as a minimum a 3 or 4 year Bachelors degree</li> <li>▪ You must have at least three years' post-graduation work experience (4 year Bachelors must have at least 2 years post-graduation work experience). This work experience must be in a public sector role relevant to your proposed field of study. Preference will be given to candidates with greater periods of experience</li> <li>▪ You must not already hold, or be studying for, a Masters degree</li> <li>▪ You must be applying for a Masters course that advances the development and application of policy or practice within a listed priority field</li> <li>▪ Applicants must provide IELTS or TOEFL English language test results from a test taken since September 2009 and must have achieved the equivalent of a minimum overall IELTS score of 5.5 (TOEFL iBT of at least 60 or above).</li> <li>▪ You must be willing to make a formal commitment to return to your current employment following completion of the award</li> <li>▪ You must meet the general minimum eligibility criteria for Australian Development Scholarships (attached)</li> </ul>
<b>Support Service Options</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Provision of Pre- course English fees on a case-by-case basis</li> <li>▪ Provision of course research support for short-listed candidates</li> <li>▪ Special needs assistance as deemed appropriate on a case-by-case basis</li> <li>▪ Standard ADS support conditions for awardees</li> </ul>



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## GENERAL ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA FOR AUSTRALIAN DEVELOPMENT SCHOLARSHIP (ADS) APPLICANTS

To be eligible for an ADS, applicants must:

- a. be a minimum of 18 years of age at the time of commencement of scholarship in Australia or home country (if preparation training is provided);
- b. have citizenship of and be currently living in an ADS participating country as listed on AusAID's website <[www.auseid.gov.au](http://www.auseid.gov.au)>;
- c. not be married to/or be a defacto of, or engaged to be married to, a person who holds or is eligible to hold Australian or New Zealand citizenship or permanent resident status;
- d. not hold or have held an Australian Government funded scholarship in the preceding 2 years at the time of application;
- e. satisfy any specific criteria established by the applicant's country and/or government of citizenship;
- f. satisfy all requirements of the Australian Department of Immigration and Citizenship (DIAC) for an AusAID student visa; and
- g. satisfy the admission requirements of the Institution at which the ADS is to be undertaken.

Applicants must inform the Australian Government of any connection or relationship to staff employed by the Australian Government or with Managing Contractors at the time of application.

*(The Australian Development Scholarship (ADS) Handbook provides detailed information on all aspects of the ADS program's operation including selection, processing and managing of ADS intakes. Note that the Handbook may be revised and updated by AusAID at any time without notice. The Handbook is available at <http://www.auseid.gov.au/publications/pdf/adsmanual.pdf>)*



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## STUDENTS WITH A DISABILITY

Many Australian institutions are able to offer 'reasonable' support to students with a disability in order to assist access to study. To assess the likely support needs, appropriate assistance, and the capacity of relevant institutions to provide the assistance, awardees with a disability/special need must provide details of the disability and/or special need upon acceptance of their scholarship offer. This information is bound by Australian privacy laws and will be disclosed only for the purpose of facilitating an accessible barrier-free learning environment.

Modifications to physical or learning environments, including additional educational supports such as sign interpreters and captioning, may be available dependant on the relevant institution's capacity.

AusAID will advise the Institution of any special requirements associated with a student so that the Institution can pass these details to the Institution's Disability Liaison Officer prior to the student arriving on-campus. Where applicants meet eligibility criteria and are selected for an Australian Development Scholarship, but the preferred Institution is not able to provide the assistance requested, other Institutions may be recommended.

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## AUSTRALIAN DEVELOPMENT SCHOLARSHIP (ADS) ENTITLEMENTS

<b>Under ADS a common set of entitlements apply to all recipients. They are as follows:</b>	
Tuition Fees	Payment of full academic fees and other fees that are compulsory for all international students undertaking the same course.
Introductory Academic Program (IAP)	The provision of a 4-6 week Introductory Academic Program prior to the commencement of studies.
Travel	Payment of a single return, economy class airfare to and from Australia, via the most direct route.
Establishment Allowance	A one-off contribution of A\$5,000 towards expenses such as rental bonds, text books, study materials, additional medical insurance, home contents insurance etc.
Contribution to Living Expenses (also referred to as a Stipend)	A fortnightly Contribution to Living Expenses (CLE) paid at a rate determined by AusAID (currently A\$25,000 per annum).
Overseas Student Health Cover (OSHC)	OSHC will be provided to cover the Student's basic medical costs. Students may purchase, at their own expense, additional medical insurance to cover ancillary services such as dental services, optometry, physiotherapy etc.
<b>If applicable:</b>	
Pre-Course English (PCE)	PCE will be provided to priority candidates, if required, prior to the offer of a scholarship. PCE will be full time for approximately three months, delivered in Africa.  In exceptional circumstance, further PCE in Australia may be provided for up to six months, if deemed necessary by the Institution and approved by the Australian Government.
Supplementary Academic Support (also referred to as Tutorial Assistance)	Provided when essential to improving a Student's performance to ensure their academic success.
Reunion Airfare Entitlement	The reunion airfare entitlement is available to unaccompanied students. Refer to the Australian Development Scholarships Handbook for conditions relating to eligibility and payment of the entitlement.
Fieldwork	One only return economy class airfare via the most direct route may be approved for eligible research Students to their country of citizenship or within Australia.



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## SUMMARY OF AUSTRALIAN DEVELOPMENT SCHOLARSHIP (ADS) STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES

### Prior to Departure

You must advise AusAID of any personal or family circumstances (e.g. family or financial problems, medical conditions, pregnancy) likely to affect your ability to commence the scholarship on time or to complete the approved course in the scholarship period.

You must take up the scholarship in the academic year for which it is offered.

You must participate in the pre-departure briefing arranged by the Australian Government.

You must not behave in a manner that is unacceptable by normal community standards.

You must agree to AusAID collecting information concerning yourself and/or your dependants and passing that information onto other relevant parties, if necessary.

### In Australia

As an ADS student you must:

- a. reside in Australia for the duration of the ADS (apart from holidays or fieldwork visits to your home country);
- b. not hold another Australian Government scholarship at the same time as the ADS;
- c. complete a full study program during the course of the ADS;
- d. participate in all activities of the Institution's Introductory Academic Program (IAP) on arrival in Australia;
- e. complete in full, the approved program for which the ADS is approved, within the specified scholarship timeframe;
- f. only undertake the approved program for which the ADS is offered and abide by the rules of the Institution;
- g. maintain an appropriate study load and achieve satisfactory academic progress in the program for which the ADS was offered;
- h. participate in all activities associated with the approved course of study, including all lectures and tutorials, submit all work required for the course (e.g. assignments or essays) and sit for examinations;
- i. not undertake any additional off-scholarship tertiary studies during your time in Australia on an AusAID Student Visa;
- j. be aware that any employment undertaken during term times may compromise academic progress and that AusAID strongly advises students not to take paid employment during term times as this may affect their ability to study effectively;
- k. liaise with the Student Contact Officer at the Institution regarding any proposed changes to your approved program and acknowledge that approval is required from the Institution, AusAID and Partner Government before any changes are made;
- l. advise AusAID immediately, via the Student Contact Officer at the Institution, if you marry a person who is an Australian or New Zealand citizen, or who has permanent residence status in Australia or New Zealand; and
- m. return to your country of citizenship for two years at the completion of your study/research program in Australia. A debt to the Commonwealth of Australia will be incurred if you fail to return to your home country, or if you apply for Permanent Residence or for a visa to remain in or return to Australia within the two year period.

And you agree:

- a. that the ADS may be terminated at any time for failure to make satisfactory academic progress, failure to comply with the laws of Australia, misconduct, breaches of the contract between the Student and the Commonwealth of Australia including breaches of the conditions of the ADS, or of the AusAID Student Visa or if you apply to change your visa status.

## **Travel to and within Australia**

Please note that the following are not provided by AusAID or the Institution and are therefore your responsibility:

- a.** Insurance costs (travel & baggage, home contents);
- b.** Personal effects transport costs (i.e. removal costs either to and from Australia or within Australia);
- c.** Excess baggage costs;
- d.** Travel costs for your dependants, either to and from Australia or within Australia;
- e.** Arranging visas and meeting all requirements and costs for family entry to Australia including payment of compulsory OSHC health insurance for family members; and
- f.** Travel costs to and from your place of study.

## **Your financial obligations**

Your Institution will provide you with an Establishment Allowance on arrival and a fortnightly Contribution to Living Expenses (CLE). You are responsible for the use of these funds to pay your own living expenses, including but not limited to:

- a.** initial and long term accommodation costs;
- b.** daily travel to and from your place of study;
- c.** ongoing costs of living and study e.g. food, furniture, textbooks, clothing;
- d.** costs of medical services not covered by the Overseas Student Health Cover (OSHC);
- e.** all costs associated with any family members who visit or accompany you to Australia, including OSHC for family members;
- f.** all costs associated with critical incidents involving family members;
- g.** costs of any legal services; and
- h.** all costs related to any visa extension that may be necessary.

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## AUSAID'S CHILD PROTECTION CODE OF CONDUCT

Awardees receiving funds under an AusAID-funded scholarship agree to

- a. treat children with respect regardless of race, colour, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national, ethnic or social origin, property, disability, birth or other status;
- b. not use language or behaviour towards children that is inappropriate, harassing, abusive, sexually provocative, demeaning or culturally inappropriate;
- c. not engage children in any form of sexual activity or acts, including paying for sexual services or acts;
- d. wherever possible, ensure that another adult is present when working in the proximity of children;
- e. not invite unaccompanied children into their home, unless they are at immediate risk of injury or in physical danger;
- f. not sleep close to unsupervised children unless absolutely necessary, in which case the Awardee must obtain their supervisor's permission, and ensure that another adult is present if possible;
- g. use any computers, mobile phones, or video and digital cameras appropriately, and never to exploit or harass children or to access child pornography through any medium (see also 'Use of children's images for educational/research related purposes');
- h. refrain from physical punishment or discipline of children (excluding own children);
- i. refrain from hiring children for domestic or other labour which is inappropriate given their age or developmental stage, which interferes with their time available for education and recreational activities, or which places them at significant risk of injury;
- j. comply with all relevant Australian and local legislation, including labour laws in relation to child labour; and
- k. immediately report concerns or allegations of child abuse in accordance with appropriate procedures.

### **Use of children's images for educational/research related purposes**

When photographing or filming a child for educational/research related purposes, Awardees must:

- l. before photographing or filming a child, assess and try to comply with local traditions or restrictions for reproducing personal images;
- m. before photographing or filming a child, obtain consent from the child or a parent or guardian of the child. As part of this the Awardee must explain how the photograph or film will be used;
- n. ensure photographs, films, videos and DVDs present children in a dignified and respectful manner and not in a vulnerable or submissive manner. Children should be adequately clothed and not in poses that could be seen as sexually suggestive;
- o. ensure images are honest representations of the context and the facts; and
- p. ensure file labels do not reveal identifying information about a child when sending images electronically.

The onus is on the Awardee to use common sense and avoid actions or behaviours that could be construed as child abuse.