



SCHOLARSHIPS OVERVIEW

AusAID scholarships provide rewarding higher education opportunities for people from developing countries to build skills and knowledge to promote development in their home country and build enduring people to people linkages

Who is AusAID?

AusAID is the Australian Government agency that manages Australia's overseas aid program. The aid program's objective is to help developing countries reduce poverty and achieve sustainable development, in line with Australia's national interest.

Why does AusAID offer scholarships?

AusAID scholarships reflect the overall objectives of Australia's overseas aid program. Through scholarships, AusAID seeks to develop the capacity and leadership skills of awardees so that they can contribute to development in their home country and to build people to people linkages at the individual, institutional and country levels. Award programs include Australian Development Scholarships and Australian Leadership Awards Scholarships. More information about scholarships offered by AusAID can be found at the AusAID website (see below).

What entitlements are available?

A full list of all benefits and entitlements available to awardees can be found at the AusAID website. The Contribution to Living Expenses is only intended to assist in meeting every day living costs. It is not designed to cover the complete costs of awardees and/or their dependants whilst in Australia.

Overseas Student Health Cover (OSHC) covers basic medical and hospital care in Australia, most prescription drugs and emergency ambulance transport. OSHC does not cover: all costs for medical treatment, or pre existing medical conditions. Awardees may, at their own expense, purchase additional medical insurance to cover ancillary services such as dentistry and physiotherapy, etc.

AusAID does not provide OSHC or any other form of health insurance for family members. Awardees are responsible for all medical expenses, including health cover, for all family members while they are in Australia. Please see the AusAID website for more information.

What visa will I need? How do I apply?

Australian scholarship awardees are granted a Student visa—(Temporary Visa (Subclass 576)). Awardees holding Student visas are not required to apply for a separate work permit. The Australian Department of Immigration and Citizenship (DIAC) website (see below) provides detailed information regarding visas.

Will my family be able to accompany me to Australia?

AusAID advises awardees to wait until their second semester before bringing their families to Australia so they have time to find long term accommodation and settle in. The AusAID student visa allows awardees to bring immediate family members to Australia as dependants. More information about visa conditions for family members can be found at the DIAC website.

Will my partner be able to work?

Eligible dependent family members are permitted to work in Australia under the AusAID student visa. Further details on work requirements can be found at the DIAC website. Information about local employment vacancies is often available on university websites. **Please note that the current global economic recession has impacted on the Australian job market with the number of available positions declining.**

The information in this fact sheet is not intended to be exhaustive. If you would like more information, visit www.ausaid.gov.au/scholar/default.cfm

Carefully consider the extra costs of bringing your family to Australia

What about schooling for my children?

Low cost public primary and secondary schooling is available in Australia, but school enrolment must also be arranged for children of awardees before they can be granted visas as dependants. School tuition fees are waived for children of AusAID sponsored students at government schools. However money still should be set aside for each school term for school uniforms, books and materials, sports activities and school excursions.

Childcare should be booked early because of the frequent long waiting period for places. AusAID's Student Contact Officers at each contracted higher education institution can offer assistance to awardees on a range of issues, including information on local schooling and childcare options.

What is Australia like?

Geography and Climate

Australia is a vast and diverse country and the climate varies considerably depending on the season and the location. Cities such as Townsville in Queensland experience monsoonal rainfall in the wet season and high temperatures. But awardees studying in

Canberra experience hot summers and cold winters, with temperatures sometimes below zero at night and ten degrees during the day. Awardees should take into account the location of their higher education institution and ensure they are prepared for the climate.

What type of accommodation is available? How much will it cost, and will it be hard to find?

Institutions arrange temporary accommodation for awardees when they first arrive in Australia, which awardees must pay for. However, awardees must also find and pay for long term accommodation themselves.

Options include:

- > Rental housing
- > On campus accommodation, often the simplest, safest and most convenient option for unaccompanied awardees
- > Home stay (boarding with a family in their home)
- > Sharing accommodation with other students, which can be a good option for unaccompanied awardees.

Be aware of the challenges of finding suitable, affordable accommodation. This has been the most difficult non academic issue for past awardees. There is strong competition for rental housing in many parts of Australia and depending on the location, costs can be high. For example, awardees can expect to pay over AS200 per week for a two bedroom unit. Many campuses are located in areas where housing is very expensive.

What about transport?

Public transport varies widely between Australian cities. Buses, trains and trams are available and student concessions are often available. Student Contact Officers can assist with information about local accommodation options, public transport, and available concessions.

Food, shopping and groceries

Australia has strict quarantine laws and visitors must declare food and other plant and animal material on arrival. Australia is a multicultural society where most foods and cooking ingredients are available.

Research as much as you can about Australia, your chosen institution and local area before you decide to apply for a scholarship

More information

The following websites are useful sources of information for those interested in applying for an AusAID scholarship:

- > www.usaid.gov.au (AusAID's website)
- > www.immi.gov.au (the website of the Australian Department of Immigration and Citizenship)
- > www.abs.gov.au (Australian Bureau of Statistics)
- > A broad range of information about Australia is available at www.gov.au—government, geography, weather, environment, culture, and more. Information about services for non-residents can also be found here.
- > www.studyinaustralia.gov.au
- > www.realestate.com.au