



# Bangladesh

## Applying for an Australia Awards Scholarship commencing in 2019

### Australia Awards Scholarships in Bangladesh

Australia's international development assistance in Bangladesh is focused on education and building economic resilience among the poorest and the most marginalised communities. In both areas, gender equality is prioritised with a focus on empowering women and girls.

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 will be assessed based on their professional and personal qualities, academic competence and, most importantly, their potential to impact on development challenges in Bangladesh.

Applications are strongly encouraged from eligible women, persons with disability, and ethnic minorities. At least 50 per cent of the Awards will be given to qualified women applicants.

### Focus groups

For intake 2019, applications will be accepted from the following groups:

**Group 1:** Government of Bangladesh officials, limited to Bangladesh cadre officials, officers of the Bangladesh Bank, and judicial services officials.

**Group 2:** Employees of development organisations, specifically non-government organisations (e.g. BRAC), civil society organisations, community-based organisations, and international development agencies (e.g. United Nations agencies).

**Group 3:** Employees of private sector organisations.

**Group 4:** Those coming from academia, research institutions (e.g. icddr,b, IEDCR), media, and cultural organisations (e.g. historical museums).

### Priority areas of study

The priority areas of study for Bangladesh for the 2019 intake are:

Priority areas	Fields of study (for example)
<b>Public policy-related</b>	Public administration Public finance Public sector accounting
<b>Development, governance, environment/sustainability</b>	Education Public health Climate change and disaster risk reduction Water resources management
<b>Security studies</b>	Cyber-security Counter-terrorism
<b>Science and engineering</b>	Engineering Technology management Energy
<b>Trade</b>	International trade and development
<b>Sports and arts (limited to fashion, film, screen, and music)</b>	Fashion design Film, multimedia arts Sports management

Applicants must research courses in two preferred institutions, including information provided on institution websites, and ensure that they meet the institution's English language and other course related requirements.

## Level of study

Australia Awards Scholarships provide citizens of Bangladesh with the opportunity to obtain a Master's qualification at an Australian tertiary institution.

## Australia Awards Scholarships benefits

Scholarship recipients will generally receive the following:

- return 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
- preparatory programs that run for up to a maximum of 12 months, if necessary
- supplementary academic support
- fieldwork allowance—for research students and masters by course work which has a compulsory fieldwork component
- reasonable adjustments/support for awardees with disability.

## Eligibility criteria

Australia Awards applicants in Bangladesh must meet the following minimum eligibility criteria:

- Be at least 18 years of age at the time of commencing the scholarship (January 2019).
- Be a citizen of Bangladesh and be residing in and applying for the scholarship from Bangladesh.
- Have at least two years' full-time relevant work experience.
- Be able to satisfy the admission requirements (including portfolio work required) of the institution at which the award is to be undertaken.
- Be able to satisfy all requirements of the Department of Immigration and Border Protection to hold a Foreign Affairs or Defence Sector (Subclass 500) student visa.
- Have an IELTS (Academic) overall score of at least 6.5 with no band less than 6.0 (or TOEFL paper-based test score of at least 580, or computer-based score of at least 237 or an internet-based score of at least 92) (or equivalent PTE score). Scores must be valid at 1 February 2019 and must be submitted with the application.

Women, persons with disability and those from ethnic minorities are allowed to submit an overall IELTS score of at least 6.0 with no band less than 5.5 (or equivalent TOEFL or PTE score). However, they must meet the English language admission requirement at an Australian University if awarded. Assistance will be provided to applicants from the above groups if they need to retake an English test.

- Have completed a tertiary level qualification at least equivalent to an Australian Bachelor's degree.
- Please note that Bachelor's degrees obtained from private universities in Bangladesh are generally not considered equivalent to an Australian Bachelor's degree. Applicants should check with their proposed Australian institution whether their Bangladesh qualification is considered equivalent to an Australian Bachelor's degree.
- **Not be** married, engaged to, or a de facto of a person who holds, or is eligible to hold, Australian or New Zealand citizenship or permanent residency, at any time during the application, selection or mobilisation phases.
- **Not be** currently serving military personnel.
- **Not be** a citizen of Australia, hold permanent residency in Australia or be applying for a visa to live in Australia permanently.
- **Not be** applying for another long-term Australia Award unless they have resided outside of Australia for twice the length of the total time that they were in Australia.

Generally, scholarships will not be available for courses of study in Australia where the applicant already has achieved that qualification and the qualification is deemed to be equivalent to the Australian qualification.

## Special conditions

Applicants must also submit a **Development Impact Plan** as part of their application.

## Application dates (for study commencing in 2019)

**Opening date:** 1 February 2018

**Closing date:** 30 April 2018

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

## The application process

### Online applications

Apply online at: <https://oasis.dfat.gov.au/>

ONLY online applications through (OASIS) will be accepted.

Applicants are strongly advised to complete their application 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.

## Supporting documents

Applicants must submit all of the relevant supporting documents listed in the *Australia Awards Scholarships Policy Handbook* and Bangladesh-specific requirements with their application.

Documents requiring certification/notarisation are specified in the table below. If the document is not in English, the translated copy must be certified. See the *Australia Awards Scholarships Policy Handbook* for certification requirements.

Required documents	OASIS Document Type	Who
Passport	Proof of citizenship	Yes
Tertiary degree certificates (Bachelor's and Master's level)	Degree certificate	Yes
Academic grades (Bachelor's and Master's level)	Academic transcript	Yes
IELTS, TOEFL or PTE results (valid at 1 February 2019)	Proof of English language proficiency	Yes
Certificate of special achievement or merit	Other document	Yes
Academic referee reports (with seal: two reports for Masters by research applicants, and one report for Masters by coursework applicants) Template available at: <a href="http://dfat.gov.au/about-us/publications/Documents/referee.pdf">http://dfat.gov.au/about-us/publications/Documents/referee.pdf</a>  MS Word: <a href="http://dfat.gov.au/about-us/publications/Documents/referee.docx">http://dfat.gov.au/about-us/publications/Documents/referee.docx</a>	Referee report	No
Employment referee report (same template as academic)	Referee report	No
Proof cadre service (for applicants from the Government of Bangladesh)	Other document	No
Curriculum Vitae ( <b>use prescribed temple</b> )  Government of Bangladesh officials <b>NEED</b> to also indicate work experience with the private sector or NGOs, if applicable	Other document	No
Research proposal (for Masters by research applicants, <b>use prescribed temple</b> )	Other document	No
Agreement of proposed research supervisor (Master's by Research applicants)	Other document	No
Development Impact Plan ( <b>use prescribed temple</b> )	Other document	No

#### Notes:

- Referee reports in other than the prescribed format will not be accepted and may make applications ineligible. Contact the Australia Awards Bangladesh to clarify this requirement, if necessary.
- Experience shows that it takes time for supervisors to complete referee reports. Approach supervisors as soon as possible to obtain up-to-date referee reports. References should come from employers, senior colleagues or academics familiar with the applicant's academic, professional skills and achievements.

Referee reports from family members or spouses will not be accepted.

- All templates are also available at:  
[www.australiaawardbangladesh.org](http://www.australiaawardbangladesh.org)

#### The selection process

Following eligibility checking, applications will be assessed and ranked by independent consultants and then short-listed by Australian Government representatives. Only short-listed candidates are contacted for interview. The selection process will include an interview and a written exercise using a computer.

Applicants will be assessed against the following criteria:

- academic competence
- potential outcome, including contribution to development outcomes in Bangladesh
- professional and personal leadership attributes.

#### Preparatory training

All successful applicants will be required to attend a course advice session, a visa and mobilisation session, and a pre-departure briefing/farewell event before leaving for Australia.

#### Outcomes

All applicants will receive notification as to whether they have been successful by **August 2018**.

## Further information

Further information about the Australia Awards Bangladesh can be found at:

<https://www.australiaawardsbangladesh.org>

Australia Awards Scholarship entitlements and conditions can be found in the *Australia Awards Scholarships Policy Handbook*, available at:

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

Other useful websites:

<http://www.dfat.gov.au>

<http://studyinaustralia.gov.au>

<https://oasis.dfat.gov.au>

<https://www.border.gov.au> (for information on Australian visas)

## Contact Details

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