



# Mekong-Australia Partnership

## Applying for an Australia Awards Scholarship

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

At the ASEAN-Australia Special Summit in March 2024, the Minister for Foreign Affairs announced a further five-year commitment to support the resilience and prosperity of the Mekong subregion through the **Mekong-Australia Partnership (MAP)**. MAP aims to support a resilient and inclusive Mekong subregion that pursues joint solutions to shared and transboundary challenges.

From 2026, MAP will offer Scholarships for Thailand, Cambodia, Vietnam, Laos and Myanmar at postgraduate (Masters) level to undertake coursework or research in MAP thematic areas. Recipients will have exclusive access to the Mekong-Leaders Network. The priority areas of study include:

MAP thematic areas	Priority areas of study
<b>Water Security</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Water resources and sustainable management</li> <li>▪ Catchment science</li> <li>▪ Integrated water management</li> <li>▪ Hydrology/Hydrogeology</li> <li>▪ Aquaculture</li> <li>▪ Fisheries</li> </ul>
<b>Climate Action</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Climate/environmental adaptation and resilience</li> <li>▪ Renewable energy</li> <li>▪ Sustainable development</li> <li>▪ Rural development</li> <li>▪ Disaster management</li> <li>▪ Forest and wildlife conservation</li> <li>▪ Natural resource management</li> <li>▪ Infrastructure and transport</li> <li>▪ Mineral resources</li> <li>▪ Environmental management</li> <li>▪ Sustainable agriculture and food stability</li> <li>▪ Sustainable tourism</li> <li>▪ Construction management</li> </ul>
<b>Transnational Crime</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ International/criminal law</li> <li>▪ Criminology</li> <li>▪ Prosecution and Judicial system</li> <li>▪ Maritime security/sustainability</li> <li>▪ Criminal Law</li> <li>▪ Digital and Forensic Science</li> </ul>
<b>Economic Resilience and Subregional Integration</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Economics</li> <li>▪ Economic governance</li> <li>▪ Agricultural economics</li> <li>▪ International trade</li> <li>▪ Agribusiness</li> <li>▪ Public financial management</li> <li>▪ Food science and technology</li> <li>▪ Logistics and supply chain management</li> <li>▪ Regional stability</li> <li>▪ Critical technology</li> <li>▪ AI and robotics</li> <li>▪ Digital transformation</li> <li>▪ Digital communication</li> <li>▪ Information technology</li> <li>▪ Multi-media communication</li> <li>▪ Entrepreneurship and innovation</li> <li>▪ Hospitality management</li> <li>▪ Quality and standard management</li> <li>▪ Construction and infrastructure management</li> <li>▪ Public administration and policy</li> </ul>



MAP thematic areas	Priority areas of study	
<b>Gender Equality, Disability and Social Inclusion (GEDSI)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Gender studies</li> <li>▪ Disability policy and practices</li> <li>▪ Disability service</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Human rights, gender-based health care</li> <li>▪ Social work</li> <li>▪ Social policy and social protection</li> </ul>

### MAP on-award enrichment: the Mekong-Leaders Network

The MAP-funded scholarships offer exclusive access to an on-award enrichment program: the **Mekong-Leaders Network**. This dynamic program will include activities, events and development opportunities that foster enduring connections between MAP scholars across the Mekong subregion to cultivate a collaborative cohort and set the foundations for a strong future alumni network.

### Level of study

MAP-funded scholarships provide an opportunity for citizens of Thailand, Cambodia, Vietnam, Laos and Myanmar to obtain a Masters by research or Masters by coursework qualification at an Australian tertiary institution.

### Award benefits

The MAP-funded scholarship benefits remain the same as the Australia Awards program with additional exclusive access to on-award enrichment, through the Mekong-Leaders Network.

### The application process

The application process and online portal for MAP-funded scholarships will be the same as for the Australia Awards Scholarships. Applicants can apply for a MAP-funded scholarship if the choice of study or research falls within one of the key thematic areas outlined above. Applicants can also choose to apply for both an Australian Awards Scholarship and a MAP-funded scholarship in their respective countries.

Applicants interested to become a MAP scholar should highlight their eligibility for a MAP-funded scholarship in their written application.

Applicants are assessed on their professional and personal qualities, academic competence, relevance of study to the key thematic areas and their potential to contribute to joint solutions to current and emerging challenges in the Mekong subregion.

Applications are strongly encouraged from women and people living with disability.

### Online applications:

Citizens from Vietnam, Cambodia, Laos and Myanmar should follow the same application procedure for the Australia Awards Scholarships for your country. For further information, please visit the Australia Awards website:

[www.dfat.gov.au/people-to-people/australia-awards/australia-awards-scholarships](http://www.dfat.gov.au/people-to-people/australia-awards/australia-awards-scholarships)

Citizens from Thailand please visit the Thailand Australia Awards intake information website: [www.dfat.gov.au/people-to-people/australia-awards/participating-countries/thailand-australia-awards-intake-information](http://www.dfat.gov.au/people-to-people/australia-awards/participating-countries/thailand-australia-awards-intake-information)



Australia Awards

# Thailand

## Applying for an Australia Awards Scholarship

### Australia Awards Scholarships in Thailand

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

In Thailand, Australia Awards Scholarships are funded by the Australian Government's **Mekong-Australia Partnership**. The Mekong-Australia Partnership (MAP) aims to support a resilient and inclusive Mekong subregion that pursues joint solutions to shared and transboundary challenges.

Applicants are assessed on their professional and personal qualities, academic competence, relevance of study to the key thematic areas of MAP and, most importantly, their potential to contribute to joint solutions to current and emerging challenges in Thailand and the Mekong subregion.

Applications are strongly encouraged from women, people with disability and people living and working outside Bangkok.

### Priority fields of study

The priority areas of study for MAP-funded scholarships include:

- Water security;
- Climate action;
- Transnational crime;
- Economic resilience and subregional integration; and
- Gender equality, disability and social inclusion (GEDSI).

Further information on the breadth of areas of study can be found at: [dfat.gov.au/people-to-people/australia-awards/mekong-australia-partnership](https://dfat.gov.au/people-to-people/australia-awards/mekong-australia-partnership)

### MAP on-award enrichment: Mekong-Leaders Network

MAP funded scholarships offer exclusive access to an on-award enrichment program: **The Mekong-Leaders Network**. This dynamic program offers a series of leadership and networking opportunities with other Mekong scholars.

### Level of study

Australia Awards Scholarships provide citizens of Thailand with the opportunity to obtain a qualification at an Australian tertiary institution.

Australia Awards Scholarships will be offered for commencement in 2026 at:

- Masters level (either by coursework or research)



## Australia Awards benefits

All 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 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 masters by coursework which has a compulsory fieldwork component; and
- all costs associated with the on-award enrichment program: the Mekong Leaders Network.

## Eligibility criteria

All 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](https://dfat.gov.au/about-us/publications/Pages/australia-awards-scholarships-policy-handbook.aspx)

### Country-specific conditions

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

- be a citizen of Thailand, with no dual or additional citizenship,
- be a resident in Thailand for a period of 24 months as at 30 April 2025 (i.e. the day applications close) other than for short absences related to employment, professional development or holidays,
- have at least 24 months' full-time (or part-time equivalent) work experience as at 30 April 2025,
- declare all previous study undertaken irrespective of whether it is complete or incomplete or undertaken within Thailand or another country,
- provide all the required supporting documents listed in Table 1, and
- in most cases, the applicant must hold a Bachelor's degree, considered equivalent to an Australian Bachelor degree.

### In addition, Masters-level applicants must:

Have an English language proficiency of

- an Academic IELTS result with an overall score of at least 6.5, with no band less than 6.0, or
- an internet-based TOEFL score of at least 84, with a minimum of 21 in all subtests, or
- PTE Academic overall score of 58 with no communicative skill score less than 50.

The English Language Test results must be valid on 1 January of the year in which the awardee is commencing studies in Australia. No other English language test (including TOEFL prediction test) results will be accepted.

English Language Test results are not required if:

- English was the language of instruction for your undergraduate degree, or
- you completed over five years of study in one of the following English-speaking countries: Australia, UK, USA, Canada, New Zealand, South Africa, or the Republic of Ireland.

**Masters by Research applicants** must provide an *Unconditional Letter of Offer* from the intended Australian University and two referee reports (please refer to the 'Supporting documents' section below).

## Application dates

For study commencing in Australia in 2026:

Opening date: 1 February 2025

Closing date: 30 April 2025 (11:59PM AEST)

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

## The application process

### Online applications

All applications must be lodged online through the Online Australia Scholarships Information System

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

### Supporting documents

Applicants must submit all 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 Thailand:

**Table 1: Supporting documents**

Required document	OASIS document type
All official university degree certificate(s), with English translations.	Degree certificate/s
All official university transcripts of results, with English translations for complete and incomplete courses of study.	Academic transcript/s
Evidence of personal identification and date of birth (e.g. passport personal information pages, National ID card, birth certificate).	Proof of citizenship
Evidence or a statement(s) from workplace(s) (either current or previous) confirming positions held and duration of employment, to satisfy the 24-month eligibility requirement. This statement must be dated and signed by employer/s.	Employer/ Ministry Statement/s
Employer approval to apply for an Australia Award (for Thai government officials only)	Employer/ Ministry Statement/s
Curriculum Vitae	CV
Evidence at the time of application of a minimum English language proficiency (with strong preference given to applicants with higher English language scores) level of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• an Academic IELTS result with an overall score of at least 6.5, with no band less than 6.0, or</li><li>• an internet based TOEFL score of at least 84, with a minimum of 21 in all subtests, or</li><li>• PTE Academic overall score of 58 with no communicative skill score less than 50.</li></ul>	English language test result
<b><u>Masters by Research</u> – Additional Documents</b>	OASIS document type
Minimum of two academic referee reports. please use the template under the supporting document section: <a href="http://www.dfat.gov.au/people-to-people/australia-awards/Pages/how-to-apply-for-an-australia-awards-scholarship">www.dfat.gov.au/people-to-people/australia-awards/Pages/how-to-apply-for-an-australia-awards-scholarship</a>	Referee Reports
An <i>Unconditional Letter of Offer</i> from the intended university.	Unconditional letter of offer

## The selection process

- Applications will be shortlisted after eligibility checking.
- 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 Thailand and the Mekong subregion; and
  - professional and personal leadership attributes including relevant work experience.
- Successful candidates will be notified in late 2025.
- Awardee travel will be subject to meeting the requirements imposed by the Australian Government, as determined by the federal Department of Education and by the relevant Australian State or Territory governments.

## Preparatory training

Successful applicants will be required to attend:

- course counselling;
- pre-departure briefing;
- university's Introductory Academic Program; and
- other required preparatory study on arrival in Australia.

## Further information

More general information about the Australia Awards, Mekong-Australian Partnership, and studying in Australia can be found at the following links:

- <https://www.dfat.gov.au/people-to-people/australia-awards/australia-awards-scholarships>
- <https://www.studyaustralia.gov.au/>
- <https://www.dfat.gov.au/geo/southeast-asia/investing-our-southeast-asian-partnerships/mekong-australia-partnership>
- <https://www.dfat.gov.au/people-to-people/australia-awards/mekong-australia-partnership>

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](https://www.dfat.gov.au/about-us/publications/Pages/australia-awards-scholarships-policy-handbook.aspx)

## Contact details:

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Address: Australian Embassy in Bangkok  
Email: [mekongscholarships@dfat.gov.au](mailto:mekongscholarships@dfat.gov.au)