Make a difference with an Australia Awards Scholarship
Australia Awards Laos – Intake 2021
Australia Awards Laos

Do you want to be a leader in your field and join an inspiring network of changemakers?

Australia Awards Scholarships offer more than a degree. You gain an internationally recognised qualification and a life-changing experience in Australia.

Australia Awards scholarships in Laos

Australia’s international development assistance in Laos helps promote prosperity, reduce poverty, and enhance political stability.

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 are assessed on their professional and personal qualities, academic competence and, most importantly, their potential to impact on development challenges in Laos.

Who can apply?

Lao citizens from all walks of life are invited to apply for an Australia Awards Scholarship. The application process is open and competitive.

Applications are strongly encouraged from women, people with disability and other marginalised groups. The Australian Government aims to provide 50% of Australia Awards scholarships in Laos to women, 10% to people living with disability and 25% to people living in provincial locations.

Level of study

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

Awards will be offered for commencement in 2021 for the following levels of study:

• **Vocational Education and Training (VET)**¹: diploma and advanced diploma,
• **Master’s degree**, and
• **Doctorate degree (PhD)**

While applicants may nominate their preferred level of study, the final decision on which level of study to be offered will be determined by the selection panel.

Aloun Phonvisay, PhD
Deputy Director General, Permanent Secretary Office, National Institute for Economic Research (NIER)
Doctor of Philosophy in Agricultural Development
University of Queensland (2008-2012)

¹ Vocational Education and Training (VET) was known as Technical and Further Education (TAFE)
Priority fields of study

Applications will be accepted for all fields of study except for general business courses and education management.

The following fields of study are human resource development priorities for the Lao and Australian Governments.

- **Education** (early childhood, primary education, special education, Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages (TESOL), curriculum studies, student learning assessment, Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) and other specialisations including maths and science).
- **Human resource development** (public administration, human resource management, organisational management, labour market economics, information management and technology).
- **Trade and private sector development** (economics, international business, trade policy, creative industries, entrepreneurship and innovation, public policy, audit, tax, specialised finance and accounting, energy and mining, hospitality and tourism and other business specialisations or services).
- **Gender equality and social inclusion** (gender and development, women's studies, disability studies, community and international development).
- **Regional stability and human rights** (public policy, international law, international human rights law, international relations and diplomacy, strategic studies, planning and security).
- **Environment, agriculture and natural resources** (water resources management, water engineering, water quality and supply systems, hydrology, agribusiness management, agricultural economics, rural development, veterinary science, environmental science, sustainability, tropical science, climate change and disaster risk management, forestry management, geographic information science/technology, conservation studies).
- **Science, technology and infrastructure** (engineering and infrastructure, mathematics, information and communications technology, architecture and urban planning, transport planning and logistics).

The governments of Australia and Laos regularly review these fields of study together and adjust the emphasis of the program.

Studies in fields other than the priority fields of study listed above (except for general business course and education management) will be considered if the applicant convincingly demonstrates how they will impact on development challenges in Laos upon their return.

Applicants living with disability and people living in the provinces are entitled to additional support and are strongly encouraged to contact the Laos Australia Institute (LAI) Scholarships Team.

Australia Awards benefits

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.

Eligibility criteria


Previous Australian government scholarship recipients who are planning to apply for an Australia Award this year are required to have resided outside of Australia for twice the length of the total time they were in Australia, as of 30 April 2020. For example, if you completed a Masters degree in Australia from January 2015 to December 2016, you are eligible to apply for another Australia Award after December 2020.

Commencement of study

Successful applicants with an overall Academic International English Language Testing System (IELTS) score of 6.5 with no band less than 6.0 and who are offered a scholarship, must take up the scholarship in the year for which they are awarded. Should an awardee not be able to commence study by November in the year of the award, the scholarship will be cancelled.
Country-specific conditions

In addition to the eligibility requirements, applicants from Laos must also meet the following conditions:

- be a citizen of Laos (only);
- have been residing in the Lao PDR for a minimum of two years as of 30 April 2020 (exceptions may be considered for Government Officials who have had diplomatic postings overseas); and
- provide all of the required supporting documents listed under “Supporting documents” on page 5.

VET applicants:

- must have completed upper secondary school; or
- if currently studying at tertiary level, must not have completed more than 2 years of diploma or undergraduate study level; or
- if already have a diploma or a bachelor degree, must have a minimum of two years’ work experience and be seeking qualifications to fill a skills shortfall or to change career direction.

Master’s level applicants:

- must hold a bachelor degree; and
- must have a minimum of two years’ work experience; and
- who already have a masters degree (including from overseas) are eligible to apply, but may be given lower priority.

PhD level applicants:

- must hold a masters degree;
- must have a minimum of three years’ work experience relevant to a postgraduate qualification.
- must have an Academic IELTS Certificate of overall 6.5 with no individual band less than 6.0 obtained after 1 July 2019.

All shortlisted applicants will be required to sit an English language test (except PhD applicants).

- To proceed to the interview, applicants must obtain an IELTS result with an overall score of at least 5.5 (no sub-band less than 5.0) or for people living with a disability 5.0 (no sub-band less than 4.5).
- Applicants who fail to achieve the required result may still be considered on the basis of a valid IELTS test result obtained after 1 July 2019. Acceptance of the IELTS result will depend upon the likely mobilisation date to Australia and will be at the discretion of LAI.

Application dates

For study commencing in Australia, and for English and Academic Preparation commencing in Laos, in 2021:

Opening date: 1 February 2020 (05:00)
Closing date: 30 April 2020 (20:59) Lao Time

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

The application process

For information on how to apply online and the supporting documents required, go to: www.australiaawardslaos.org

Online applications

All applications must be lodged online through https://oasis.dfat.gov.au/

When applying online, all supporting documents must be uploaded to meet the specific eligibility requirements for Laos.

We strongly advise applicants to apply online 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.

For those who have no access to the internet and/or people living with a disability who need additional assistance to apply, kindly contact our Scholarships Team at LAI.

Supporting documents

Applicants must submit all of the relevant supporting documents listed in the table below.

Please note that documents do NOT have to be certified at the time of application.

Applicants should note that a failure to provide all of the required documents may lead to the application being deemed ineligible.

If you are unable to obtain any required documents, you should contact the Scholarships Team to discuss this as early as possible in the preparation of your application.

Alouny Chanthavong
Food and Drug Inspection Officer, Ministry of Health
Master of Public Administration (Public and Health Care Administration)
Flinders University (2016-2018)
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Document</th>
<th>Document type</th>
<th>Checklist</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>All applicants</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Family book (Lao) <strong>OR</strong> Passport</td>
<td>Proof of citizenship</td>
<td>□ Yes</td>
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<tr>
<td>Curriculum Vitae (Applicants must use the CV template referred to on Australia Awards Laos Website) - Maximum of 4 pages (except Research applicants, please see below)</td>
<td>CV or resume</td>
<td>□ Yes</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Public Sector/Government Official applicants</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Government of Laos approval letter, dated, signed and stamped by a representative of your personnel department or head of your department (Applicants must use the template referred to on Australia Awards Laos Website)</td>
<td>Employer or Nominating Authority Statement</td>
<td>□ Yes □ N/A</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>VET applicants</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>All official upper secondary diploma and/or tertiary education degree(s)</td>
<td>Degree certificate</td>
<td>□ Yes □ N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Copy of the original and an English translation</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>All official upper secondary diploma and/or tertiary education transcript(s)</td>
<td>Academic transcript</td>
<td>□ Yes □ N/A</td>
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<tr>
<td>Copy of the original and an English translation</td>
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<tr>
<td>For school leavers or year one/two university/college students only, please also submit:</td>
<td>Academic transcript</td>
<td>□ Yes □ N/A</td>
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<tr>
<td>- all official year 10-12 upper secondary school academic transcript(s)</td>
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<tr>
<td>- all official year 1-2 university/college academic transcript(s) where relevant</td>
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<td>Copy of the original and an English translation</td>
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<td><strong>Masters applicants</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>All official tertiary education degree(s)</td>
<td>Degree certificate</td>
<td>□ Yes □ N/A</td>
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<tr>
<td>Copy of the original and an English translation</td>
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<tr>
<td>All official tertiary education transcript(s)</td>
<td>Academic transcript</td>
<td>□ Yes □ N/A</td>
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<td><strong>PhD applicants</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>All official tertiary education degree(s)</td>
<td>Degree certificate</td>
<td>□ Yes □ N/A</td>
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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>All official tertiary education transcript(s)</td>
<td>Academic transcript</td>
<td>□ Yes □ N/A</td>
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<tr>
<td>Copy of the original and an English translation</td>
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<tr>
<td>IELTS Certificate of overall 6.5 with no individual band less than 6.0</td>
<td>Proof of English language proficiency</td>
<td>□ Yes □ N/A</td>
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<tr>
<td>This certificate must be obtained after 1 July 2019</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Research applicants only (Masters and PhD)</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Two referee reports from academic referees and/or professors (national or international ones)</td>
<td>Referee report</td>
<td>□ Yes □ N/A</td>
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<tr>
<td>Applicants must use the report template available on the Australia Awards Laos website</td>
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<tr>
<td>List of publications relevant to the research proposal</td>
<td>List of publications</td>
<td>□ Yes □ N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A detailed Research Proposal (as submitted to the supervisor in Australia)</td>
<td>Other document</td>
<td>□ Yes □ N/A</td>
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<tr>
<td>A letter from a supervisor in Australia stating his/her in-principle support for the research proposal that has been provided</td>
<td>Other document</td>
<td>□ Yes □ N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Curriculum Vitae (applicants must use the CV template referred to on Australia Awards Laos Website) - maximum of six pages</td>
<td>CV or resume</td>
<td>□ Yes □ N/A</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
The selection process

The selection process includes:
- application eligibility checking,
- an independent assessment of eligible applications against the selection criteria,
- a shortlisting,
- IELTS testing,
- interviews for shortlisted applicants with the requisite IELTS scores, and
- a moderation process taking into account gender, disability, government, non-government and private sectors, levels and areas of study.

Selection Criteria

Applicants will be assessed and interviewed against the following criteria:
- academic competence
- potential outcome, specifically the contribution to development outcomes in Laos
- professional and personal leadership attributes including relevant work experience.

Note: Gender balance and other agreed targets may be applied to the selection process.

Successful applicants offered English and Academic Preparatory training

Successful applicants with an overall IELTS score of 5.5 with no band less than 5.0, and within one point of the score required for course placement, or other successful applicants at the discretion of LAI, may receive an offer for an English and Academic Preparation (EAP) program in Vientiane of up to 12 months (or more for people with a disability).

EAP participants are not permitted to undertake employment during any preparatory training. Short absences only from the course may be considered on a case by case basis.

EAP participants who succeed in obtaining the overall IELTS score of 6.5 with no band less than 6.0, and with the score required for course placement will have their application considered for a provisional offer of an Australia Award for Intake 2022.

How will I know if I am selected?

All applicants will receive notification at each stage in the selection process if their application is not proceeding further. Applicants who are interviewed will be notified of the outcomes as soon as possible after the selection process concludes in late August 2020.
### Key Australia Awards Scholarships Intake 2021 dates *

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Promotion activities</th>
<th>Dates</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Information Session: Disability Advocates and potential applicants with disability at Laos Australia Institute</td>
<td>5 February 2020 (10:00 – 12:00)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Information Session: Government applicants and Ministry representatives, at Muong Thanh Luxury Vientiane Hotel, Vientiane</td>
<td>Deferred to the Facebook Live on 10 &amp; 20 Feb 2020</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Information Session: All Applicants, at Muong Thanh Luxury Vientiane Hotel, Vientiane</td>
<td>Deferred to the Facebook Live on 10 &amp; 20 Feb 2020</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Information Session Live on Australia in Laos Facebook Page</td>
<td>10 February 2020 (19:30 – 20:30)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Information Session: Savannakhet, at Savannakhet University</td>
<td>Deferred to the Facebook Live on 10 &amp; 20 Feb 2020</td>
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<tr>
<td>Information Session: Oudomxay (venue to be announced)</td>
<td>Deferred to the Facebook Live on 10 &amp; 20 Feb 2020</td>
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<tr>
<td>Information Session Live on Lao Youth Radio FM 90.0 Mhz Facebook Page</td>
<td>20 February 2020 (19:30 – 20:30)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Information Session: Targeted Ministries</td>
<td>10 February - 31 March 2020</td>
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<tr>
<td>Support Sessions for women applicants, at Laos Australia Institute</td>
<td>To be announced until further notice</td>
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<tr>
<td>Support Session for applicants with a disability, at Laos Australia Institute</td>
<td>To be announced until further notice</td>
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<tr>
<td>Australian Education Exhibition in Vientiane, at Crowne Plaza Hotel</td>
<td>To be announced until further notice</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

### Application process

| Application Opening and Closing Dates                                               | 1 February (05:00) – 30 April 2020 (20:59) Lao Time |
| Compliance screening, data entry and reporting (eligibility checking)              | 4 – 15 May 2020 |
| Independent Assessment of applications and Shortlisting                            | 11 – 29 May 2020 |

### Selection process

| Shortlist for IELTS                                                                | 5 June 2020 |
| IELTS Briefing Session, at Vientiane College                                       | 10 June 2020 (15:30 – 16:45) |
| IELTS tests                                                                         | 18 and 20 June 2020 |
| Shortlist for Interviews (Interview tips will be available on Facebook Live)       | 10 July 2020 |
| Interviews                                                                         | 20 – 24 July 2020 |
| Formal Provisional Awards Offer                                                     | Late August 2020 |
| Formal Offer for English and Academic Preparation                                   | Late August 2020 |

* LAI may need to change the dates of the information sessions, so applicants should visit our website at www.AustraliaAwardsLaos.org periodically for updates.

* Applicants are encouraged to attend an Information Session, however, please follow Australia in Laos on Facebook to access videos and Facebook Live Information Sessions, reminders and tips.

* Provincial applicants (and others) are especially encouraged to also contact LAI by email or phone with questions once they have viewed the videos and read this brochure.
Further information

Information about the Australia Awards — Laos can be found at: www.australiaawardslaos.org

More general information about the Australia Awards, Australia’s aid program, and studying in Australia can be found at the following links:

- studyinaustralia.gov.au

Information about visas and Australia Awards scholarship entitlements and conditions can be found in the Scholarships Policy Handbook:

Contact details

Organisation: Laos Australia Institute

Address: Australia Awards
Laos Australia Institute
Foreign Languages Resource Centre Building,
Corner of Rue Setthathirath and Mahosot Road,
Vientiane Capital, Lao PDR

Phone: (856) 21 265 721, (856) 21 265 722

Email: infoawards@laosaustraliainstitute.org

Website: www.laosaustraliainstitute.org

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www.australiaawardslaos.org

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