



Australia Awards

# Australia Awards Timor-Leste

## Applying for an Australia Awards scholarship

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### Australia Awards scholarships in Timor Leste

**Australia's international development assistance in Timor-Leste** 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 in developing countries. 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 Timor-Leste.

Applications are strongly encouraged from women, people with disability, rural applicants and other marginalised groups. At least 50% of the scholarships will be targeted at suitability qualified female applicants.

### Priority fields of study

There are no priority areas of study for Timor-Leste. However, applicants must demonstrate the relevancy of their study area for Timor-Leste's development priorities, including disability, health, workforce development, economic growth and diversification. Detailed information can be found at: [www.australiaawardstl.org](http://www.australiaawardstl.org).

### Level of study

Australia Awards scholarships provide citizens of Timor-Leste with the opportunity to obtain a qualification at an Australian tertiary institution. Awards will be offered for commencement in 2027 within the following allocations:

- Diploma level - only available for people with disability and/or people living in rural/municipal areas for the past 12 months or more (excludes people residing in Dili, Tibar or Metinaro).
- Bachelor's / Undergraduate degree (approximately 15% of awards)
- Master's degree – by coursework or research
- PhD (approximately 5% of awards) - a limited number of research awards will be offered to strengthen the capacity of Timorese academic and research institutions.

### 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 students who must complete a compulsory fieldwork component.

## Eligibility criteria

Australia Awards applicants must meet all eligibility requirements detailed in the *Australia Awards Scholarships Policy Handbook*, available at: <https://www.dfat.gov.au/about-us/publications/australia-awards-scholarships-policy-handbook>

### Timor-Leste specific conditions

In addition to the global eligibility requirements, candidates from Timor-Leste must also meet the following conditions:

- be 18 years old by the closing date (30 April) of the application submission period.
- currently residing in Timor-Leste for at least 15 years (cumulative) since 1999 with some exceptions for applicants working for the Government of Timor-Leste (GoTL) in a third country.
- if a recipient of previous scholarship, including GoTL scholarships, have lived and worked in Timor-Leste for a minimum of two years cumulatively (or four years following a previous Australia Awards Scholarship).
- not have citizenship of any developed country (exceptions may be made in some instances for Timorese citizens holding Portuguese citizenship).
- not currently holding another scholarship with the same benefits.
- not have been terminated or withdrawn from a previous Australian Government scholarship.
- not be applying for a course of study at an academic level the same or lower than already achieved (note: master's by research is typically considered a higher level of study than master's by coursework).

### Applicants currently employed as public servants, including within semi-autonomous state institutions (e.g. Timor Gap) must also:

- provide a signed letter of endorsement from the relevant senior government official e.g. Director General or National Director.
- check with the human resource department of the Civil Service Commission and confirm that they have permission to apply for an Australia Awards Scholarship prior to submitting an application.
- if the applicant is a permanent public servant who was previously awarded a Government of Timor-Leste scholarship, the applicant must check with the relevant scholarship department to ensure all previous scholarship conditions have been fulfilled and that they are authorised to apply for an Australia Awards scholarship.
- if the applicant is not currently a public servant but was previously awarded a Government of Timor-Leste scholarship, the applicant must provide a confirmation letter from the relevant government scholarship department that they are authorised to apply for an Australia Awards scholarship.

## Qualifications and English language requirements

- Applicants with a disability or living in a rural/municipal area applying for Diploma/Advanced Diploma studies must have:
  - English language proficiency of at least an IELTS overall score of 5.0, with no band score less than 4.5;
  - Graduated from senior high school with a Grade Point Average (GPA) of 7.00 or have graduated from the UNTL CBR diploma 1 with a GPA of at least 2.50; and have
  - Graduated from a local high school in Timor-Leste if applying as a municipal/rural applicant (excludes residents of Dili, Tibar and Metinaro).
- Applicants for Bachelor studies must have:
  - English language proficiency of at least an IELTS overall score of 5.5, with no band score less than 5.5;
  - Graduated from senior high school with a minimum Grade Point Average (GPA) of 7.00 or have graduated from the UNTL CBR Diploma 1 with a GPA of at least 2.50; and have
  - A minimum of nine months of professional or volunteer work experience (demonstrated clearly in the CV).
- Applicants for Master's by Coursework or Research must have:
  - English language proficiency of at least an IELTS overall score of 6.0, with no band score less than 5.5; and
  - A recognised undergraduate degree with a GPA of at least 2.75, with minimum two-years relevant work experience.

iv. Applicants for PhD level studies must have:

- English language proficiency of at least an IELTS overall score of 6.5, with no band score less than 6.0; and
- A recognised master's degree with a GPA of at least 3.00.

## Application dates

For study commencing in Australia in 2027:

Opening date: Sunday 1 February 2026 (14:00 AEST)

Closing date: Thursday 30 April 2026 (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 [OASIS](#).

- Applicants must use their full name exactly as it appears on their passport, including first, middle, and last names.
- Applicants must not use nicknames, shortened versions, or abbreviations of their names.

### Supporting documents

Applicants must submit all the relevant supporting documents listed in the *Australia Awards Scholarships Policy Handbook* -

<https://www.dfat.gov.au/about-us/publications/australia-awards-scholarships-policy-handbook>

Applicants must also provide the following documents to meet the specific requirements for **Timor-Leste**:

Study level	Required document	OASIS document type	Certified
Diploma/ Undergraduate	Copy of citizenship, i.e. Identity Card (BI), Electoral Card or Passport	Proof of citizenship	No
	Birth certificate (RDTL), English version and certified by the Timor-Leste Ministry of Justice	Proof of citizenship	Yes
	Current curriculum vitae (CV) <i>Refer to template on Australia Awards Timor-Leste website</i>	Curriculum vitae / Resume	No
	Minimum of two current reference letters in English (one academic and one professional reference). If applicant graduated more than 4 years ago, two professional references can be submitted. <i>Refer to template on the Australia Awards Timor-Leste website. Reference letters must not be more than one year old.</i>	Other documents	No
	Third year transcript (both English version and copy of original language)	Academic transcript	No (certified document by TL Ministry of Education required at shortlisting stage)

Study level	Required document	OASIS document type	Certified
	Secondary school diploma (both English version and copy of original language).	Degree certificate	No (certified by document TL Ministry of Education required at shortlisting stage). Any online diplomas and transcripts must be certified in advance by the TL Ministry of Education.
	Returning home reintegration plan <i>Refer to template on Australia Awards Timor-Leste website</i>	Other documents	No
	If available, IELTS results obtained after 1 January 2026	Proof of English Language Proficiency	No
<b>Master's by Coursework, Master's by Research, and PhD</b>	Copy of citizenship, i.e. Identity Card (BI), Electoral Card or Passport	Proof of citizenship	No
	Birth certificate (RDTL), English version and certified by the Timor-Leste Ministry of Justice	Proof of citizenship	Yes
	Current curriculum vitae (CV) <i>Refer to template on Australia Awards Timor-Leste website</i>	Curriculum vitae / Resume	No
	Minimum of two current reference letters in English (one academic and one professional reference). If applicant graduated more than 4 years ago, two professional references can be submitted.  <i>Refer to template on the Australia Awards Timor-Leste website. Reference letters must not be more than one year old.</i>	Other documents	No
	All official university degree certificates and academic transcripts (English version and copy of original language).  <i>Note: If no GPA is recorded on the transcripts, please obtain a statement from the university that confirms GPA equivalence.</i>	Academic transcript	No (certified document by TL Ministry of Education required at shortlisting stage). Any online diplomas must be certified in advance by the TL Ministry of Education.
	Undergraduate or Master diploma (English version and copy of original language). Any online diplomas and transcript must be certified in advance by the Ministry of Education	Degree certificate	No (certified document by TL Ministry of Education required at shortlisting stage)
	Returning home reintegration plan <i>Refer to template on Australia Awards Timor-Leste website</i>	Other documents	No
	If available, IELTS results obtained after 1 January 2026	Proof of English Language Proficiency	No

Study level	Required document	OASIS document type	Certified
<b>Additional documents required for Master's by Research/ PhD</b>	Two signed recent academic research referee reports <i>Refer to template on the Australia Awards Timor-Leste website.</i>	Other documents	No
	Evidence (letter or email) that you have received in principle support for your research topic from potential supervisors at course/university preference 1 and 2	Other documents	No
	Outline of the proposed research project	Other documents	No
	Details of proposed fieldwork with indicative timelines	Other documents	No
<b>Additional documents required by public servants, semi-autonomous state institutions / previous GoTL scholarship awardees and other</b>	Endorsement from your employer (line supervisor), e.g. Director General or National Director <i>Refer to template on the Australia Awards Timor-Leste website.</i>	Employer or nominating authority statement	No
	Confirmation letter from the relevant government scholarship department that you are eligible to apply for the Australia Awards 2027 intake (if applicant has undertaken previous government-funded scholarship) <i>Refer to template on the Australia Awards Timor-Leste website.</i>	Other documents	No

## 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 [country name].
  - professional and personal leadership attributes including relevant work experience.
- Successful candidates will be notified in late 2026.
- Awardee travel will be subject to meeting the requirements imposed by the Australian Government, as determined by the federal Department of Home Affairs and 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
- other required preparatory study on arrival in Australia.

## Further information

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

- [Australia Awards Scholarships](#)
- [Study in Australia](#)

Information about visas and Australia Awards scholarship entitlements and conditions can be found in the [Australia Awards Scholarships Policy Handbook](#).

### **Contact details**

Australia Awards Timor-Leste

Address: Dili Central, CBD5 Level 2, Timor Plaza, Bebonuk, Dili, Timor-Leste

Telephone: 332 2603, 7706 4302, 7706 4305, WhatsApp: 7706 4302

Email: [scholarships@australiaawardstl.org](mailto:scholarships@australiaawardstl.org)

Website: <https://www.australiaawardstl.org/>