



# Fiji

## Applying for an Australia Awards scholarship

### Australia Awards scholarships in Fiji

Australia's international development assistance in Fiji 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 Fiji.

Applications are strongly encouraged from women, people with disability and other marginalised groups.

### Levels & Priority fields of study

Australia Awards scholarships provide citizens of Fiji with the opportunity to obtain a qualification at a tertiary institution in Australia or in the Pacific region.

Awards will be offered for commencement in intake 2024 for the following:

**Australia Awards Scholarships (AAS)** for undergraduate and postgraduate studies at Australian institutions in the following specialised areas:

- Environment
- Governance
- Infrastructure
- Health

**Australia Awards Pacific Scholarships (AAPS)** for the following Fiji National University (FNU) courses:

- Diploma in Construction
- Diploma in Quantity Surveying
- Diploma in Land Surveying

- Postgraduate Diploma in Advanced Nursing Practice
- Postgraduate Diploma in Mental Health Nursing
- Postgraduate Diploma in Midwifery
- Postgraduate Diploma in Public Health

Note: scholarships are not available for PhD studies.

### 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 or regional education institution, including any preparatory training.

Scholarship recipients will receive the following:

- return air travel (AAS only)
- a one-off establishment allowance on arrival
- full tuition fees
- contribution to living expenses
- introductory academic program
- medical insurance (AAPS) OR Overseas Student Health Cover (AAS) for the duration of the scholarship
- supplementary academic support,
- fieldwork allowance for research students and masters by coursework which has a compulsory fieldwork component (AAS only)

### Commencement of study

All scholarships must be taken up in the year for which they are awarded. Should an awardee not be able to commence study in 2024, the scholarship may be withdrawn.

### Application dates

For study commencing in 2024:

Opening date: 1 February 2023

Closing date: 1 May 2023 (11:59PM AEST)

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



## Australia Awards Scholarships (AAS)

### AAS Priority fields of study

**Environment:** Agriculture\*, Agro-economics\*, Agro-security, Bio-security, Green Recovery, Disaster Risk Reduction & Recovery, Energy Systems & Renewable Energy, Environment & Resource Economics, Food Science, Security & Technology\*, Seismology, Waste Management, Water Resource Management, Meteorology.

**Governance:** Criminology, Cybersecurity\*, Digital Design, Innovation and Marketing, Economic Reform, Econometrics, Geographic Information Systems\*, Governance, Risk Management & Compliance, Management Information Systems\*, Records & Archives Management, Information Technology\*.

**Infrastructure:** Architecture, Building & Construction, Town & Country Planning, Water, Sanitation and Hygiene.

**Health:** Communicable & Non-Communicable Diseases, Counselling & Psychotherapy\*, Emergency Planning & Preparedness, Health System Security, Nursing (specialisations), Occupational Therapy & Speech Therapy, Psychology & Occupational Therapy\*.

\*All courses considered at undergraduate and postgraduate levels, except for those with an asterisk. These will only be considered at postgraduate level.

The governments of Australia and Fiji regularly review these areas of study together and adjust the emphasis of the program. Detailed information on priority areas of study can be found at: [www.australiaawardsfijiandtuvalu.org](http://www.australiaawardsfijiandtuvalu.org)

Applications should outline how their priority field of study can contribute to Fiji's COVID19 Development Response: <https://www.dfat.gov.au/sites/default/files/covid-response-plan-fiji.pdf>

### AAS 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/sites/default/files/aus-awards-scholarships-policy-handbook.pdf>

### AAS Country-specific conditions

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

- must be residing in Fiji at the time of application
- program of study must not be available locally
- must be a minimum of 18 years at the 1 Jan 2024
- must not be serving an existing scholarship bond
- must be able to meet the institutional entry requirements for their proposed course
- maximum duration for a Bachelor degree is four years and Master's degree program is two years
- not hold an equivalent or higher qualification. Proposed course must be higher than current qualification

- civil servants are strongly encouraged to seek approval from their Permanent Secretary, in accordance with the Civil Service's Learning and Development guidelines.

### Undergraduate applicants must:

- have completed Year 12 with a minimum aggregate mark of 320 out of 400 (English & 3 best subjects) or equivalent and be studying Year 13. Scholarship will be dependent on applicant achieving a minimum aggregate result of 320 out of 400 in Year 13 (in 2023), OR
- have completed Year 13 with a minimum aggregate mark of 320 out of 400 (English & 3 best subjects) or equivalent
- if applying as a mature age applicant, applicant must have completed formal training and have 3 years' work experience in the proposed priority sector.

### Postgraduate applicants must:

- hold a first degree relevant to the priority sector, and
- have at least 3 years' work experience in the priority sector.

### The application process

All AAS applications must be lodged online through the online Australia Awards Scholarships Information System (OASIS) at:

Hardcopy applications will also be accepted from marginalised groups.

### Supporting documents

Applicants must submit all the relevant supporting documents listed in the *Australia Awards Scholarships Policy Handbook*. As outlined here:

AAS Application Document Checklist	
Document	Certified
Certified copy of birth certificate	Yes
Certified copy of passport	Yes
Certified copy of graduation certificate (Year 12/13 OR Tertiary qualification)	Yes
Certified copy of formal academic transcript	Yes
Curriculum Vitae (CV) including applicants person details, academic qualifications, work experience and responsibilities (max than 3 pages)	Not certified
Two referee reports (no more than 12 months old). *Masters by research must provide two academic referee reports.	Not certified

Documents must be certified in line with the Australia Awards Scholarship Policy Handbook, refer to clause 2.8.

## Australia Awards Pacific Scholarships (AAPS)

AAPS scholarships provide Fiji citizens with the opportunity to study priority programs at a tertiary institution in Fiji.

For Intake 2024, Awards will be offered for the following FNU courses:

- Diploma in Construction
- Diploma in Quantity Surveying
- Diploma in Land Surveying
- Postgraduate Diploma in Advanced Nursing Practice
- Postgraduate Diploma in Mental Health Nursing
- Postgraduate Diploma in Midwifery
- Postgraduate Diploma in Public Health

### **AAPS Eligibility criteria**

Australia Awards Pacific Scholarship applicants must meet all eligibility requirements detailed in the Australia Awards Pacific Scholarships Policy Handbook, available at:

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

### **AAPS country-specific requirements**

In addition to meeting the general eligibility criteria, applicants must also meet the following AAPS specific eligibility requirements to be considered for an award:

For Certificate & Diploma level courses:

- must meet the institution entry requirements for the proposed course.
- must have a minimum Year 12 result of 250 out of 400 (English & 3 best subjects or as per the institution entry requirements).
- mature age applicants must have at least 5 years' relevant work experience, achieved a pass grade at Year 12/13 or have some work-related training.

For Postgraduate Diploma Courses:

- must meet the institution entry requirements for the proposed course.
- must hold a relevant undergraduate degree, with a minimum GPA of 3.0 or equivalent.
- must have minimum of 3 years' experience in the health sector.

All AAPS applicants:

- must apply for a qualification that is progressive (i.e. higher than their current level of study)
- must not be serving an existing scholarship bond with any other government
- civil servants are strongly encouraged to seek approval from their Permanent Secretary (in accordance with the Civil Service's Learning and Development guidelines).

### **AAPS application process**

All AAPS applications must be lodged online through the online Australia Awards Scholarships Information System (OASIS) at: <https://oasis.dfat.gov.au/>

Hardcopy applications will also be accepted from marginalised groups.

### **AAPS supporting documents**

AAPS applicants must submit all of the relevant supporting documents listed in the below table, along with their application.

<b>AAPS Application Document Checklist</b>	
<b>Document</b>	<b>Certified</b>
Certified copy of birth certificate	Yes
Certified copy of passport or voter ID card	Yes
Certified copy of graduation certificate (Year 12/13 OR Tertiary qualification)	Yes
Certified copy of formal academic transcript	Yes
Two recent referee reports (no more than 12 months old).	Not certified
Curriculum Vitae (CV) including applicants person details, academic qualifications, work experience and responsibilities (no more than 3 pages)	Not certified

## AAS & AAPS selection process

- All applications will be checked for eligibility and compliance. Only eligible applicants will progress for further assessment.
- Eligible applicants will be assessed against the following criteria:
  - academic competence
  - potential outcome, specifically the contribution to development outcomes in Fiji
  - professional and personal leadership attributes including relevant work experience.
- Shortlisted applicants will be required to attend an interview and possibly a written test.
- Successful candidates will be notified by September 2023.
- Awardee travel will be subject to meeting the requirements imposed by the Australian Government, as determined by the Department of Education, Skills and Employment, and must meet the requirements imposed by State and Territory governments.

## Preparatory training

Successful applicants will be required to undertake:

- course counselling (AAS)
- pre-departure training
- university's Introductory Academic Program
- university orientation week (AAPS)
- applicants may be required to take the International English Language Testing System test (IELTS) to assess their English language competence (successful applicants will be advised if this is required). This is not required as part of the application process, however applicants should consider the entry requirements of their preferred course carefully as this may be an entry requirement.
- other required preparatory study on arrival in Australia.

## Further information

Information about Australia Awards Fiji can be found at: [www.australiaawardsfijiandtuvalu.org](http://www.australiaawardsfijiandtuvalu.org)

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

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

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

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

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

Information about FNU's Programs can be found at: <https://www.fnu.ac.fj/study/program/>

## Contact details

Australia Awards Office  
Phone: 3312141  
Email: [australiaawards@ausfijifacility.org](mailto:australiaawards@ausfijifacility.org)  
Website: [www.australiaawardsfijiandtuvalu.org](http://www.australiaawardsfijiandtuvalu.org)

Australia Awards Information Centre  
Ground Floor, Sabrina Building  
Corner of Gordon St and Victoria Parade  
Suva, Fiji

## Information Centre

Australia Awards Fiji has an Information Centre that is equipped with some education institution materials as well as computers/internet that individuals can access.

The Centre is open: Monday to Friday from 9.00am-4:30pm.

Facilities are also available for people with disability.

Interested applicants are encouraged to visit the Information Centre or to contact staff through email or phone (details above).