



DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES
KAGAWARAN NG KAPALIGIRAN AT LIKAS YAMAN



MAR 26 2024

MEMORANDUM

FOR/TO : **All Undersecretaries**
All Assistant Secretaries
All Service Directors
All Bureau Directors
All Regional Executive Directors
All Provincial Environment and Natural Resources Officer
All Community Environment and Natural Resources Officer
All Heads of Attached Agencies

FROM : **The OIC Director**
Human Resource Development Service

SUBJECT : **INVITATION TO THE AUSTRALIA AWARDS SCHOLARSHIP (AAS) 2025**

This refers to the letter dated 16 March 2024 of Ms. HK Yu PSM, Ambassador of Australia in the Philippines, calling the applications for the Australia Awards Scholarship (AAS) 2025. The list of available courses and more information about the program is accessible at the Australia Awards Philippines website: <https://australiaawardsphilippines.org>.

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 eligible countries.

Interested applicants shall possess the following qualification requirements of the DENR:

1. Have at least two (2) years holding permanent plantilla position in the DENR at the time of application;
2. Have obtained performance ratings of at least Very Satisfactory for the last two (2) consecutive rating periods;
3. Performing duties and responsibilities relevant to the field of study/travel being applied for;
4. Have no pending administrative case;
5. Have no pending application and nomination for other study and non-study trips;
6. Have not exceeded four (4) official foreign travel within a year;
7. Have submitted all the required reports from previous foreign travels;
8. Have rendered the required service obligation for a scholarship previously enjoyed;
9. Must be willing to conduct a master's thesis aligned to the priority programs of the Department or related topics to be identified/approved by the DENR;
10. Must be willing to sign a scholarship service contract and shall serve the DENR with the corresponding period of service obligation; and
11. Must not be a delinquent scholar.

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The nominee shall submit complete application requirements to the Career Development Division through this link bit.ly/nomiforeign on or before 16 April 2024:



1. Memorandum addressed to the Chair of the Human Resource Development Committee (HRDC), attention HRDC Secretariat to be endorsed by Head of Office and concurred by Supervising Undersecretary and Assistant Secretary;
2. Resolution from HRDC Counterpart recommending the nomination of the applicant;
3. Service Record;
4. Certificate of no pending administrative case;
5. Certification from the Director supervising human resources/Assistant Regional Director for Management Service/Assistant Director (Region/Bureau/Attached Agency) stating that the applicant:
 - a. has no pending scholarship nomination;
 - b. has not been a delinquent scholar from a previous scholarship grant;
 - c. has submitted all the required reports from previous foreign travels;
 - d. has performance ratings of at least Very Satisfactory for the last two (2) consecutive rating periods;
6. Updated Personal Data Sheet, with Work Experience Sheet, duly signed by authorized person administering oath; and
7. Self Certification of official Travel History for the past 24 months.

The DENR HRDC shall screen and select qualified candidates to the program. Selected candidates will be notified and endorsed to the Australian Embassy to the Philippines, to proceed with the application/admission process. Please note that the nominees to be selected by the DENR will be asked to submit a Re-Entry Action Plan (REAP) as part of the application requirements of AAS.

The application process and documentary requirements can be viewed at <https://www.dfat.gov.au/about-us/publications/australia-awards-scholarships-policy-handbook> and <https://australiaawardsphilippines.org/>. Attached are the invitation and Australia Awards Scholarship information, for reference.

Should you need further information about the requirements, please communicate with the HRDC Secretariat at email address: hrdcs2020@gmail.com or telephone: (02) 8927-9107 or VOIP 1063.

For your information and appropriate action.


MIRIAM M. MARCELO



AMBASSADOR

AUSTRALIAN EMBASSY
THE PHILIPPINES

16 March 2024

Secretary Maria Antonia Yulo Loyzaga
Department of Environment and Natural Resources
Quezon City

Dear Secretary Loyzaga

I am very pleased to share that Australia Awards are currently accepting scholarship applications for master's degree studies commencing in January 2025. Applications will be accepted until 30 April 2024 at australiaawardsphilippines.org.

Since 2005, over 1,500 Filipinos have been awarded these prestigious, transformational scholarships. Our Australia Awardees have since made significant contributions to the Philippines' development, prosperity, and resilience.

Please find enclosed additional information regarding this year's Australia Awards intake, including priority areas of study for the open category. I would be most grateful for your assistance in disseminating this information to relevant channels within your agency.

For any queries or to schedule an information session, please do not hesitate to contact the Australia Awards Philippines Secretariat at secretariat@australiaawardsphilippines.org.

Thank you very much.

Yours sincerely


HK Yu PSM, FCPA (Aust)



Australia Awards

The Philippines

Applying for an Australia Awards scholarship

Australia Awards scholarships in the Philippines

Australia's international development assistance in the Philippines 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 eligible countries.

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

Priority fields of study

The priority areas of study for eligible the Philippines are:

- Agriculture, aquatic, and natural resources management (including mining and energy)
- Climate change
- Digital economy and cybersecurity
- Education
- Foreign relations
- Gender equality, disability, and social inclusion
- Governance and public policy (including civil society and media)
- Health (including public health and mental health)
- Humanitarian action and disaster risk reduction
- Infrastructure and smart cities
- Law and justice
- Maritime policy, maritime security, law of the sea, marine environmental science, and marine resource management
- Peace and development,
- Trade and economics.

The governments of Australia and the Philippines 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 australiaawardsphilippines.org.

Level of study

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

Awards for Master's degree programs will be offered for commencement in 2025 within the following allocations:

- **Open category** – Individuals who intend to pursue studies in the identified priority areas of study,
- **Targeted category** – Applicants nominated by partner Philippine government agencies whose respective mandates support the shared priorities of Australia and the Philippines.

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 Master's by coursework which has a compulsory fieldwork component.

Eligibility criteria

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.

Country-specific conditions

In addition to the eligibility requirements, candidates from the Philippines must:

- Have resided in the Philippines for at least 12 months upon application
- Have at least two years' cumulative work experience upon application
- Not hold another scholarship,
- Be willing to implement a re-entry action plan (REAP) upon return from the scholarship.

Application dates

For study commencing in Australia in 2025:

Opening date: 1 February 2024

Closing date: 30 April 2024 (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 at australiaawardsphilippines.org.

Supporting documents

Applicants must submit all the relevant supporting documents listed in the *Australia Awards Scholarships Policy Handbook* and the following documents to meet the specific requirements for the Philippines:

- REAP: Outlines a project, which applies the knowledge and skills gained from the applicant's Australian education and training towards Philippine development
- Affidavit of citizenship and residency
- Certification of Grade Point Average/General Weighted Average

- (For targeted category applicants:) Letter from the agency head endorsing the scholarship application and the minutes of meeting of the scholarship committee endorsing the nominees.

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 outcomes, specifically the contribution to Philippine development through the REAP; and
 - Professional and personal leadership attributes including relevant work experience.
- Successful candidates will be notified in mid-2024.
- Awardee travel is subject to meeting the requirements of the Australian Government, as determined by the Department of Home Affairs, 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:

- dfat.gov.au/people-to-people/australia-awards/pages/australia-awards-scholarships
- <https://www.studyaustralia.gov.au>

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.

Contact details

Australia Awards—Philippines

Address: 3rd Floor, JMT Building, ADB Avenue, Ortigas Center, Pasig City, Metro Manila

Telephone: +632 8638 9686

Email: secretariat@australiaawardsphilippines.org