



Australian Government
AusAID



Australian Scholarships
THE PATHWAY TO EXCELLENCE

Australian Leadership Awards – Scholarships



The Australian Leadership Awards (ALA) program aims to develop leadership, build partnerships and linkages within the Asia-Pacific, and address priority regional issues. The ALA program is comprised of Scholarships and Fellowships. Awardees are selected from the public, private and community sectors within countries where Australia has a significant aid program.

Australian Leadership Awards (ALA) Scholarships and Fellowships are provided by the Australian Agency for International Development (AusAID), the Australian Government's overseas aid agency. AusAID offers a range of study and professional development awards to promote sustainable development in the Asia-Pacific region.

ALA Scholarships are offered to high achievers from the Asia-Pacific region to undertake postgraduate study

(Masters or Doctorate) at an Australian university. Study programs must relate to AusAID's priority areas of disability, economic growth, education, environment, food security, gender, governance, health, human rights, infrastructure, regional stability, rural development and water & sanitation.

Scholars also undertake an extensive leadership development program while in Australia.



ELIGIBLE COUNTRIES

The following are ALA Scholarship eligible countries:

- | | | |
|---|--------------------|-------------------|
| • Afghanistan | • Indonesia | • Philippines |
| • Bangladesh | • Iraq | • Samoa |
| • Bhutan | • Kiribati | • Solomon Islands |
| • Cambodia | • Laos | • Sri Lanka |
| • China (excluding Hong Kong SAR and Macau SAR) | • Maldives | • Thailand |
| • Cook Islands | • Marshall Islands | • Timor-Leste |
| • Federated States of Micronesia | • Mongolia | • Tokelau |
| • Fiji | • Nauru | • Tonga |
| • India | • Nepal | • Tuvalu |
| | • Niue | • Vanuatu |
| | • Palau | • Viet Nam |
| | • Papua New Guinea | • Wallis & Futuna |

Note: The Australian Government values the contribution and perspectives of all people. To ensure equity and the broad participation of all, including women, people with disability, ethnic minorities, rural population and socio-economically disadvantaged groups, any barriers to their participation will be taken into account in the selection process.

VALUE

An ALA Masters Scholarship, taken over two years can be valued at up to A\$150,000.

An ALA Doctorate Scholarship, taken over four years can be valued up to A\$300,000.

The amounts above include the following benefits and support:

- Contribution to living expenses: A\$26,009 per year for 2009 and reviewed annually
- A Leadership Development Program with a value of A\$17,000
- Tuition fees
- Establishment Allowance on arrival: A\$5,000
- Introductory Academic Program (IAP): A\$2,000
- An annual, cumulative Study Enrichment Allowance (SEA) to contribute towards activities such as field research, academic support, conference participation or the scholar's reunion travel costs: A\$2,000 per year
- Return air travel to and from Australia
- The cost of health checks and visa applications prior to departure to Australia
- Overseas Student Health Cover (OSHC) for the duration of the award (for scholar only).

GENERAL ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

ALA Scholarships applicants must:

- study a program that relates to AusAID's priority areas of disability, economic growth, education, environment, food security, gender, governance, health, human rights, infrastructure, regional stability, rural development and water & sanitation
- have obtained a tertiary qualification at least equivalent to an Australian Bachelor's degree
- be a citizen of an ALA Scholarship eligible country
- reside in a country other than Australia
- not hold Australian or New Zealand citizenship or permanent resident status (unless applying as a citizen of the Cook Islands, Niue or Tokelau)
- not be married to/or a defacto of, or engaged to, a person who holds or is eligible to hold Australian or New Zealand citizenship or permanent resident status
- meet specified English language proficiency requirements
- have received an unconditional offer of admission from an Australian university.

See back page for more details.

REALISING THE LEADERSHIP POTENTIAL OF EACH SCHOLAR

ALA Scholarships seek to empower awardees to lead social and economic policy and development in their own countries and in the region. To enhance leadership skills, AusAID has invested A\$10.128 million over four years to deliver a comprehensive Leadership Development Program (LDP) to all ALA scholars.

The LDP comprises of a three day conference in Canberra, regional workshops, leadership coaching and practice opportunities. The LDP aims to help scholars explore and harness their full leadership potential and enhance their understanding of development challenges at national, regional and global levels.

The LDP also provides important networking and collaborative opportunities for participants.

The LDP is an innovative and valuable addition to the ALA Scholarships and represents the Australian Government's commitment to fostering leadership and collaboration throughout the Asia-Pacific region.

ALA Scholar Profile – Ms Ghazaal Habibyar



2008 AUSTRALIAN LEADERSHIP AWARDS (ALA) SCHOLARSHIPS AWARDEE MS GHAZAAL HABIBYAR

Ms Habibyar is from Afghanistan and has chosen to study a Masters of International and Development Economics at The Australian National University.

Ms Habibyar worked at the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) and was based at Afghanistan's Ministry of Finance as an Aid Coordination Officer. Soon after commencing this position she was seconded to Deputy Minister's office at his request and since then she worked as a Financial Analyst.

When asked why she applied for an ALA Scholarship, Ms Habibyar replied "I feel since I am one of the few Afghan women who had the opportunity to study, I should further develop myself and my skills in order to help my country." The ALA Scholarship provides "some wonderful opportunities that no other scholarship provides."

The ALA Scholarship comprises both educational and leadership development opportunities. In addition to post graduate studies,

ALA Scholars also have an opportunity to participate in a unique Leadership Development Program (LDP). Ms Habibyar attended the LDP Conference in Canberra in her first year and will participate in LDP Regional Workshops and Leadership Coaching and Practice too. "At the Leadership Development Conference we learnt about the theories of leadership and leadership management" Ms Habibyar said. "We also had the opportunity to meet and hear some truly outstanding Australian leaders, who told us about their experiences and how they managed to bring change in their life and the lives of people surrounding them. The speakers were really inspirational and I learned a lot from them. It was also an opportunity for me to meet people from so many different and diverse cultures and work with them in groups" she said.

Ms Habibyar is amazed by the opportunities that the ALA Scholarship has provided her with. "I had an idea that I would meet a lot of people from the Region. But it was much more than what I expected. We share similar problems and similar issues. How these people will try to solve these problems in their countries will definitely give us an idea of how to solve these problems in our countries. Since we are all from the same region we have a lot in common. I believe that we can tackle these problems together" she said.

Ms Habibyar's advice for potential scholars "If you want to contribute to the development of your country and make a difference, you need to be prepared to face many challenges. There is no better preparation for such challenges than a good education. So if you are eligible, do not let this opportunity slip away. You will not only have the chance to study in some of the most highly recognised universities but also you will be able to meet with people from different cultures and backgrounds. Moreover you will find Australia a pleasant place to live and Aussies very friendly and helpful."

When asked about her future plans, Ms Habibyar replied "I want to work for Afghanistan in Afghanistan. That's the most important thing for me."

Through the ALA Scholarship Program, AusAID is pleased to support scholars such as Ms Habibyar to pursue their goals and contribute to the development of their countries.

APPLICATION PROCESS

Applications are considered annually on a regionally competitive basis. Selection is based on leadership qualities, academic merit and most importantly potential contribution to the development of applicants' countries and regions upon return. Australian High Commissions and Embassies consider applications and recommend short-listed candidates to a final selection committee in Canberra. AusAID prefers online applications.

Applications may be submitted either:

- online via the ALA Scholarships online application system at <http://oasis.ausaid.gov.au>
- by mail to the appropriate Australian High Commission/Embassy or Managing Contractor.

Application forms can be downloaded from the ALA Scholarship page on the AusAID website or sought from the Australian High Commission/Embassy in each eligible country.

How to apply:

- ✓ Obtain an unconditional offer of admission from a participating institution.
- ✓ Review the contents of the ALA Scholarships Handbook to ensure that you understand the scope of the Scholarship. The Handbook can be found at www.ausaid.gov.au/scholar/pdf/ala_handbook.pdf or obtained from your local Australian High Commission/Embassy or Managing Contractor.
- ✓ Download the Scholarship application information and if necessary the paper-based application and other relevant documents from ALA Scholarships webpage.
- ✓ Gather the required documentation and information including referee reports, certified copies of previous academic qualifications and proof of English language proficiency.
- ✓ Your online or paper-based application must be received before close of business, 30 June.

WHAT IS AN UNCONDITIONAL OFFER?

An unconditional offer of admission is made by a university based on an application that you submit directly to that university. Please allow sufficient time for Australian universities to assess your application for admission. If you fail to provide an unconditional offer before the application closing date, your application will not be eligible.

An unconditional offer does not require you to complete any preliminary courses or to provide the university with further evidence before you can be admitted. If a university places any conditions on its offer to you, these conditions must be met before you submit your scholarship application to AusAID.

A list of participating institutions can be found through the ALA Scholarships page on AusAID's website:

www.ausaid.gov.au/scholar/ala_institutions.cfm

If you need assistance in finding the right university and appropriate course please refer to the websites:

www.studyinaustralia.gov.au or www.cricos.deewr.gov.au/

LANGUAGE PROFICIENCY

Applicants must have undertaken one of the following English language proficiency tests and achieved the necessary results no longer than two years prior to the opening of the round.

- an IELTS Academic Test with an overall score of at least 6.5 and no band less than 6, or
- a TOEFL paper-based test score of at least 580, or
- a TOEFL computer-based test score of at least 237, or
- a TOEFL Internet-based score of at least 92.

Further details on IELTS and TOEFL testing is available at www.ielts.org/ and www.ets.org/toefl/



MORE INFORMATION

The information provided here is only part of the information that you need to consider before applying. For comprehensive information about AusAID's ALA Scholarships and application process please visit:

www.ausaid.gov.au/scholar/default.cfm

www.ausaid.gov.au