



Australian Government



Australia Awards

AUSTRALIAN DEVELOPMENT SCHOLARSHIPS

AFGHANISTAN

AUSTRALIAN DEVELOPMENT SCHOLARSHIPS

Information for Intakes Commencing 2011

Country Strategy

Australia's development assistance program to Afghanistan aims to assist the Government and people of Afghanistan achieve a stable, self sustaining democratic Afghan state. The program focuses on the areas of:

- governance;
- health;
- education; and
- agriculture and rural development.

The program is aligned with the Afghanistan National Development Strategy.

Type, Level and Number of Scholarships

Twenty scholarship places will be offered for 2011. Scholarships offered will be for masters-level degrees and post-graduate diplomas. Scholarships are only available to employees of the four Government of Afghanistan Ministries supported by the AusAID Development Assistance Facility for Afghanistan (DAFA): the Ministry of Education (MoE), the Ministry of Public Health (MoPH), the Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation and Development (MRRD) and the Ministry of Agriculture Irrigation and Livestock (MAIL).

Priority Sectors

Scholarships are offered in fields of study that fall within Afghanistan's priority development areas of Governance, Health, Education and Agriculture and Rural Development. The program aims to award equal numbers of scholarships to females and males.

The Application Process

The nomination process will be a joint exercise by DAFA and the four DAFA partner Ministries: MoE, MoPH, MAIL and MRRD. Final interviews and recommendation for selection will be by an AusAID approved panel.

The selection process will be based on the following principles:

- > equity and merit;
- > transparent process with published eligibility and selection criteria;
- > active support for applications from women;
- > aiming for equal numbers of female and male participants;
- > evidence of a match between proposed study course and the skills, needs and capacity building requirements of the four partner Ministries;
- > priority to candidates who are most likely to succeed in academic studies and then return to make a contribution to the development of their home Ministry;



- > recognition of personal motivation, initiative and ability to influence change; and
- > equitable distribution of scholarships between Pashtun, Tajik, Hazara and other ethnic groups.

Where possible, consideration will be given to eligible candidates employed by the partner Ministries in provincial areas.

General Eligibility Criteria

Table 1 – Eligibility

| Field | Criteria |
|---------------------------------|--|
| Citizenship/Residency | Afghan citizen and not resident in Australia. |
| Previous Australian Scholarship | Not hold or have held an Australian government-funded scholarship in the preceding 12 months at time of application. |
| Australian Study | Not already studying at an Australian Institution at the time of application. |
| Academic History | For scholarship for masters level, a certified academic transcript indicating a masters qualification from Afghan University or bachelor level or equivalent qualification from an accredited academic institution from outside of Afghanistan ¹ . High school exit certificate will be requested as supporting documentation for all applicants. |
| Basic Requirements | Fully completed application form, including the endorsement of the relevant authority in the applicant’s home Ministry and all supporting documentation (see above). The application must include an outline of the proposed course of study; the benefit of the study to the applicant’s Ministry; a statement on how the knowledge gained will be used on return to the applicant’s Ministry and/or benefit to the individual and the development priorities of Afghanistan. The applicant should confirm their knowledge of basic skills in IT and use of the Internet. |
| Current Position | The applicant must be an employee of a DAFA partner Ministry (MoE, MoPH, MAIL and MRRD) and have been approved as eligible by the Ministry and have the Ministry’s endorsement. Civil service employees of the partner Ministries will be given preference. |
| Visa Requirements | Must meet all Australian visa requirements. |
| Commitments | Commitment to return to Afghanistan for at least two years following conclusion of award. Willingness to sign an agreement with their home Ministry to return to original place of employment. Commitment to participate actively as an alumnus/alumna. |
| Endorsements | Applicants from partner ministries must have their Ministry’s signed agreement to the applicant’s proposed course of study and re-entry plan on their application form. This |

¹ In line with qualification equivalency required for the United Kingdom based on UK NARIC the UK equivalency requirements. AEI- NOOSR does not include Afghanistan for the qualifications equivalency of Afghan to Australian standards.



| Field | Criteria |
|------------------------------|--|
| | <p>endorsement must be by the relevant senior authority within the organisation.</p> <p>All applicants are required to have their Ministry's signed agreement to the applicant's proposed course of study and its benefit to the home organisation.</p> <p>All university students must have the endorsement of their university of study.</p> |
| English Language Proficiency | Applicants must have evidence of English language proficiency equivalent to an International English Language Testing System (IELTS) score of 6.5 or higher or equivalent. |

Country Specific Eligibility Criteria

Selection

Nominations by the partner Ministries will be based on and checked against, the eligibility criteria as below and only eligible nominees will be considered for selection. The selection process by an AusAID approved panel will include a face-to-face interview. The AusAID approved panel could include AusAID staff, DAFA staff, and representatives of Government of Afghanistan central Ministries.

Table 2 – Selection Criteria

| Field | Criteria |
|---|--|
| Fit with program development priorities | Relevance of the proposed study course to development priority area and ability to articulate the relevance of the course and how it will be useful on return to Afghanistan. |
| Fit of work/life experience to the study plan | Relevance of the employee's current position, previous academic qualifications and other experience to the proposed study course. |
| Potential to succeed | Assessment of potential to succeed in Australian higher education course based on previous academic achievements and extra curricula activities. |
| Motivation, initiative | Indication of motivation and initiative determined through assessment of the written application and through the interview. |
| Ability to influence change | Indication of ability to influence change determined through assessment of the written application and through the interview. |
| Academic merit | Academic average percentage score or ranking position within top 10% of their cohort at an accredited university or Grade Point Average or equivalent based on first degree for applicants for masters study or end of first or second year university official record for applicants for under-graduate study. High school exit certificate will be taken into consideration. |
| English language score | Achievement of an overall IELTS score of 6.5, with no individual score less than 5 in the IELTS test conducted at the time of interview of short-listed candidates. |
| Fit with the training need of target organisation | Match of the proposed study course to the identified training need of the priority ministries and ability to clearly articulate benefit of the study to the priority ministries and how they will use the skills and knowledge on their return. |



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Key Dates for 2011 Cohort:

| | |
|----------|--|
| Dec 2009 | Scholarships advertised. Applicants provided with information packs on ADS Program and application |
| Jan 2010 | All applications received |
| Feb 2010 | Ministry nominations, including preliminary English Language assessments, & information session for nominees |
| Mar 2010 | IELTS testing |
| Apr 2010 | IELTS testing results |
| May 2010 | Requests for Placements submitted to the relevant University |
| Aug 2010 | University process and submit Offers |
| Aug 2010 | Visa processing commences |
| Dec 2010 | Pre-departure briefing |
| 2011 | Scholarship holders depart for Australia |

Contact Details for Afghanistan

ADS Co-ordinator

Phone: 0752 044 789

E-mail: ads@grm.com.af