



Timor Leste

AUSTRALIAN DEVELOPMENT SCHOLARSHIPS

Information for Intakes Commencing 2010

Country Strategy

The objective of the Australian Government's aid program to East Timor is to help the country establish itself as an independent and democratic state, to reduce poverty and promote sustainable development. The aid program will focus on improving governance, and expanding essential health, water and agriculture services.

The goal of the East Timor Australian Development Scholarship (ADS) program is to help develop human resources in priority sectors identified by the Government of East Timor in consultation with the Government of Australia.

From June 2006, ADS has been implemented as part of the East Timor Public Sector Capacity development Program (CDP), to more closely align the scholarship program with the needs of strengthening public sector management.

Type, Level and Number of Scholarships

The ADS East Timor program provides scholarships for TAFE, undergraduate and postgraduate (Master and Doctoral) study in Australia. The number of ADS awards will depend on Australian government budget appropriations.

- In the 2008/2009 ADS cycle, twenty ADS scholarships were offered for commencement in 2009
- In the 2010 intake, the scholarships will be targeted towards the Public and Open categories.
- A balance will be sought in the number of awards offered to men and women.

ADS scholarships are offered for the minimum period needed to complete the award, including any English language training that is approved.

The Application Process

The next scholarship round will be advertised in the East Timor media in September 2009. Application will be open from 01 – 31 October, 2009. Information sessions will be held and any changes to requirements or processes will be advertised at that time.

Applications must be on the official ADS application form which will be available to eligible candidates from the ADS office.

All applicants must complete all the required information of the ADS/NZDS application form. Incomplete application will not be considered. Application forms are available only to eligible candidates. The application form must be completed in English and three copies must be submitted. **You *must* include a curriculum vitae (CV) and certified copies of the following supporting documents: your RDTL birth certificate or passport, your academic transcripts and graduation certificates (*ijazah*) from high school and university, and certified English translations of these documents.**

The Selection Process

An independent Joint Selection Committee (ADS/NZDS-JSC) will consider all eligible applications. A short-list of 66 candidates will be selected on academic grounds. These candidates will then take an English language proficiency test (IELTS) and those with overall IELTS score of 5 and above (for TAFE/undergraduate) or 5.5 and above (for Masters) or 6.5 and above (for PhD) will be interviewed by the ADS/NZDS-JSC (Joint Selection Committee). The interview team will assess the candidates' academic ability, clarity of aims of study, cultural adaptability and the relevance of their proposed study to the development of East Timor. Interviews will be undertaken in English only.

Selection Criteria

Scholarships will be awarded on the basis of academic merit, English language proficiency and likelihood of successful study abroad. The final selection is objective and merit based. Half the scholarships will be awarded for women and half for men and a balance will be sought between the proposed fields of study.

English Language Training

English language training is provided as part of the East Timor ADS program. Pre-English Courses (PCE) is conducted in Australia. The maximum length of the in-Australia PCE is six months. In order to enter university courses, candidates must generally reach a score of at least 6.5. Undergraduate awardees will also attend foundation studies for one year before starting their degree courses.

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Restrictions

All candidates must:

- be an East Timorese national and have lived in East Timor for at least five years;
- be resident and currently living in East Timor;
- Be a minimum of 18 years of age at the time of commencement of scholarship in Australia.
- not have permanent residence status for Australia;
- not have permanent residence status for New Zealand or another developed country;
- not be married or engaged to a person who is eligible to hold citizenship or permanent resident status of Australia;
- not be married or engaged to a person who is eligible to hold citizenship or permanent resident status of New Zealand or another developed country;
- satisfy Australian or New Zealand Government requirements for international student entry (health, character etc);
- not hold a scholarship that would give overlapping benefits;
- not have held an Australian Government scholarship in 24 months preceding the application;
- not have held an New Zealand Government scholarship in the 24 months preceding the application;
- be applying to commence a new course of study at a level higher than your current qualification;
- be able to take up the scholarship in the year in which it is offered (2010); and
- for Public Servants, be endorsed by your sponsoring organization, e.g. Ministry, Statutory Authority, Agency.

Specifically:

- all applicants must have **very good English language skills**.
- applicants for postgraduate study must already hold an undergraduate (S1) degree or Master degree from accredited and recognized university with a Grade Point Average of **at least 2.5** ;
- Applicants for undergraduate study must have graduated from senior high school with an *average* final grade of 7.
- **mature age applicants (21 years old and over) with suitable levels of work experience in government, civil society or the private sector who can demonstrate a capacity to be successful in higher education studies may be eligible to apply for either undergraduate or certain types of postgraduate study. They should possess a minimum of high school certificate with PASS and at least five (5) years of relevant professional experience.**

Contact Information

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