



Lao PDR

AUSTRALIAN DEVELOPMENT SCHOLARSHIPS Information for Intakes Commencing 2009

Country Strategy

The goal of the Australian Government's development cooperation in Lao PDR is to work in partnership with Laos to improve the pre-conditions for poverty reduction and the achievement of sustainable development.

Australia's assistance focuses on building Lao human capital; promoting the growth of the market economy and regional integration; and reducing the vulnerability of the poor. Increasingly, managing regional and transboundary threats and opportunities is becoming a growing focus of the overall development assistance program for Laos. Access to appropriate levels of education is critical to achieve these objectives, and enable Laos to integrate into, and take advantage of its position in the dynamic Mekong region.

While in the longer term Lao PDR's capacity in tertiary education needs to be further developed, there is currently a significant demand for overseas scholarships to strengthen the country's human resources base across a broad range of areas. For this reason, the Australian Development Scholarships (ADS) for Laos students to study in Australia are a vital part of Australian assistance, and a key contributor to the Australian – Laos Country Program Strategy.

Type, Level and Number of Scholarships

Annually up to 40 ADS scholarships are awarded under the 'Public Category' and 'Open Category'. Fifty per cent of all scholarships will be awarded to women, and applications from provincial candidates are encouraged. Scholarships in Laos are awarded for TAFE, undergraduate or Masters courses only.

Open category: Scholarships are open to anyone in the community, providing they are Lao citizens, resident in country for two years, between the ages of 18 and 35 years and have good English language ability.

Public category: Scholarships for government officials are awarded under this category. Nominations from the Government of Lao PDR (GoL) targeted ministries are called for by the Ministry of Education (MoE). Nominees must be between 18 and 35 years old for TAFE and Undergraduate and 40 years old for Master level. Nominees must have worked for at least two years in their ministries.

Priority Areas of Study

Education (management, teaching , etc)

- Health (nursing, public health, tropical health, occupational health and safety)
- Agriculture (horticulture, agricultural economics, veterinary science)
- Environmental studies
- Governance (public administration, political science, international relations, legal studies)
- Development (community development, rural development)
- Gender studies
- Commerce and finance
- Business (management, project management, marketing, accounting, banking)
- Economics, statistics
- International trade
- Engineering (civil, electronics, computing)
- Information technology
- Anthropology, demography, social work
- Tourism

Closing Date for Applications

Applications close in the middle of May each year.

The Application Process

Application forms can be obtained in March from Vientiane College for Vientiane based applicants, and from Provincial Education Services Offices and Teacher Training Colleges for provincial applicants. Provincial applicants may also request forms to be sent to them. The application form can also be downloaded from the ADS website at www.adsvientiane.com.

Under both categories scholarship holders need to have attained the minimum level of English language ability set out in the eligibility criteria.



Country-Specific Restrictions

Applicants must be citizens of Lao PDR and continually reside in Lao PDR for a minimum of two years. Applicants must be between 18 and 35 years of age and under 40 years for public sector employees applying for Masters level. Applicants must not hold another scholarship that would give overlapping benefits and must not have held an Australian Government scholarship in the two years preceding their application.

Applicants must conform to the current eligibility criteria. A full description is available with the application form.

English Language Training

AusAID recognises that adequate preparation is crucial to success and scholarships include a pre-departure training program.

Depending on English language levels, Australian Development Scholarship students may be eligible to spend up to 12 months in intensive pre-departure training in Vientiane preparing for the rigours of tertiary study in Australia. Students undertake studies in English language training, computer training and general study and research skills.

Other Matters

The success of the program depends on scholarship holders returning home and using the skills and knowledge acquired in Australia to contribute to their country's development.

Consequently, a specific condition of accepting a scholarship is that the scholarship holder will return home for at least two years at the end of his or her studies.

Visas issued to AusAID students expire at the end of their scholarship period and cannot be transferred to private student visas, therefore continuing studies in Australia from private funds is not possible.

Contact Information

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