



# Australian Scholarships

THE PATHWAY TO EXCELLENCE

## Tonga

### AUSTRALIAN DEVELOPMENT SCHOLARSHIPS

Information for Intakes Commencing 2009

#### Country Strategy

Australian support for Tonga is focused on improved governance and public sector reform, economic development, service delivery and income generation at the community level. Education and training are an integral part of these focal areas. This reflects the priorities identified in the Government of Tonga's Strategic Development Plan 8.

AusAID scholarship programs in the Pacific region are increasingly focused on providing education through regional institutions. Australian Development Scholarships are therefore targeted at those courses that reflect development priorities but are unavailable in the region.

#### Type and Level of Scholarships

AusAID offers two types of Development Scholarships – Open and Public – for study in Australia.

**Open** scholarships allow individuals to apply directly to an AusAID selection committee based on their academic merit. An equal number of awards are made available for men and women.

The Government of Tonga nominates candidates for **Public** scholarships.

All scholarships will be offered at postgraduate levels (up to Master level).

#### Priority Sectors

The priorities of the ADS program are centred around the development sectors which are set out in the Government of Tonga's current Strategic Development Plan.

- Accounting, Finance and Economics
- Public Administration and Human Resources Management
- Agriculture, Fisheries, Tourism
- Health: public health and hospital management and all other fields except Diploma of Nursing (offered locally) and undergraduate medicine (offered through the Fiji School of Medicine).
- Law, Information Technology, Engineering

#### Closing Dates for Applications

Expressions of interest and applications must be received by the Australian High Commission in Nuku'alofa by the dates indicated.

##### Open

Expressions of interest: April/May 2008.

##### Public

The Government of Tonga's Scholarships Office must submit nominations to the Australian High Commission by 12 August 2008.

#### The Application Process

##### Open

ADS open scholarships will be advertised approximately April/May 2008 in the weekly newspaper and on radio, with details of selection criteria and of how to submit an expression of interest. Certified copies of secondary school results (forms 6 and 7) and of any tertiary academic transcripts are requested at this stage. Expressions of interest are then assessed, and those that are short-listed will be sent a full application kit.

After the closing date for applications, a selection committee comprising the First Secretary (Development Cooperation) from the AHC, and representatives of the Government of Tonga, the Tongan Private Sector and NZAid, will select four applications to seek placement at Australian institutions, and a reserve list of a further four applicants.

##### Public

The Government of Tonga's Scholarships Unit advertises the public scholarships, including the application process. Applications for public scholarships are screened and graded, and interviews are conducted if necessary. Final short-listing is carried out by a joint selection team comprising the Government of Tonga and representatives of AusAID, NZAid and the private sector. Once AusAID receives application forms completed by the successful nominees, placement at Australian institutions is sought.

For both open and public awards, the offer of an Australian scholarship depends on the applicant being accepted by an Australian post-secondary institution.

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## Restrictions

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The age limit for the commencement of postgraduate studies is 45 years.

Scholarships will **not** be offered to applicants who:

- have access to a place in an Australian or New Zealand (NZ) tertiary institution on the basis of permanent residence status or eligibility to hold an Australian or NZ passport.
- are married to a person who holds Australian or NZ citizenship or permanent residence status.
- hold another scholarship or award with overlapping benefits or seek support from ADS for a course already commenced.
- are transferring from a Tonga Government scholarship or any other scholarship during the tenure of that scholarship.
- hold or have held an Australian or NZ Government award in the previous two years at the time of application.
- Doctorate and post-doctorate studies are not considered.
- Families are not allowed to accompany students during the bridging program before full-time study commences.

## Contact Information

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Australian High Commission

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Tonga

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