



**MINISTRY OF PUBLIC SERVICE AND ADMINISTRATIVE REFORMS  
MAURITIUS**

25 February 2026

**Ministry of Public Service and Administrative Reforms**  
**Circular Letter No. 9 of 2026**  
**E/75/60/01/12 A**

***From: Secretary for Public Service***

***To: Supervising Officers in charge of Ministries/Departments***

**Australia Awards Scholarship – Master’s Degree 2027**

The Government of Australia is offering scholarships leading to the award of a Master’s Degree from Australian Tertiary Institutions under the Australia Awards Programme. The priority fields of study for eligible African countries for the 2027 intake are:

- (a) Agriculture and Food security;
- (b) Climate change;
- (c) Foreign Policy and International Security;
- (d) Gender, disability and social inclusion; and
- (e) Mining and Energy.

2. The study and research opportunities provided by the Australia Awards Scholarships aim at developing the skills and knowledge of participants so that they can drive change and contribute to development of their respective countries. Successful applicants will start their studies in Australia in 2027.

3. The eligibility criteria, required documents as well as the application and selection processes for the Australia Awards Masters Degree are set out in the brochure at Annex. For more information regarding eligibility requirements, applicants may access the Australia Awards Africa website on the following link: <https://www.dfat.gov.au/people-to-people/australia-awards/australia-awards-scholarships>

4. The Australian Government will meet costs relating to full tuition fees, return air travel, a one-off establishment allowance on arrival, contribution to living expenses, introductory academic programme, overseas student health cover for the duration of the scholarship, supplementary academic support and fieldwork allowance for research students.

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5. Interested candidates should –

- (a) seek and obtain clearance of their respective Responsible Officers, as morefully detailed at paragraph 6 of this Circular Letter prior to applying online on the Online Australia Scholarships Information System (OASIS) through the following link: <https://australiaawardsafrica.org/awards/apply/>. **The closing date for submission of online applications is Thursday 30 April 2026;** and
- (b) submit, **through their respective Supervising Officers**, a printed copy of their application to the Human Resource Development Division of this Ministry (attention: Mrs. D. Bissoondoyal Gujudhur).

6. In view of the fact that **nominations for any programme are subject to exigencies of the service, applicants should prior to submitting their applications, imperatively seek and obtain approval of their respective Responsible Officers for their release, in the event that they are awarded the scholarship.** The conditions for the release of an officer are as follows: -

- (a) an officer shall be eligible for study leave with pay in accordance with paragraph 16.4.99 of the PRB Report 2026, where he/she is nominated for an open scholarship which is considered as in-service training and the course is a priority field of study;
- (b) where an officer is granted study leave with pay, he/she will be required to enter into a bond with the Government of Mauritius in accordance with the provisions laid down in this Ministry's Circular Letter No. 1 of 2022; and
- (c) where the officer does not satisfy the conditions for the grant of study leave with pay, he/she may opt for leave without pay for study purposes in accordance with paragraph 16.4.113 of the PRB Report 2026.

7. You are also requested to ensure that all conditions, as advised by the Ministry of Health and Wellness, and as listed in this Ministry's Circular Letter No. 50 of 2021, are satisfied.

8. You are requested to ensure that the contents of this Circular Letter are brought to the attention of all eligible public officers serving in your Ministry/Department, including those in Local Authorities, Statutory Bodies and State-owned enterprises falling under the purview of your Ministry/Department. Female candidates and persons with disabilities should be encouraged to apply.

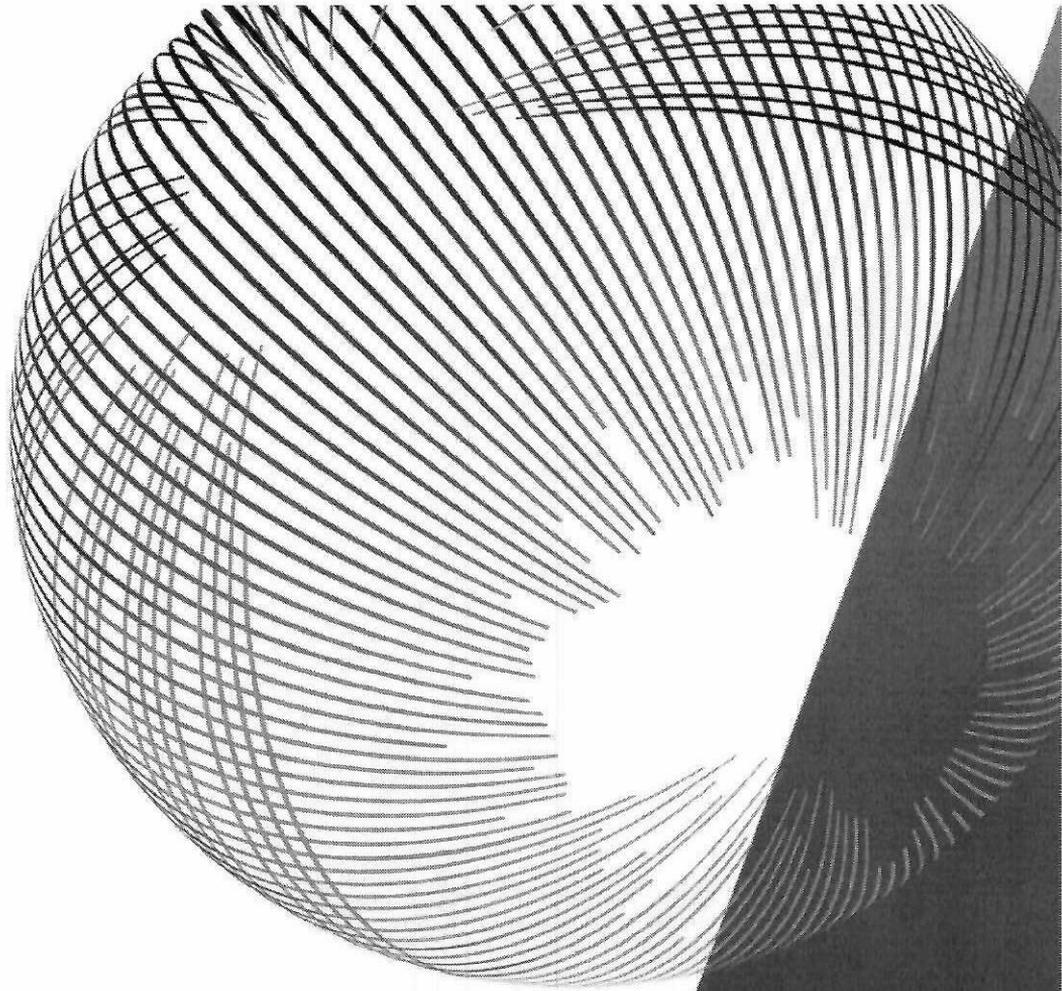


**Dr. D. Kawol**  
**Secretary for Public Service**

***Copy to: Secretary to Cabinet and Head of the Civil Service***



Australia Awards



# Make a difference with an Australia Awards Scholarship in 2027.

**Do you want to be a leader in your field and join an inspiring network of changemakers?**

Scholarships for Master's studies in Australia are offered to eligible African candidates for postgraduate studies. Australia Awards Scholarships offer more than a degree. You gain an internationally recognised qualification and a life-changing experience in Australia.

Reach your potential through higher learning in Australia's safe, multicultural society. We support you to live and study successfully. Expand your horizons with new knowledge, leadership skills and a life-long membership to Australia's global alumni network. Advance your career and make a vital contribution to the development of your country.

Our application process is open and competitive, providing equal opportunity to all eligible people.

**Apply today for your opportunity to gain a world-class education and become a leader for development.**

Apply today  
[www.australiaawardsafrica.org](http://www.australiaawardsafrica.org)

Applications for masters  
level study open on  
1 February 2026  
and close on  
30 April 2026.

**Applicants from the following African countries are eligible to apply:**

Algeria, Angola, Botswana, Côte d'Ivoire, Democratic Republic of Congo, Egypt, Ethiopia, Ghana, Guinea, Kenya, Madagascar, Malawi, Mauritius, Morocco, Mozambique, Namibia, Nigeria, Rwanda, Sierra Leone, South Africa, Tanzania, The Gambia, Uganda, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

**The priority areas of study:**

- Agriculture and food security
- Climate change
- Foreign policy and international security
- Gender, disability, and social inclusion
- Mining and energy.



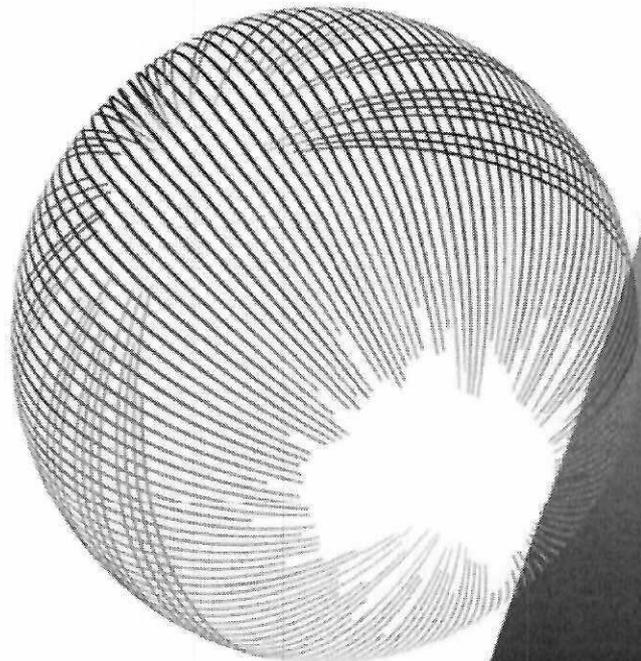


Australia Awards

Make a difference  
with an  
Australia Awards Scholarship  
in Africa

Application dates for study  
commencing in Australia in 2

- Opening date: 1 February 2026
- Closing date: 30 April 2026 (11:  
PM AEST)



# Australia Awards Scholarships

Do you want to be a leader in your field and join an inspiring network of changemakers?

Australia Awards Scholarships offer more than a Master's degree. You gain an internationally recognised qualification and a life-changing experience in Australia.

## Australia Awards

Reach your potential through higher learning in Australia's safe, multicultural society. We support you to live and study successfully. Expand your horizons with new knowledge, leadership skills and a life-long membership of Australia's global alumni network. Advance your career and make a vital contribution to the development of your country.

Australia Awards scholarships are prestigious international awards offered by the Australian Government to the next generation of global leaders in developing countries.

Our application process is open and competitive providing equal opportunity to all eligible people. Applicants are assessed on their professional and personal qualities, academic competence and, most importantly, their potential to impact on development challenges in eligible countries.

Applications are strongly encouraged from women, people with disabilities and other marginalised groups. The program has equity of access procedures to support applicants from these groups. Please refer to the GEDSI Support Hub at [www.australiaawardsafrica.org](http://www.australiaawardsafrica.org) for details.

## Level of study

These scholarships allow citizens of eligible African countries to obtain postgraduate qualifications at an Australian tertiary institution.

## Priority fields of study

The priority areas of study for Africa are:

- Agriculture and food security
- Climate change
- Foreign policy and international security
- Gender, disability, and social inclusion
- Mining and energy

Detailed information on priority sectors and related courses can be found at [www.australiaawardsafrica.org](http://www.australiaawardsafrica.org)

Applicants from the following African countries are eligible to apply:

Algeria, Angola, Botswana, Côte d'Ivoire, Democratic Republic of Congo, Egypt, Ethiopia, Ghana, Guinea, Kenya, Madagascar, Malawi, Mauritius, Morocco, Mozambique, Namibia, Nigeria, Rwanda, Sierra Leone, South Africa, Tanzania, The Gambia, Uganda, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

# Australia Awards Benefits

Scholarship recipients will receive:

- return air travel
- a one-off establishment allowance on arrival
- full tuition fees
- a contribution to living expenses
- an introductory academic program
- overseas student health cover for the duration of the scholarship
- supplementary academic support
- fieldwork allowance for research students and Masters by coursework which has a compulsory fieldwork component
- disability support and reasonable adjustments for people with disabilities (assessed on a case-by-case basis).

## Eligibility criteria

Australia Awards applicants must meet all eligibility requirements detailed in the Scholarships Policy Handbook, available at: <https://www.dfat.gov.au/about-us/publications/australia-awards-scholarships-policy-handbook>

In addition to the general eligibility requirements, candidates from eligible African countries must also meet the following conditions:

- be a minimum of 25 years of age on 1 February 2027.
- at minimum, have 5 years of post-graduate work experience, working in a field relative to their field of study\*
- Be employed at the time of applying for the scholarship
- be a citizen of an eligible African country and be residing in and applying for the scholarship from their country of citizenship, unless working for an African Regional Organisation or working on a diplomatic mission for their home country
- not already hold or be undertaking a Master's degree or equivalent (equivalent to a Masters degree in home country)\*
- already hold an undergraduate degree (equivalent to an Australian undergraduate degree)
- not have previously received a long-term Australia Award
- Applicants from all Francophone and Lusophone countries must meet the minimum English language proficiency. Certificates must be valid on 1 January 2027:

IELTS	At least 6.5 with no individual band score less than 6.0
Internet based TOEFL	At least 84, with a minimum of 21 in all subtests
PTE Academic	Overall score of 58 with no communicative skill score less than 50

\*See below for equity of access adjustments to these conditions for people with disabilities

## The application process

- Applications for study commencing in 2027 will be received online through OASIS via the Australia Awards Africa website.
- Apply online at: <https://australiaawardsafrica.org/awards/apply/>
- When applying online, all essential supporting documents must be uploaded.

## Supporting documents

Applicants must submit all the relevant supporting documents listed in the *Australia Awards Scholarships Policy Handbook*. Applicants must also provide the following documents to meet the specific requirements for the Africa program:

Required document	OASIS document type
Passport	Proof of Citizenship
Undergraduate Degree Certificate	Degree Certificate
Undergraduate Academic Transcript	Academic Transcript
Curriculum Vitae	Curriculum Vitae
Employer Referee Report	Referee Report
Academic Referee Report	Referee Report
IELTS/TOEFL/Pearson Test Certificate	Proof of English Language Proficiency

Please refer to the Australia Awards Scholarship application form for the complete list of required documents: <https://australiaawardsafrica.org/awards/apply/>

## The selection process

- Applications will be shortlisted for a selection interview after eligibility checking.
- Shortlisted candidates will be contacted.
- The selection process includes an interview. Applicants will be assessed against the following criteria:
  - academic competence
  - potential outcome, specifically the contribution to development outcomes in Africa
  - professional and personal leadership attributes including relevant work experience.

## Outcomes

All applicants will receive notification as to whether they have been successful in August 2026.

### Promoting equality of access for people with disabilities

The World Health Organisation estimates that 15 per cent of the world's population has a disability. People with disabilities face many barriers that limit their access to education, social spaces and public services. These barriers often expose people to the risk of social exclusion. Harnessing the opportunities and talents of people with disabilities, through the Program, empowers them to contribute to national development, extends their right to fair and equal participation and maximises the effective use of valuable human capital. Some of the most outstanding Australia Awards alumni have shown resilience and tenacity to overcome disability-related barriers.

The Australia Awards are committed to ensuring the equitable participation and inclusion of diverse groups. Also, Australia Awards recipients are encouraged to promote inclusion, as a development issue, in their Reintegration Action Plans. People with disabilities, who are eligible, are encouraged to apply and to disclose their disability. Having a disability will not disadvantage individuals in the application or selection process. Applications will be equitably considered and disability support provided by implementing adjustments and/or accommodations wherever reasonable, to ensure equal participation by anyone identified on a case-by-case basis as requiring support.

Please refer to the GEDSI Support Hub at [www.australiaawardsafrica.org](http://www.australiaawardsafrica.org) for details about the support on offer.

# Empowering African Women: Support to Female Scholars

Women's leadership and decision-making are two driving forces of gender equality that are achievable through education. Australia Awards and its alumni recognise the critical importance of gender equality to development.

Gender equality is an integral part of the Australian Government's development policy. Australia Awards aims to ensure equal participation and benefit, to the program, by men and women. Both men and women have a vital role as transformative leaders in promoting gender equality and social inclusion in their workplaces and communities.

Australia Awards ensures that as many eligible women as possible are reached at the award promotion stage and that every effort is made to redress gender disparities across the awards cycle.

For example, the program has some resources available to support women and people with disabilities and bridge any barriers they may experience across the program life cycle.

Equity of access support for women is available during the application stage, at the selection interview and on award in Australia. Pregnant women and those with childcare responsibilities are also supported through the award cycle.

Please refer to the GEDSI Support Hub at [www.australiaawardsafrica.org](http://www.australiaawardsafrica.org) for details on the support on offer.



Alumna, Amina  
Garuba  
Ahmed

## Working to achieve equality and non-discrimination

Australia Awards Alumna, Amina Garuba  
Ahmed - Master of Dispute Resolution

Before completing her Master of Dispute Resolution at the University of New South Wales, Ms Ahmed had to overcome gender stereotypes from her community. People judged her for taking the opportunity to travel to Australia, for the scholarship, leaving her family behind. *'I have had to overcome issues of gender stereotyping and undertake adventures that women are discouraged from undertaking – for example, going to Australia, as a married woman, without my family. I prepared for this period by researching and speaking to my family, especially my husband.'* In the end, Ms Ahmed made an informed decision, knowing that travelling to study would positively contribute to her development, her family and her community. When Ms Ahmed returned from her studies, she faced continued criticism.

*'My scholarship studies equipped me with leadership and advocacy skills that continue to allow me to be at the forefront of legal and policy advocacy that promotes the rights of women and youths.'* says Ms Ahmed.

The challenges she faced encouraged her to dedicate her work to helping women and young people who faced similar discriminatory practices, which inhibited them from achieving their dreams. Ms Ahmed founded the NGO, Ikra Foundation for Women and Youth Development (IFWYD).

Besides her duties as a Chief Magistrate and Principal District Court Judge, her dedication and success led to her appointment as the Director of Special Duties, in Bauchi State. Amina played an integral part in the domestication of the Violence Against Persons Prohibition Law, the Child Protection Law, the Administration of Criminal Justice Law and the Penal Code Law in Bauchi State. In addressing Gender-based violence (GBV), she initiated the establishment of the GBV Response and Referral Network under the umbrella of the Okra Foundation for Women and Youth Development in partnership with the Ministry of Women Affairs, Child Development and Social Welfare and the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA).

Ms Ahmed's proudest professional achievement is receiving the Australian Leadership Award. The opportunity improved her ability to fill the leadership roles that were entrusted to her in her community and workplace.

## Endless possibilities for people with disabilities

Zimbabwean alumnus, Edmore Masendeke, is a published author, economist (working for the Zimbabwe Reserve Bank), disability activist as well as a person with cerebral palsy. In 2010, he founded Endless Possibilities, a non-profit organisation that coordinates awareness campaigns for the inclusion of people with disabilities as well as empowerment programs for people with disabilities. Mr Masendeke is passionate about inspiring and challenging people with disabilities to rise above the limitations of their impairments.

The most significant opportunities for the organisation and Mr Masendeke's advocacy work are the increased attention given to disability issues on the world stage, which includes international days commemorating disability-related themes. This global focus has made it easier for Mr Masendeke to engage key stakeholders as well as address the challenges faced by people with disabilities. Some of the challenges include a lack of comprehensive laws and policies that promote and protect the rights of people with disabilities. These challenges are made worse by the stigma and discrimination faced by people with disabilities in the country.

While completing a short course in Macroeconomic Management for Resource-Rich Countries, Mr Masendeke gained knowledge on inclusive development within economic policies. Previously, in 2016, the Reserve Bank adopted a financial inclusion strategy. However, at that time, the strategy did not address disability, nor did it support people with disabilities. Following the completion of the short course, Mr Masendeke wrote a paper motivating the inclusion of disability in the strategy. He also worked with other stakeholders, within the disability sector, to engage the Reserve Bank on the issue. Subsequently, the Bank adopted disability as one of the strategy's thematic focuses and established a loan facility for people with disabilities. In 2019 he started working as an Early-Stage Researcher on a project called Disability Advocacy Research in Europe (DARE) and started his PhD studies at the University of Leeds.

"Positive change is inevitable," he says as he continues to advocate for people with disabilities to be viewed as individuals capable of living a full and healthy life.



*Edmore Masendeke, Zimbabwe: Short course – Macroeconomic Management for Resource-Rich Countries*

Apply today: [www.australiaawardsafrica.org](http://www.australiaawardsafrica.org)