**HOW TO APPLY TO RECEIVE AN AUSTRALIAN AWARDS SCHOLARSHIP**

**by Simon Moss**

|  |
| --- |
| **Introduction: Am I eligible to receive this scholarship** |

Every year, the Australian government offers many students, from a variety of nations, a generous scholarship to study in Australia. To help you decide whether you may be eligible—and whether this scholarship would suit your needs—you should first determine whether you fulfil the criteria that appear in the following table.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Criteria | Details |
| I am a citizen and resident of a participating nation | * To ascertain whether your nation participates in this program, visit tinyurl.com/u7z4u8t * If this link does not work, Google “Australia Awards Participating Countries” * People who are dual citizens or residents of Australia—or who are living with a romantic partner who is a dual citizen or resident of Australia—are not eligible |
| I would like to enrol in a Masters by Research or a PhD in Australia. | * In some participating nations, Australia awards can be granted to students who are enrolled in other courses, such as a Bachelor degree * But, **this document** is relevant only to individuals who want to enrol in a research degree * If you have already enrolled in these degrees, you are also not eligible |
| I have checked that Australia Awards scholarships can be granted to individuals from my nation who want to enrol in a Masters by Research or a PhD | * To check, return to tinyurl.com/u7z4u8t or the webpage that listed the participating countries * Click one of the links under the heading “Download publication” * In the document that appears, read the section “Level of study”   Furthermore, this document might include a section called “Country-specific conditions”. You should   * skim this section as well. This section might specify other criteria, such as the minimum GPA permitted. |
| The research project I want to undertake would uncover insights that could be applied to address one or more of the key challenges in my nation | * To clarify which challenges are most relevant to your nation, return to the previous document you opened * Read the section called “Priority fields of study” * Note that none of the research projects can revolve around military training, nuclear technology, or flying aircraft |
| I would be willing to live in Australia while completing this research—but, once the research has finished, I would live in my country over the next two years or more | * You need to feel that you are resilient, adaptable, and independent enough to live in a foreign nation and comply with the strict academic requirements of this country |
| I am not serving in the military |  |
| I have not received an Australian Award before | * Actually, some individuals who have received an Australian Award before may be eligible again. * But they need to have lived outside Australia for twice as long as they had lived in Australia |
| I have not completed a degree at a higher level before | * For example, if you have already completed a PhD, you cannot apply to study a Masters by Research. |

Furthermore, to receive this scholarship, you need to be eligible to enrol in a Masters by Research or PhD at an Australian university. In practice, whether you fulfil this criterion is hard to assess. But, roughly speaking, you can apply these principles:

* If you have completed half a year of research activity or more, such as a thesis, at a postgraduate level, you are likely to be eligible to enroll in a PhD
* If you have completed about half a semester—or a quarter of a year—of research activity at a postgraduate level, you are likely to be eligible to enroll in a Masters by Research
* If you have not completed research at a postgraduate level, but have published journal articles or worked as a researcher, you could be eligible, depending on the university

|  |
| --- |
| **Proficiency in English** |

Finally, to be eligible, before you begin a Masters by Research or PhD in Australia, you will need to be proficient in English. To demonstrate you are proficient in English, you need to fulfil one or more of the following criteria. These tests must be valid on January 1 in the year you plan to apply to receive an Australia Award

|  |
| --- |
| Criteria to demonstrate English proficiency |
| You completed your university education in English |
| You completed the IELTS—or International English Language Testing System—and received 6.5 or more overall and 6 or more on every band |
| You completed the TOEFL—or Test of English as a Foreign Language—and received at least 84 overall and at least 21 on all subtests |
| You completed the PTE Academic—or Pearson Test of English--and received at least 58 overall and at least 50 on each communicative skill. |

However, if you have not fulfilled these criteria, but are close, you can still apply to receive an Australia Award. You would then need to complete additional English training over 6 or fewer months, either in Australia or in your country. This option may be available to you if you are only

* .5 points below the minimum IELTS score
* 10 points below the minimum TOEFL score, or
* 7 points below the minimum PTE Academic score

|  |
| --- |
| **Do you really want to receive this scholarship?** |

To receive this scholarship, you need to study full time. Therefore, you need to consider whether you can afford to study full-time. That is, you should ascertain whether the financial support you would receive is sufficient in your circumstances. To help you decide, you should understand the benefits you will receive. Specifically, if you are awarded this scholarship, you will receive about $30 000 a year in living expenses, tax free, as well as $5000 to help you in your first week, such as rental bonds or study materials. Nevertheless, because the bank might not be able to process these funds immediately, students should arrive in the nation with enough money to support their immediate needs. However, you will **not need to pay**

* tuition or course fees—often including the fees to complete an English preparation program
* the administrative costs of visas
* overseas student health cover of the candidate but not the family
* travel to Australia at the start of your course and travel home at the end of your course

Furthermore, in particular circumstances, you could receive additional funding to help pay

* the airfare to visit home once during your course of study
* the costs of travel to complete fieldwork as part of your research
* other services to support a disability

To ascertain whether this financial support is adequate, consider these principles. As these principles imply, Australian Award scholarships are usually sufficient to support single individuals or perhaps couples. Students with families, however, may need to work at least part time in addition to studying full time.

* For a single person, this financial support is enough if you live responsibly and economically
* However, if you are married, you might need an extra $5000 to $10 000 a year—and, thus, might need to use some savings or complete some work part time
* Each child might cost an additional $3 000 to $5 000 a year

|  |
| --- |
| **What is the likelihood that your application will be successful** |

To apply to receive this scholarship, you will need to dedicate significant work to this application—perhaps 10 to 15 days. Some of this effort could help you pursue alternative pathways, such as other scholarships. Nevertheless, if you do not secure this Australia Award scholarship, some of this effort will be wasted. Therefore, to decide whether to apply, you should first consider several questions, such as how likely is this scholarship and how can you increase the probability that you will secure this scholarship. To help you answer these questions, first consider these observations:

* Each year, the Australian government awards almost 2000 of these scholarships to individuals from many nations. About 95% of the individuals who receive scholarships complete their degree
* About 200 to 250 of these scholarships are awarded to research students, such as PhD candidates
* Over 50% of the individuals study or work in the education, governance, or health sectors

Unfortunately, the number of applicants, and hence the likelihood of success, is not reported publicly. Nevertheless, to increase the probability that you will be awarded these scholarships, the following table outlines the features of applications that are more likely to be accepted

* The proposed research is very relevant to the key challenges of your nation
* The proposed research includes an original but justifiable method to explore and to resolve these challenges
* To complete the proposed research, you will develop and utilise skills that could help address these challenges
* Your academic grades tend to be strong. You average grade should exceed 70%. Or, your GPA should be more than 70% the maximum.
* You have undertaken roles, launched initiatives, or completed other activities that demonstrate leadership and innovation

The remainder of this document is designed to increase the likelihood that your application will succeed. That is, this document offers some insights that could improve your application.

|  |
| --- |
| **The contents of this application: An overview** |

To apply to receive this scholarship, you need to submit quite a few documents or copies of these documents. The following table outlines these documents

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Information to include | Details |
| The certificates of your degrees, sometimes called testamurs | * If these certificates are not in English, you will need to organize a translation |
| Your academic transcripts | * These transcripts usually specify the grades of all the units or courses you completed * If these transcripts are not in English, you will need to organize a translation |
| Evidence of your citizenship | * Usually a certified copy of your passport or national identity card |
| Your birth certificate | * If not in English, you will need to organize a translation |
| A curriculum vitae, usually called a CV | * This document should outline your work history, such as your duties and responsibilities of each job, and your research experience, if any * Instructions on how to construct this CV will appear later |
| Two referee reports from academics | * In particular, these referees need to follow a specific template * This template is available at the bottom of this website: https://www.dfat.gov.au/people-to-people/australia-awards/Pages/how-to-apply-for-an-australia-awards-scholarship |
| Evidence that a potential supervisor is willing to support this research | * Only PhD applicants need to supply this evidence * Instructions on how to collect this evidence will be discussed later |
| A research proposal | * Only PhD applicants need to supply this proposal * Instructions on how to write this proposal will be discussed later |

Besides your CV, referee reports, evidence of support, and research proposal, all these documents should be certified copies—in which a particular authority compares the original documents and the copied documents. To achieve this goal, you need to complete several activities, as outlined in the following table.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Activities to certify documents | Details |
| Identify relevant authorities—that is, people who are licensed to certify your documents | * You could visit the institution, such as the university, that issued these documents * You could visit an Australian overseas diplomatic mission—such as an embassy or consulate * You could identify a Notary Public—individuals who can certify documents. To identify Notaries, you might contact student services at your university, use a website like www.notarysearches.com, or contact your local city council for information. |
| Visit this authority with both the original documents and photocopies of these documents. Ask this authority to certify your documents | * In some instances, the authority might photocopy these documents for you * This person will need to write, on each document, “This is a certified true copy of the original document as sighted by me” and then sign the document as well as print his or her name, contact details, occupation, and date |

To check these details, you could read the information document that corresponds to your nation. This document, for example, might indicate that your birth certificate or passport does not need to be certified.

|  |
| --- |
| **How to write a compelling CV** |

Once you learn how to locate and certify the various documents, such as your academic transcript, the application is simple. The only sections of the application that demand thorough consideration are your CV, letter from a supervisor, and research proposal. The next few sections of this document present some information on how to complete these sections effectively.

**A typical CV**

You need to accompany your submission with a CV—a summary of the roles you have undertaken in the past. The main purpose of your CV is to demonstrate your capacity to exhibit leadership and innovation. The following box illustrates the typical format of a CV.

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **JOHN SHIN**  **john.shin@nus.edu.id**  **+62 403 479 284**  **25/5 Madeup St, Anson, Indonesia 0207**   |  | | --- | | **Executive summary** |  * Completed a Bachelor of Science, specializing in environmental science * Completed a Masters in environmental science that included a thesis on ecology * Worked in government as a policy advisor on environmental matters  |  | | --- | | **Education** |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | |  | 2012. **Masters in Environmental Science.** Samudra University | Completed a thesis entitled “Ecological effects of the Gadja weeds”. | |  | 2009-2011. **Bachelor of Science** Samudra University | Completed units in environmental science, chemistry, and physics. |  |  | | --- | | **Employment history** |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | |  | 2018 - **Policy Advisor**  Langsa Government | * Conducted research on environmental concerns * Liaised with public associations * Reported and communicated research to various committees * Received a commendation for best employee in the environmental science team | |  | 2012 - 2017 **Policy Assistant**  Langsa Government | * Collected and entered data on environmental measures * Conducted and prepared literature reviews on the latest advances in environmental practices |  |  | | --- | | **Voluntary roles** |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | |  | **Garden action group** 2018 | * Was a co-founder of the garden action group—an association that helped older people attend to their gardens * Acted as treasurer during 2018 | |

Actually, the content of your CV is more important than is the format or style. To improve your CV, consider the principles that appear in the following table.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| How to improve your CV | Details |
| If possible, refer to paid roles or voluntary positions in which you demonstrated leadership or innovation. | * You might have designed or launched some program, activity, or other event * You might have lead or coordinated a team of individuals on some task, and so forth |
| If you feel your CV is inadequate, perhaps you could defer your application one year | * During this year, you could volunteer to assist some organization, such as a charity, to demonstrate some leadership or innovation. |

|  |
| --- |
| **How to locate a potential university and supervisor** |

Before you apply, you need to decide which universities and supervisors you prefer. But, which university should you choose? Which university you chose is not as important as you might assume. That is, all universities have developed some favourable and unfavourable features. To illustrate

* the most prestigious universities are not always the most helpful
* the most welcoming universities are sometimes the most isolated, and so forth

Instead, you should, to a large extent, choose the university with the most appropriate supervisor. To identify potential supervisors, consider the activities that appear in the following table.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| How to identify appropriate  universities and supervisors | Details |
| Identify 5 to 10 Australian universities that you might consider | * For a list of Australian Universities, google “List of universities in Australia Wikipedia” * You could then choose these universities randomly * Or you could choose universities that friends or colleagues have recommended—perhaps because these universities are renowned leaders in the topic in which you are interested * You could choose universities that are closer to you geographically |
| Locate the page in which you can search possible supervisors | * To achieve this goal, Google something like “Charles Darwin University find a supervisor” * Typically, you should be able to locate a page in which you can identify potential supervisors in your field |
| Read about these supervisors | * That is, trust your intuition about whether you feel these supervisors might be suitable. |
| Email supervisors who you feel might be suitable | Your email could include some of the following sentences, but written in paragraphs rather than bullet points   * Hello. My name is … * I have recently completed a Bachelor in… * I am now interested in completing a PhD in the field of … * I am especially fascinated by … * I enjoy … but would like to learn more about … * I appreciate you might be very busy, but I was wondering whether you might be interested in the possibility of supervision * Or, if not, would you be able to suggest someone else I should contact? * Kind regards |
| Evaluate the response of these supervisors | Appropriate supervisors should demonstrate most of the following attributes   * The supervisors respond within a day or, more importantly, explains any delays in their response * The supervisors do not seem too rushed or inundated with responsibilities. Their emails are quite lengthy rather than curt. * The supervisors propose suggestions that accommodate your specific needs and circumstances. They might ask you questions about your circumstances—such as your family responsibilities, financial position, or skills. The supervisors might ask you whether you prefer a qualitative design, a quantitative design, or mixed method design. And they should offer advice that is sensitive to your answers. * The supervisors show humility, acknowledging their limitations. They might also allude to their passion to learn. They may even refer to their hope they will learn from their interactions with you—and they will certainly be receptive to your suggestions and perspectives. |

|  |
| --- |
| **Write a research proposal** |

Finally, to enrol in a PhD, you will need to prepare and to submit a research proposal. In particular, the website in which you submit--<https://oasis.dfat.gov.au>--will present some questions that you need answer. In particular, you will be asked to specify

* the CRICOS code of your preferred university
* other information about the course or university
* the research title
* the objectives of your research—within 1000 characters
* the significance of your work to your country—within 1000 characters, and
* the research methodology—within 1000 characters

To answer these questions, you first need to collate helpful information. To achieve this goal, consider the activities that are recommended in the following table.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Activities to complete before you write a research proposal | Details |
| Locate and skim two or more other theses—especially theses that were completed in Australia and are related to your interests | * Several websites can be used to uncover these theses, such as trove.nla.gov.au * Or simply use Google Scholar |
| As you read or skim a theis, attempt to record information you might be able to utilize later | Specifically, if possible   * record 20 to 40 words or phrases the authors used that might be helpful to you in the future—phrases or words that you understand but might not use naturally; these words could help you describe your research more effectively * record 10 to 20 insights about the topic you feel could be relevant to your research project—including the source or reference * record 10 to 20 insights about the methods or analysis that you feel could be relevant to your research project |
| Skim many papers, a few books, and interesting websites that are relevant to the main challenges of your region. | * Record 20 to 50 interesting or relevant insights you gleaned from this information * Record some initial, even vague, ideas you uncover as you read this information * Some of these ideas might be minor amendments to previous studies * Place an asterisk alongside your 5 to 10 most feasible ideas |
| Skim articles or websites on some interesting methodologies or methods you could apply | If your prefer qualitative research—research with words rather than numbers—here are some methodologies or methods to consider and google   * Systematic self-observation: to teach participants to collect data about themselves in specific circumstances, such as when they tell lies * Meta-ethnography: to synthesize or integrate a set of qualitative studies that all explore an overlapping topic or research question—the qualitative variant of a meta-analysis * Policy ethnography: to explore and characterize the complications that individuals experienced when they attempted to implement some government policy * Appreciative inquiry: to uncover actions a team, organization, or community could initiate to improve their conditions--but derive these ideas from positive experiences in the past * Realistic evaluation: to determine which people benefit from some complex social intervention as well as circumstances in which this intervention is beneficial * Dyadic interviews: to interview two participants at a time—primarily to exploit the benefits, but avoid the complications, of focus groups * Delphi methods--to seek the opinions of experts online several times in a systematic fashion   If your prefer quantitative research—research with numbers—here are some designs and methods to consider and google   * randomized control trial * cluster randomized control trial * step-wedge design * regression discontinuity design * Bayesian statistics * deep learning, such as neural networks |
| Perhaps discuss some of your favourite ideas with friends, relatives, or specialists. | * Record some of their feedback, advice, or suggestions * Include advice about which sources to read or methods to consider |
| Specify 2 to 5 of your strengths or passions. | * You might include skills you have developed, hobbies you pursue, or your natural attributes |
| Attempt to integrate some of the ideas and feedback you have generated to identify 2 to 5 possible projects. | Then, to help refine each project   * specify 1 to 5 limitations of these projects * brainstorm 1 to 3 activities you could undertake to start to solve each limitation * consider how you could apply your strengths or passions to improve this project * specify the converse or opposite of the assumptions that underlie these projects * then attempt to integrate the insights you gain from this procedure to refine your project |

Eventually, you might feel ready to answer the questions. The first column in the following table offers some insights into how you can answer these questions. The second column presents a fictional example. You should record your answers in Word, or another word processor, before you submit these answers online.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Initial information** | **Details** |
| CRICOS code | * Universities that offer courses to international students must register with the government. When the university register, they are assigned a code, like an ID   To identify this code,   * visit [cricos.education.gov.au/institution/InstitutionSearch.aspx](https://cricos.education.gov.au/institution/InstitutionSearch.aspx) * enter you preferred university in the box labelled “Institution name” and press “Start search” * to illustrate, the CRICOS code of Charles Darwin University is 00300K |
| Course title | * The course title will usually resemble something like “Doctor of Philosophy” or “Masters by Research” |
| Type of study, course duration, and other details | * Once you enter the CRICOS code, many of the other answers will appear automatically. |
| **Research proposal** | **Examples** |
| **Research title**   * The title should allude to the problem you want to solve and something unique about the project * The title should include words that people can imagine vividly * Write this title last | * A program that indirectly inspires people to pay tax |
| **Objectives**   * Describe the problem in your region that your research is designed to address * This problem must revolves around one or more of the key challenges in your nation * Clarify how your study is designed to resolve this problem or controversy * Clarify the unique features of this research—to demonstrate how your research, unlike past studies, may resolve this problem in society | * In Hadron, health and education services are limited partly because few individuals who earn an elevated wage pay tax (Adams, 2020) * This study examines an innovative campaign that was designed to inspire people to willingly pay more tax * Past attempts have primarily revolved around eliciting fear about the possible fines that people might receive if they do not pay tax * In response, individuals who earn an elevated wage merely sought more advice on how to evade tax (Betty 2017) * In contrast, this campaign was designed to encourage individuals to contribute their insights to develop a unique health and education program * After contributing to this program, individuals might feel more compelled to assist by paying tax. |
| **Significance and possible application**   * Summarize the research that highlights the prevalence or significance of this problem * If possible include a few statistics * Identify some indirect benefits of this research as well | * In Hadron, some research estimates that 2.9 billion dollars is lost each year as a consequence of tax evasion. * If this project is successful, individuals will not only be more willing to pay tax, they may also be more inspired to pursue other avenues to support the community * For example, according to research by Zhou and Young (2017), when individuals pay tax, they also become more inclined to obey other laws. * This compliance tends to improve productivity, enhancing the level of services that governments can provide and improving standards of living |
| **Methodology**   * Specify the participants, materials, procedure, and data analysis, especially for the first study. * Uncover some innovative methodologies and methods. | * This project will utilised a mixed-methods approach, coupled with participatory action research. * Specifically, 120 individuals from the Jarden community will be encouraged to participate in a community consultation around an exciting health and education program * At several times, before, during, and after the program, individuals will complete short surveys to assess their attitudes towards paying tax, social norms about tax, and intention to pay tax. * The responses will be subjected to a statistical technique called latent growth modeling * In addition, both focus groups and unfocussed groups will be convened to discuss beliefs about tax. |

If possible, before you submit this information, ask one or more intelligent friends to read your proposal. Your friends might offer feedback on which sections were confusing or which arguments could be improved.

|  |
| --- |
| **How to submit your application** |

**Dates in which you can submit**

To submit your application, you should first check the dates in which these applications will be accepted. In particular, visit <https://www.dfat.gov.au/people-to-people/australia-awards/Pages/australia-awards-scholarships-opening-and-closing-dates>

**How to submit**

Before, you were asked to read a document that is related to your nation. This document will also specify how to submit your application—such as whether you need to submit online. In most nations, applicants must submit online at <https://oasis.dfat.gov.au>. On this site are also two documents on how to apply. Nevertheless, the following table outlines some vital insights about how to submit your applications.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Principles to follow | Details |
| You will need to register | * Press the “Logon / Register” button and then “Register new account” * Enter the relevant information, such as your email address, names, and date of birth. * Press save * You will then receive a password in your email   After you locate this password in your email   * Press the “Logon / Register” button again * Enter your email and this password * You will then be prompted to change your password * Press Save |
| Begin your application | * Press “Application” on the left side * Click “Create new application” on the right side |
| Choose the scheme | * In this instance, the scheme is “Australian Awards Scholarship” * Press “Next” |
| Select the “Intake round”—that is, the year you want to start | * Sometimes only one option is available * If so, simply press “Next” |
| Answer questions about your personal details |  |
| The remainder of this application should be straightforward |  |