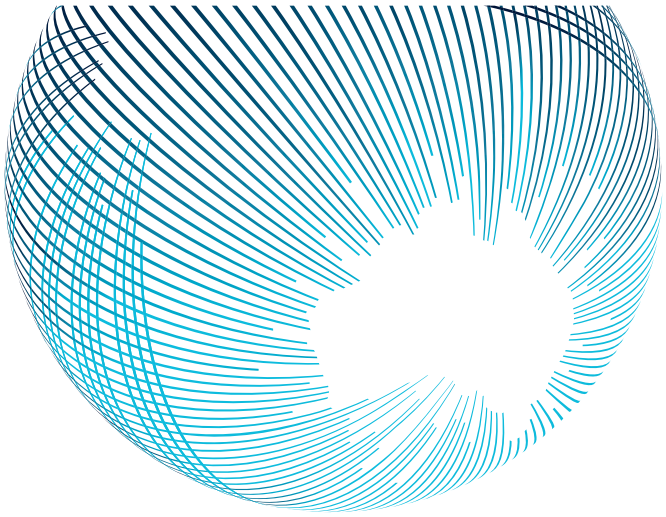
Australia Awards

Australia Awards Fiji
Studying with disability in Australia



Australia Awards Scholarships are prestigious international awards offered by the Australian Government to the next generation of global leaders.

For more information:

Website: www.australiaawardsfiji.org
Email: australiaawards@fpsp.org.fj
Phone: +679 3312 141

To be eligible you MUST:

- Be a citizen and resident of Fiji
- Meet the respective Fiji eligibility requirements
- Apply for a course in a Priority Sector
- Apply for a progressive qualification (i.e. apply for a Master if you have a Bachelor degree)
- Meet the tertiary Institution's course entry requirements
- Be able to satisfy all visa requirements (subclass 500)
- Be committed to return to Fiji and contribute to your sector

For further eligibility criteria, visit the website.

You are NOT eligible if you are:

- Currently serving a scholarship bond period
- Hold citizenship or permanent resident status in Australia or New Zealand
- Applying for a visa to live in Australia or New Zealand permanently
- Married to, engaged or a de facto of a person who holds or is eligible to hold Australia or New Zealand citizenship or permanent residency
- Currently serving military personnel

Women and people with a disability are encouraged to apply for a scholarship.

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Frequently Asked Questions

What is defined as a disability?

Under Australian law, disability includes physical, intellectual, psychiatric, sensory, neurological and learning disability, physical disfigurement, and the presence in the body of disease-causing organisms.

More information on the Australian definition of disability and the rights of people with disability in Australia is available on the Australian Human Rights Commission's website at https://www.humanrights.gov.au/our-work/disability-rights.

What is not considered a disability?

Illness that can be corrected with interventions is not considered a disability and does not need to be declared on your application. Examples may include asthma that can be treated with medication and short-sightedness that can be corrected with glasses.

Does a person with disability need to complete the scholarship application and meet the other requirements?

Yes, all applicants are required to meet the eligibility requirements and complete the application.

If an applicant with disability has questions or concerns about the application requirements, they should contact the Australia Awards team for further information.

What level of study can I apply for?

There are no study level restrictions for a person with disability. All applicants are encouraged to apply for the level of study most relevant to their capability and previous academic and work history.

Does declaring a disability limit my chances of getting a scholarship?

No, declaring a disability will not disadvantage you in any way. Australia Awards encourages applicants with disability to declare their circumstances. If Australia Awards knows about the disability, reasonable adjustments and accommodations can be made to reduce barriers to participation. For example, visually impaired applicants may have their written test read to them and a scribe provided to record their answers.

Does declaring a disability guarantee a scholarship place?

As the Australia Awards program is an academic program, scholarship places are awarded on a merit basis and in competition. There is no guarantee of a scholarship place, as it is a highly competitive academic program. However, applicants with disability are strongly encouraged to apply.

What is a reasonable adjustment and reasonable accommodation?

Reasonable adjustments are measures that can be made to ensure students with a disability can meet the academic standards of their course of study and participate on the same basis as other students. Examples might include alterations to the physical environment and other facilities, and changes to the way skills are assessed.

Reasonable accommodation is the provision of support, modifications and/or adjustments that meet the individual needs of people with disabilities to ensure they enjoy and exercise all human rights and fundamental freedoms on an equal basis to others. Examples might include the provision of accessible transportation, sign-language interpreters, and documents in accessible formats.

What reasonable adjustments and accommodations will be made during the scholarship selection process?

Reasonable adjustments and accommodations will differ depending on the disability and the individual's needs.
Examples of reasonable adjustments and accommodations may include provision of an orator and scribe for tests, ensuring disability accessible interview venues, and provision of a special table catering to wheelchair height.

What support is available on-scholarship for people with disability?

Detailed information about support available for awardees with disability is included in the Australia Awards Scholarship Policy Handbook (in particular refer to Chapter 9):

https://www.dfat.gov.au/about-us/publications/australia-awards-scholarships-policy-handbook

If selected for an Australia Award, the awardee will work closely with the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade Disability Support Consultant to develop a Disability Support Plan prior to going to Australia. This plan will be tailored to the needs of the individual and outlines the support required to successfully live and study in Australia. Support may include provision of a carer, assistive devices or other support required to successfully live and study in Australia. The requirements set out in the Disability Support Plan will be pre-approved and included in the awardee's scholarship entitlements.

Each institution has a Student Contact Officer who is the primary point of contact for all Australia Awards recipients at the University. Many Australian institutions also have a dedicated disability service or disability officer to support students with disability to fully participate in University life. The Student Contact Officer will help the awardee with disability access the institution's disability services.

How are people with disability considered in Australia?

In Australia, the Disability Discrimination Act 1992 protects individuals across Australia from unfair treatment in many parts of public life. The Act makes disability discrimination unlawful and promotes equal rights, equal opportunity and equal access for persons with disability.