



Australia Awards

Australia Awards Fiji Bringing your Family to 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@fsp.org.fj

Phone: +679 3312 141

To be eligible you MUST:

- Be a citizen and resident of Fiji
- Meet the Fiji country 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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1. Am I able to bring my family (spouse and children on-scholarship)?

Awardees' dependents (spouse and children) can accompany them to Australia. Awardees are required to meet the visa requirements (including demonstrating sufficient funds to support their family members) and are required to list all dependents in their student visa application.

2. Does the Australia Awards office assist with obtaining visas for awardees and, if necessary, dependents?

It is the responsibility of the awardee to prepare and submit their own visa application. Australia Awards is however available to guide awardees through the process and answer questions. It is also the responsibility of the awardee to manage their dependents' visa application/s. The Australia Awards Information Centre is accessible (with computers) should awardees and/or family members wish to submit their visa applications from the Office (supported by staff).

3. Will I receive financial support for my dependents / family on-scholarship?

No additional financial support will be provided to awardees who chose to bring their family on-scholarship. It is the responsibility of the awardee to ensure they can afford the cost of their family accompanying them on-scholarship.

4. Can my spouse work while accompanying me on scholarship?

Yes. Your spouse may work up to 48 hours a fortnight while accompanying you on your scholarship. They must adhere to the work hour restrictions set out in their visa conditions. For further information please refer to the Australian Department of Immigration and Border Protection.

5. Can I work while studying in Australia?

Yes. Australia Awards recipients are allowed to work part-time (up to 48 hours a fortnight) under the subclass 500 student visa. It is however important you inform your Student Contact Officer to ensure it does not affect your academic progress. You must adhere to the work hour restrictions set out in your visa conditions.

6. Is housing easy to secure for families in Australia?

Accessibility and cost of housing for families can vary depending on the city you choose to study in. In larger (more populated) cities like Sydney or Melbourne it may mean living further from your university and commuting each day. In smaller cities like Adelaide and Canberra it can be more affordable. While we encourage applicants to select courses/institutions based on their reintegration plan, it is also important to consider the environment you wish to live/study in.

7. Can my children get an education in Australia?

Yes. Australia is well known for its quality and affordable education system and offer a range of different education options. For more information on Australia's education system visit:

www.studyinaustralia.gov.au

8. Can I access childcare for my children (even if they have limited or no understanding of English)?

Yes. A range of childcare options are available in Australia. They vary in availability of spaces and costs. Formal facilities such as childcare centres are one option as well as informal services such as babysitters and nannies. It is the responsibility of the parent to organise appropriate childcare support for their accompanying children.

9. Is childcare expensive in Australia?

Childcare can be expensive in Australia. It is important to do your research and ensure you can afford the associated costs. It is also important to ensure your dependents are listed on your visa application in order to receive a subsidized rate.

10. When is the best time to bring my family to Australia?

Australia Awards recommends awardees wait six months after they've mobilised before bringing their family to Australia. This allows sufficient time for the awardee to become familiar with their institution, study program and academic expectations. It also allows time for the awardee to consider the cost of living and suitability for their family.

11. What assistance will be available to me during my stay in Australia?

All universities in Australia have student service centres that provide guidance and emergency support to students during their stay in Australia. The student service centres can help students in arranging accommodation, accessing family support and to meet, to the extent possible, any special needs of the students.

Australian Universities also have health and counselling services that are free or offered at cheaper rates for students and a range of sporting, shopping and other facilities on campus.

12. If I am successful in my scholarship application and I am pregnant will my scholarship be terminated?

Pregnant applicants are encouraged to share this information with the Australia Awards Office at their earliest opportunity.

Applicants will be assessed equally and selected based on merit. Such applicants will not be disadvantaged.

13. Can we celebrate our religious, cultural and national festivals?

Yes. Being an immigrant society many Australian cities have Pacific Islander populations, who have formed community centres to get together and celebrate religious, cultural and/or national events and festivals.

