

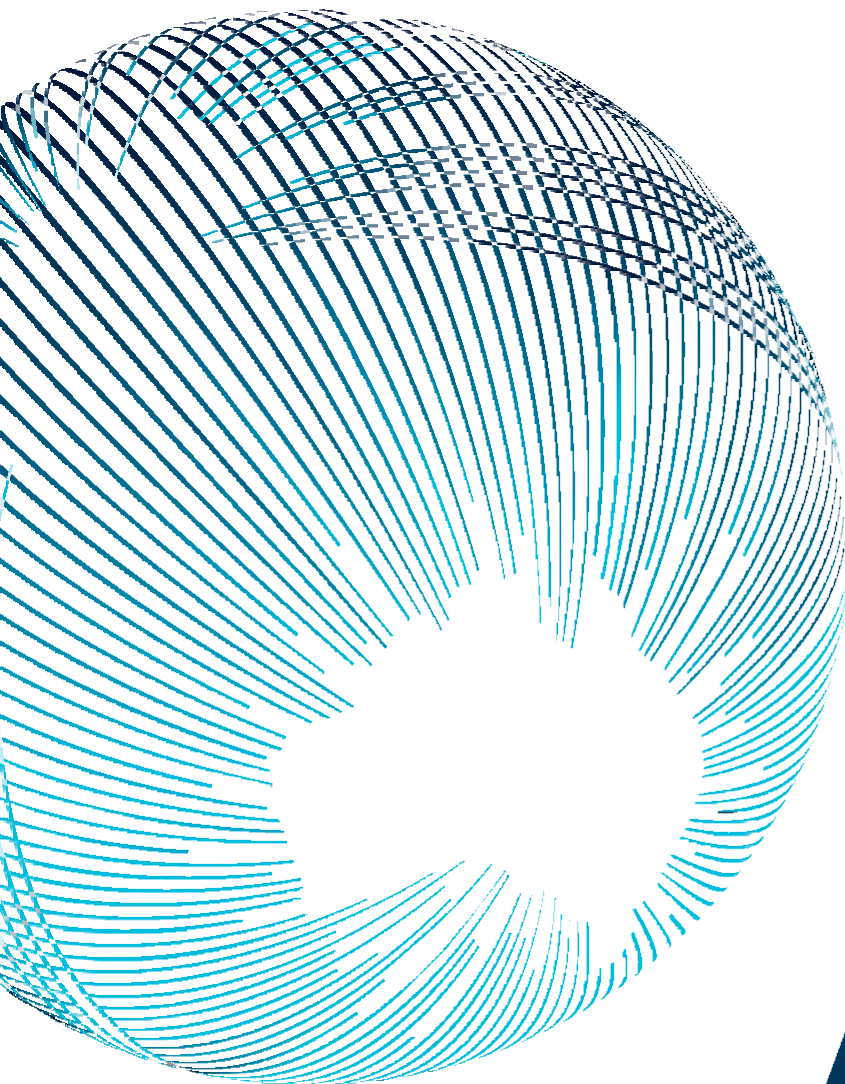


Australia Awards

Make a difference with an Australia Awards Scholarship

Online application information kit – Solomon Islands

For study commencing in 2024



Introduction

This online application information kit aims to assist you to complete a competitive **Australia Awards Scholarship** application.

It is important that your application is **complete** and **accurate**. Do not leave it until the last minute to complete your application because it requires from you detailed information and supporting documents. The 3-month period between opening and closing dates for scholarship applications acknowledges this.

The Australia Awards Scholarships Online Information System, **OASIS**, enables you to enter and leave your application in draft until it is complete. Applications open on **1 February 2023**. You must submit your application before the closing date, **1 May 2023**. OASIS will not let you access or submit your application after this date. The application is accessed at <https://oasis.dfat.gov.au>

Eligibility

To be considered eligible for an Australia Awards Scholarship, you must meet **all** the eligibility criteria outlined below, ie. General Eligibility Criteria **and** Additional Eligibility Criteria for Solomon Islands. If you do not meet all the eligibility criteria, and provide supporting information as required, your application will not be considered.

General Eligibility Criteria

The Australian Government offers Australia Awards Scholarships for around 45 countries, including Solomon Islands. Applicants from all countries must meet **all** the following eligibility criteria:

- i. be a minimum of 18-years of age on 1 February of the year of commencing the scholarship (eg. 18 years on 1 February 2024 for study commencing in 2024)
- ii. **not** be a citizen of Australia, hold permanent residency in Australia, or be applying for a visa to live in Australia permanently
- iii. **not** be married to, engaged to, or a *de facto* of a person who holds, or is eligible to hold, Australian or New Zealand citizenship or permanent residency, at any time during the application, selection, or mobilisation phases
- iv. **not** be current serving military personnel
- v. **not** have previously received a long-term Australia Award, **unless** you have resided outside of Australia for twice the length of the total time that you were in Australia (eg. if you are a previous awardee who was on an Australia Award for four years, you will not be eligible to apply for another Australia Awards Scholarship until you have resided outside Australia for eight years)
- vi. **not** hold convictions or be currently under investigation for criminal activities

- vii. be able to satisfy the admission requirements of the institution where the study is to be undertaken (an award offer may be withdrawn if the candidate cannot satisfy the institution's admission requirements; this may not be known until a placement request is submitted to the institution), and
- viii. be able to satisfy all requirements of the Australian Government's Department of Home Affairs to obtain and hold a Student Visa (subclass 500) (an award offer may be withdrawn if visa requirements cannot be met).

Additional Eligibility Criteria for Solomon Islands

Most countries have additional eligibility criteria for an Australia Awards Scholarship. For Solomon Islands, applicants must meet **all** the following:

- i. **must** be residing in Solomon Islands when applying
- ii. **must** have completed Year 12/Form 6 and have an aggregate score between 4 and 11; above 11 is not eligible
- iii. may apply while completing Year 13/Form 7 in 2023 (final results must be submitted once received)
- iv. **must not** hold an equivalent or higher qualification at time of application, or commencement of scholarship (you cannot apply for a bachelor level scholarship if you already hold a bachelor or masters degree)
- v. **must** be applying to study in Australia for a bachelor (maximum duration 4-years), masters, or postgraduate research degree in a priority field of study (see below), and
- vi. postgraduate applicants **must**:
 - hold a first degree relevant to the priority field of study
 - have 3 years' work experience.

While there is no upper age limit, a candidate's potential upon return from study will be assessed during selection.

English language requirements

Australian institutions will require you to meet a minimum level of English before you will be offered a place at the institution. Shortlisted applicants may be required to undertake an English language test, arranged by Australia Awards Solomon Islands in Honiara in mid-2023.

If you do not hold an accepted English language test result (see below), in your OASIS application please enter "August 2023" as the date of your English language test.

Accepted English language tests and minimum required results are:

- Test of English as a Foreign Language internet-based test (TOEFL-iBT) score of at least 84 (with a minimum of 21 in all subtests), or

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- International English Language Testing System (IELTS) Academic overall score of at least 6.5 (with no band less than 6.0), or
- Pearson Test of English (PTE) Academic overall score of 58 (with no communicative skill score less than 50).

English language tests scores must be valid on 1 January 2024.

Levels of study and priority fields

Australia Awards Scholarships are available for undergraduate (bachelor) level and postgraduate level (masters, research degrees) for study in specialised areas. (Awards are not available for vocational education and training, diploma, or graduate diploma study.)

Applications are encouraged across a broad range of priority fields of study for Solomon Islands. For 2024 these are:

Undergraduate **ONLY**

- **Health** including but not limited to: epidemiology; health policy and administration; public health; medicine; mental health; and pharmacy.

Undergraduate **AND** postgraduate

- **Community and social development** including but not limited to: anthropology; creative industries and humanities; community and human services (child protection, social work, welfare); disability; gender and culture; gender and development; Pacific studies
- **Economic growth** including but not limited to: accounting; business administration; economics; entrepreneurship; finance; human resource management; international relations; logistics, operations and supply chain management; marketing; sports management; taxation
- **Environment and natural resource management** including but not limited to: agriculture; climate change; conservation; disaster risk reduction and adaptation; earth and environmental science; environment and resource economics; fisheries, forestry; meteorology; waste management; water management
- **Governance** including but not limited to: communication, media, and journalism; customs; cyber security; disaster and emergency management; international development; law and legal practice; peace and security; police studies and intelligence; procurement and contract management; public policy and administration
- **Infrastructure** including but not limited to: architecture; building and construction; engineering (including civil, electrical, maritime, mining, sanitation, water); information technology; surveying; urban design and planning
- **Science, technology, engineering, and math** but not limited to biomedical science and biotechnology; geoscience; agriculture and food science; animal health and veterinary science; engineering and computer science; mathematics and statistics; software development.

Postgraduate **ONLY**

- **Education** including but not limited to: education management; education policy; education technology/ e-learning; inclusive education; learning and leadership
- **Health** including but not limited to: nursing (emergency, intensive care, midwifery, obstetric, paediatric, remote).

Completing an online application

Before completing the application you must read the Australia Awards Scholarships Policy Handbook - <http://www.dfat.gov.au/about-us/publications/australia-awards-scholarships-policy-handbook> - and the Solomon Islands Country Profile – www.dfat.gov.au/people-to-people/australia-awards/pages/australia-awards-scholarships

You must complete all questions in the online application. Read the questions carefully and ensure that you have provided complete and accurate responses to the questions. An incomplete application will not be considered.

Should a question include * you will not be able to proceed to the next section without completing that question (* indicates a mandatory field).

You can save, exit, and re-enter the online application as many times as you wish before the submission deadline.

Supporting documents

You are required to supply documents to support your Australia Awards Scholarship application. These are:

- i. a certified copy of original formal graduation certificates and academic transcript/s from Year 12/Form 6 and Year13/Form 7 if completed, as well as from university if completed - including GPA, grading scale, explanatory page and, if not in English, a certified translation copy of the transcript/s
- ii. a certified copy of original citizenship document (eg. passport, or birth certificate) and, if not in English, a certified translation
- iii. a curriculum vitae (CV) briefly detailing your work history and responsibilities, any research experience (if relevant to your application), volunteer work, or extra-curricular activities you may have undertaken (a CV template is available at <https://solomonislands.embassy.gov.au/honi/study.html>)
- iv. two referee reports less than six-months old:
 - coursework applicants must provide at least one academic referee report and at least one other referee report (eg. a work supervisor)
 - Master's Degree by Research or PhD applicants **must** provide two academic referee reports (other referee reports are not required)
 - a template for the preferred format of a referee report is available at <http://dfat.gov.au/people-to-people/australia-awards/pages/how-to-apply-for-an-australia-awards-scholarship.aspx>

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- v. if you hold an accepted English language test result (see above) you need to submit a certified copy of your original English language test (IELTS, TOEFL, or PTE) certificate valid until 1 January of the year in which the study will commence (eg. results are valid for two-years, so the test would need to have been taken **after 1 January 2022** for study commencing in 2024) (if you do not hold an accepted English language test result you will be required to undertake an English language test, arranged by Australia Awards Solomon Islands in Honiara in mid-2023)
- vi. PhD candidates only - evidence (eg. a letter or email communication) that you have received in-principle support for your research topic from a supervisor, and
- vii. PhD candidates only – a developed research proposal.

Certification of documents

Documents accompanying that require certification must be certified in accordance with the requirements below.

The original document has been sighted and the copy has been sworn to be a true copy of the original by an authorised person at one of the following:

- i. the official records department of the institution that originally issued the document/s, or
- ii. an Australian overseas diplomatic mission, or
- iii. a Justice of the Peace/ Notary Public, or Commissioner of Oaths.

The authorised person must:

- i. write 'this is a certified true copy of the original document as sighted by me'; and
- ii. sign and print his/her name, address, contact telephone number, profession or occupation or organisation, and the date verified, and
- iii. include the official stamp or seal of the verifier's organisation on the copy, if the organisation has such a stamp.

Application questions

1. Personal details

The details that you provide here must match your passport, birth certificate, or other official identification document.

2. Contact details

Make sure your contact details are correct, otherwise Australia Awards Solomon Islands may not be able to contact you if your application proceeds to the next stage.

3. Spouse details, and 4. Children details

This information must be provided regardless of whether your spouse and children will be accompanying you to Australia.

Spouse is defined as your husband, wife, or *de facto* partner. Children are those under 18-years of age; and not married or engaged to be married, or in a *de facto* relationship. The Australia Awards Scholarships Policy Handbook and other information sources will refer to them as your dependants.

There is no additional scholarship funding if you choose to bring your spouse and/or children with you to Australia.

5. Emergency contact details

This is a family member or friend that should be contacted in case of an emergency while you are on scholarship.

6. Previous scholarships

Only enter details of scholarships or fellowships that supported tertiary-level studies. This is important information in the assessment of your application.

If you have previously held an Australian Government funded scholarship you will be required to have been outside Australia twice the duration of your scholarship (eg. if you studied in Australia for four years, you must have been living outside Australia for eight years).

7. Other scholarship applications

Provide details of other scholarships that you will be applying for this year. This information will not disadvantage your application for an Australia Awards Scholarship.

If you have previously applied for an Australia Awards Scholarship but were unsuccessful, please state the year/s in which you applied, and whether you were interviewed.

8. Proposed study

Scholarships are for undergraduate or postgraduate study at university level (not vocational education and training, diploma, or graduate diploma study).

You are asked to provide two course preferences in your application.

Choose a field of study from the list of priority fields above.

Find a matching course via the CRICOS website <http://cricos.education.gov.au>.

Review the admission requirements of your two course preferences to check that you meet the admission requirements of the institution.

Check the [Australia Awards Scholarship Policy Handbook](#) clause 2.7 to ensure your course is not on the exclusion list.

You are **not** required to have course placement (admission/enrolment) confirmed by the institution at the time of application. However, you should have undertaken extensive research to determine what course and education institution best suits your study needs. This is an important component of the assessment of your application. You are encouraged to put forward different institutions for each preference.

How to find information about where to study

There are 43 universities in Australia, most of which participate in the Australia Awards Scholarship program. Selecting an education institution that is best for you takes careful consideration. Participating institutions can be found at <https://www.dfat.gov.au/about-us/publications/Pages/australia-awards-participating-institutions>

Information about living and studying in Australia can be found at: www.studyaustralia.gov.au. This is an Australian Government website that provides links to each education institution and the courses it offers, and an email address for enquiries. It also provides useful information about accommodation, cost of living, etc.

Should your application be successful, you will receive further assistance to finalise your study program in Australia.

Postgraduate research proposals

The online application requires applicants wishing to undertake masters by research or PhD study to provide well established project outlines. An under-developed and vague research project will disadvantage your application. (The requirement for a research proposal does **not** apply to applicants for undergraduate or postgraduate coursework degrees.)

You must keep within the word/character limit in OASIS.

Be prepared to discuss your research project at interview.

Finding a PhD supervisor

A suitable supervisor is someone whose field of research and area of specialisation are similar to yours. Australian universities require you to identify a supervisor prior to applying for admission to the university.

To find a supervisor in your area of research:

- check university websites for academic profiles or a search tool to identify researchers
- use search engines or databases for academics eg. <https://researchdata.edu.au/> or Microsoft Academic <https://academic.microsoft.com/home>
- conduct a literature search in your area of research interest, and
- ask friends, colleagues, and academics with whom you have previously studied.

Once you have identified a suitable supervisor, email them providing:

- a brief description of your research proposal
- the reasons why you want to work with them and how their interests align with your own
- proof of your academic achievements
- your availability to start, and
- details of the Australia Awards Scholarship.

Once you have reached agreement with a supervisor, you may commence formal enrolment procedures with the university. You will need to have developed a full research description to apply for admission.

9. Qualifications

Start with the highest qualification you have obtained (even if it has not yet been completed), provide information about all qualifications you have undertaken, including incomplete studies. You must provide a Certified Copy of all official transcripts of all courses listed (including those not completed). See advice above on what is required to certify a document.

Check that you have completed all required details of every qualification listed.

10. English language details

This section requires information about your level of English language proficiency. As outlined above in English Language requirements, shortlisted applicants will be required to undertake an English language test before being offered an Australia Awards Scholarship.

11. Computer literacy, and 12. Computer Training

These sections are to assist Australian institutions to determine how much additional computer training you may require to successfully complete your study program. It is not part of the Australia Awards application assessment process.

13. Current employment

Current employment includes work experience and voluntary work, as well as paid employment.

It is important to clearly outline how your proposed education qualification will assist your workplace when you return (if you are returning to the same workplace) or what your plans are when you complete your studies and return to Solomon Islands. Your responses to these questions form part of the assessment process.

14. Previous relevant employment

Previous employment includes work experience and voluntary work, as well as paid employment.

Only complete this section if the employment, work experience, or voluntary work relates to your study program or is relevant to your application. Give this careful consideration as it may demonstrate leadership qualities, community-mindedness, or other qualities that would support your application.

15. No current or previous employment or work experience

If you have no current or previous work history please include any leadership experience, community service, volunteer work, or extra-curricular activities you may have undertaken that demonstrate skills you consider support your choice of study program.

16. Supporting statement

This is an important component of the assessment process. Take time and care in completing this section and ensure you answer every question comprehensively (noting the 400-word limit per question).

Questions 1 and 2 demonstrates whether you have considered carefully what you want to study and why it is important to you.

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Australia Awards alumni are expected to become leaders in their field, organisation, or community on return to Solomon Islands. *Question 3* asks you about your knowledge and experience of leadership. It does not necessarily have to be in a formal workplace but can be a situation where your leadership made a difference.

Question 4 is to assess whether you have considered how the scholarship might benefit you, your organisation, or your community and how you might do that on your return to Solomon Islands. Frank discussion about possible constraints demonstrates that you have closely considered this.

The Australian Government has nominated priority fields of study in line with Solomon Islands' development priorities. *Question 5* asks what development priority your proposed study program would best support.

Question 6 asks you to identify any connection or relationship you may have to Australian Government Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) staff or the Australia Awards Solomon Islands staff at Cardno. This does not exclude your application but enables DFAT to take the necessary steps to ensure a fair and transparent selection process.

Question 7 expects you to answer honestly whether you are subject to any criminal or civil proceedings currently awaiting legal action, including those relating to Child Protection, and/or Preventing Sexual Exploitation, Abuse, and Harassment.

Question 8 asks whether you have been convicted of any offence in any country.

Question 9 asks whether you have a disability (*under Australian law, disability includes physical, intellectual, psychiatric, sensory, neurological, learning disabilities, physical disfigurement, and the presence in the body of disease-causing organisms). This question is to ensure that appropriate support is provided to you throughout the application and selection process, and while on scholarship. DFAT encourages applications from people with a disability who meet the eligibility criteria.

17. Professional membership

You are asked to list those associations or organisations with which you have membership. Membership of relevant organisations may strengthen your application.

18. Communication

This section is to help DFAT identify effective ways to promote Australia Awards Scholarships in Solomon Islands to reach potential applicants for future rounds.

19. Checklist of documentary evidence

Please use the checklist provided. An incomplete application form or one with missing supporting documents will not be considered.

Frequently asked questions

Q. What is the application opening date?

1 February 2023.

Q. What is the application closing date?

1 May 2023. Late applications are not accepted.

Q. How do I apply?

Applicants are required to apply online. Applications are accessed and lodged at: <https://oasis.dfat.gov.au>

Hard copy applications will only be accepted under exceptional circumstances and must have prior written approval. To request a hard copy application form, applicants should contact Australia Awards Solomon Islands.

Q. Am I eligible for a scholarship?

The eligibility criteria can be found at Section 2.2 of the Australia Awards Scholarships Policy Handbook www.dfat.gov.au/about-us/publications/australia-awards-scholarships-policy-handbook

In addition to the above criteria, Eligibility Criteria for Solomon Islands applicants can be found in the Solomon Islands Country Profile: dfat.gov.au/people-to-people/australia-awards/pages/australia-awards-scholarships

Q. Is there an age limit?

There is no upper age limit.

All applicants must be a minimum of 18-years of age on 1 February of the year of commencing the scholarship (eg. 18-years on 1 February 2024 for study commencing in 2024).

Q. What can I study?

Australia Awards Scholarships are available for undergraduate and postgraduate study in Australia. (Awards are not available for vocational education and training, diploma, or graduate diploma studies.)

Applicants from the Solomon Islands must select a course from one of the priority fields of study listed in the Solomon Islands Country Profile: dfat.gov.au/people-to-people/australia-awards/pages/australia-awards-scholarships

Q. What are the scholarship benefits?

Scholarship benefits are provided on the Australia Awards website at: <https://www.dfat.gov.au/people-to-people/australia-awards/Pages/australia-awards-scholarships>

Q. Can I apply for an Australia Awards Scholarship if I have another scholarship?

You may apply for other scholarships, but you cannot hold an Australia Awards Scholarship at the same time as another scholarship (from Australia, Solomon Islands Government, or any other country).

Q. Can I apply for an Australia Awards Scholarship if I am not currently living in Solomon Islands?

To be eligible, applicants must be a citizen of a participating country (as listed on the Australia Awards website) and be residing in and applying for the scholarship from their country of citizenship. For citizens of Solomon Islands, you must be residing in Solomon Islands.

Q. Can I apply for an Australia Awards Scholarship if I have previously had an Australian Government scholarship?

Yes. However, if you have previously held a long-term Australian Government scholarship you will be required to have been outside Australia twice the duration of your scholarship (eg. if you studied in Australia for four years, you must have been living outside Australia for eight years).

Q. Where can I study?

A list of participating Australian education institutions can be found at: <https://www.dfat.gov.au/about-us/publications/Pages/australia-awards-participating-institutions>

Q. Can I study in the Pacific?

The 2024 intake will only offer scholarships for study in Australia. No Australia Awards Scholarships will be offered for study in the Pacific region.

Q. Do I have to be accepted by an Australian education institution before I apply for a scholarship?

No, you do not have to have your placement at the education institution confirmed at the time of application. You do have to nominate the course(s) and education institution(s) in which you would like to enrol on your application form – first and second preference.

Q. What is the selection process?

- applications are checked against the Eligibility Criteria
- eligible applications are assessed and scored by a panel of independent assessors, including international academics or international tertiary education experts, against the following Selection Criteria:
 - academic competence
 - potential outcome, specifically the contribution to development outcomes in Solomon Islands, and
 - professional and personal leadership attributes including relevant work experience
- shortlisted candidates are invited to interview
- before a scholarship is awarded, successful applicants will be required to meet a minimum level of English, satisfy the admission requirements of the institution at which the award is to be undertaken, and satisfy all requirements of the Department of Home Affairs to hold a Student Visa (subclass 500).

Q. When will I be notified of the outcome of my application?

Applicants (both successful and unsuccessful) will be notified via email of the outcome once the shortlisting is complete. Please ensure you keep your email details up to date in OASIS. The Australian High Commission website will also be updated when the shortlisting process has been completed.

Q. Do I have to take an English language test?

Yes, you must have a valid English language test (IELTS or TOEFL or PTE) prior to commencing studies in Australia.

Australian institutions will require you to meet a minimum level of English before you will be offered a place at the institution. Shortlisted applicants may be required to undertake an English language test, arranged by Australia Awards Solomon Islands in Honiara in mid-2023.

If you do not hold an accepted English language test result (see below), in your OASIS application please enter “August 2023” as the date of your English language test.

Accepted English language tests and minimum results are:

- Test of English as a Foreign Language internet-based test (TOEFL-iBT) score of at least 84 (with a minimum of 21 in all subtests), or
- International English Language Testing System (IELTS) Academic overall score of at least 6.5 (with no band less than 6.0), or
- Pearson Test of English (PTE) Academic overall score of 58 (with no communicative skill score less than 50).

English language tests scores must be valid on 1 January 2024.

Q. Can I work while I am in Australia?

Yes, you can work up to 20-hours per week under the Student Visa (subclass 500) on which you will be residing in Australia.

Checklist of documentary evidence

You are responsible for providing all supporting documents. If you do not provide all required documents your application will be deemed ineligible.

- > the application should have **certified*** copies attached of the relevant documents listed below
- > where original documents are not in English, you must provide **certified*** copies of official English translations

Required documentation:

All applicants:

- > proof of citizenship ie. birth certificate/passport if available, or photographic identification ie. student card, driver's license, etc. if a passport is not available
- > Curriculum Vitae
- > two referee reports

Undergraduate study applicants:

- > official senior secondary school results (Year 12/Form 6 or Year 13/Form 7)

Postgraduate study applicants:

- > official post-secondary and tertiary certificates/degrees
- > official post-secondary and tertiary transcripts of results

Research applicants only:

- > a developed research proposal
- > reports from two academic referees
- > if you are applying to undertake a PhD, you must provide a letter from a supervisor in Australia stating their support for your research proposal
- > list of your relevant publications

Other:

- > any other relevant documents in support of your application.

***certified**: a statement by an authorised person that the document has been sighted and the copy has been sworn to be a true copy of the original. For further details, please refer to the Australia Awards Scholarships Policy Handbook or <https://solomons.gov.sb/ministry-of-justice-and-legal-affairs/public-solicitors-office/certify-my-documents/>.



On reading this information, and after consulting the Australia Awards Policy Handbook and the Solomon Islands Country Profile, if you have further questions or require additional assistance, please email: australiaawards-solomonislands@sirf.com.sb. We aim to respond within three working days.

Links to useful information:

Australia Awards Scholarship for study commencing in 2023 Solomon Islands Country Profile
dfat.gov.au/people-to-people/australia-awards/pages/australia-awards-scholarships

Australia Awards Solomon Islands

<https://solomonislands.embassy.gov.au/honi/study.html>

Australia Awards Scholarship Policy Handbook

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

general information about Australia Awards

<http://www.dfat.gov.au/people-to-people/australia-awards/Pages/australia-awards-scholarships>

Australia Awards Scholarship online application

<http://oasis.dfat.gov.au>

information about studying in Australia

studyaustralia.gov.au

participating Australian education institutions

<http://www.dfat.gov.au/about-us/publications/Pages/australia-awards-participating-institutions>

Australian visa information and application portal

<https://immi.homeaffairs.gov.au/>

Commonwealth Register of Institutions and Courses for Overseas Students

<http://cricos.education.gov.au>

information that will help you prepare for an English language test

IELTS <http://ielts.org/>

TOEFL <http://www.ets.org/toefl>

Pearson PTE <http://www.pearsonpte.com>

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