Australia Awards Scholarships – Guideline

Australian Government (DFAT) fully funded Master's scholarships – with focus on Pakistan

Please note: this guideline was compiled from the official Australian Government dates page and several scholarship information websites. Details can change each year and some figures differ between sources; items marked "confirm" should be checked on **australiaawardspakistan.org** before you apply.

1. Overview

Australia Awards Scholarships are fully funded awards of the Australian Government, managed by the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT), for citizens of participating developing countries. They aim to promote development and strengthen ties by supporting study at Australian institutions. Outcomes are handled by Australia Awards offices in each participating country. For Pakistan, the program offers scholarships for **Master's level study only**, in fields linked to Pakistan's development priorities.

Funding body	Australian Government – Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT)
Study level (Pakistan)	Master's degree at recognised Australian tertiary institutions (no Bachelor's or PhD in the Pakistan program)
Who can apply	Pakistani citizens residing in Pakistan
Application system	OASIS online portal (via australiaawardspakistan.org)
Contact (Pakistan)	info@australiaawardspakistan.org
Return requirement	Return to Pakistan for at least two years after completing the studies

2. Important Dates

Item	Date
2027 intake: applications opened	1 February 2026, 9:00 AEDT
2027 intake: applications closed	30 April 2026, 14:00 AEST (no extensions)
Shortlisting and interviews	Roughly May–October 2026 (interviews in Pakistan, in person or online)
Study commencement (2027 intake)	February/March 2027
2028 intake (next round)	**Not yet published.** Expected to open in early 2027; dates to be confirmed on the official Pakistan website.

Note: the 2027-intake round for Pakistan has closed. Many websites still advertise it as open, which is out of date. Applications are not assessed on a rolling basis: all are reviewed after the closing date,

applying early gives no advantage, and an application cannot be edited or resubmitted after the closing date.

3. Benefits

- **Full tuition fees** for the approved program
- **Return economy airfare**
- **Establishment allowance:** one-off payment to help with setup on arrival
- **Contribution to Living Expenses (CLE):** fortnightly allowance. One source gives AUD 36,230 per year from 1 January 2026 (about AUD 99.26 per day); another gives roughly AUD 33,000–35,000 per year. Confirm the current rate.
- **Overseas Student Health Cover (OSHC)**
- **Pre-course English training** if you are selected but your English is below the requirement
- **Fieldwork allowance** where a program has compulsory fieldwork, and **supplementary academic support** if needed

4. Priority Fields (Pakistan)

Fields of study are linked to Pakistan's development priorities, which Australia and Pakistan review periodically. Priority areas reported for the 2027 intake include:

- Empowerment of women and girls
- Water security and management
- Agriculture and food systems
- Energy (renewable, access, efficiency)
- Inclusive economic development
- Health systems and public health
- Education quality and access
- Climate change mitigation (mentioned in the official announcement coverage)

Your degree does not have to match these exactly, but your application must convincingly connect your chosen master's to one or more development areas. Check the official country profile for the list confirmed for your intake.

5. Eligibility

- **Citizenship and residence:** Pakistani citizen, residing in Pakistan when applying and applying from within Pakistan. One source also mentions residence in Pakistan for at least 24 months before applying (confirm).
- **Academic qualification:** a bachelor's degree or equivalent relevant to the proposed field (one source mentions 16 years of education). A strong academic record strengthens the application.
- **Work experience:** the program favours mid-career professionals. Sources report at least five years of experience, or typically 3–10 years of relevant experience; confirm the requirement in the current call.
- **Age:** no formal age cap reported for Pakistan in one source; another mentions a maximum age of 45 (confirm). Most successful candidates are mid-career.

• **English language** (results must be valid at 1 January of the commencement year): IELTS Academic overall 6.5 with no band below 6.0; TOEFL iBT overall 84 with at least 21 in each sub-test; PTE Academic overall 58 with no communicative skill below 50.

You are not eligible if you:

• are a serving military officer (former military now in civilian careers can apply);

• are married to, engaged to or in a relationship with an Australian or New Zealand citizen or permanent resident;

• previously received an Australia Awards scholarship and have not completed the two-year return obligation;

• are currently enrolled at an Australian institution or hold an Australian student visa;

• hold or are applying for Australian permanent residency.

6. Selection Criteria

1. **Academic competence:** strong results, publications, awards or relevant training.

2. **Work experience and relevance:** experience relevant to your proposed field and Pakistan's development priorities.

3. **Leadership quality:** evidence that you have led teams, projects or initiatives.

4. **Potential for development impact** (the most important): the specific problem you want to solve, why this degree equips you, and what you will do after returning, with specific plans and organisations.

5. **Commitment to return to Pakistan:** genuine intention and strong ties; applications that look like a migration pathway do not succeed.

6. **Gender equity and social inclusion:** applications from women, people with disability and other marginalised groups are encouraged.

7. How to Apply

1. **Create an OASIS account** through australiaawardspakistan.org, using your name exactly as on your passport.

2. **Complete the online application:** personal details, academic and work history, English proficiency, proposed field and university preferences, two referees and essay questions (why this scholarship and why now, how the degree will contribute to Pakistan's development, leadership and community achievements, and your plan after returning). Reported answer length: about 300–500 words each.

3. **Prepare supporting documents:** academic transcripts (attested by HEC and MOFA), valid English test results, current CV (maximum 4 pages), two reference letters (one academic, one professional, written for this application), and any other documents listed in the Pakistan country profile.

4. **Select the Australia Awards Scholarships option and submit** before the closing time. Do not wait for the last day; late submissions are rejected.

You do not need a confirmed university offer to apply. You nominate your field and preferred universities, and Australia Awards helps match you with an institution after selection. Group of Eight universities such as ANU, Melbourne, Queensland, UNSW, Monash and Sydney participate.

8. Preparation Tips

- Book your IELTS/TOEFL/PTE early so the result stays valid at the required date.
- Start HEC and MOFA attestation of transcripts well in advance.
- Write specific essays: name real organisations, problems and results you have achieved; avoid vague statements about “contributing to development”.
- Choose referees who know your work and give them time to write tailored letters.
- Check the official website regularly for the 2028-intake announcement and submit at least a week before the deadline.

9. Frequently Asked Questions

Q. Can I apply for a PhD?

Not through the Pakistan program: Master’s degrees only (master’s by research is possible in some programs).

Q. Is there a bond or repayment?

No monetary bond is reported, but you must return to Pakistan for at least two years after the scholarship. Non-compliance can affect future Australian visa eligibility.

Q. Is the 2027 intake still open?

No. It closed on 30 April 2026. The next round (2028 intake) is expected to open in early 2027.

Q. Is early submission an advantage?

No. Applications are assessed after the closing date, not on a rolling basis.

Q. Can I choose any field?

Your field must link to Pakistan’s development priorities; the link must be explained convincingly.

Q. What if my IELTS is below 6.5?

You do not meet the minimum; retake the test and aim for 6.5 overall with no band below 6.0 before the next round.

10. Official Links

- Australia Awards Pakistan: australiaawardspakistan.org
- Opening and closing dates by country: DFAT Australia Awards Scholarships opening and closing dates page
- General FAQs: DFAT Australia Awards frequently asked questions page

Compiled on 18 November 2026 from the DFAT dates and FAQ pages and public scholarship information websites (AbroadMate, Times of Islamabad and others). Requirements, priority fields, allowance rates and deadlines are set by DFAT and updated annually; always verify on the official Australia Awards Pakistan website.