The Australia Awards Scholarships are a bilateral scholarship program of the Australian Government. It aims to contribute to the long-term development needs of the Philippines and to promote knowledge, education links and enduring ties between Australia and the Philippines. It provides opportunities for Filipinos to undertake fulltime postgraduate study in Australia. Since 1997, over 1,200 Filipinos have been granted slots to the Australia Awards Scholarships.

Targeted Category
Open to eligible Filipinos working in partner organisations (government/ non-government/ private) with mandates supporting the mutual priorities of Australia and the Philippines as reflected in the Statement of Commitment for the Australia-Philippines Development Cooperation Strategy.

Below are the partner organisations:
- Department of Education (DepEd)
- Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD)
- Civil Service Commission (CSC)
- The National Mapping and Resource Information Authority (NAMRIA)
- Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology (PhiVolcs)
- Office of Civil Defense (OCD)
- Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical, Astronomical Services Administration (PAGASA)
- Mines and Geosciences Bureau (MGB)
- Presidential Management Staff (PMS)
- National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA)
- Provincial Government of Davao del Norte
- Provincial Government of Aklan
- Provincial Government of Lanao del Norte
- Provincial Government of Misamis Oriental
- Provincial Government of Guimaras
- Provincial Government of Bukidnon
- Provincial Government of Surigao del Norte
- Provincial Government of Agusan del Sur
- Provincial Government of Bohol
- Provincial Government of Misamis Occidental

The Re-entry Action Plan
Applicants are required to submit re-entry action plans (REAPS) during application, outlining how they will use their acquired skills in Australia in contributing to development programs in their workplace/sector areas/communities upon return.

For more information
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secretariat@australiaawardsphilippines.org
Eligibility Requirements

The program doesn’t have an age limit and is open to qualified applicants who meet the program’s criteria.

To be eligible for scholarship, applicants must:

• be a citizen of a participating country and be residing in and applying for the scholarship from their country of citizenship
• not be married, 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 of the application, selection or mobilisation phases
• not be current serving military personnel
• not be applying for a visa to live in Australia
• not be applying for another long-term Australia Award unless they have resided outside of Australia for twice the length of the total time that they were in Australia (for example, a previous awardee who has been on an Australia Awards Scholarship in Australia for four years will not be eligible to apply for another Australia Awards Scholarship until they have been home for eight years)
• have satisfied any specific criteria established by the applicant’s country or government of citizenship

The Philippine program also requires that applicants must

• have completed a formal undergraduate degree (for Master’s applicants); 
• have at least two years of work experience (On-the-job training and internships will not be credited to work experience)
• have met the required English language proficiency result

English proficiency score

For IELTS, the overall band score should be at least a 6.5, with no individual band score lower than 6.0.

For TOEFL, the following are the minimum scores depending on the type of the test:

• TOEFL paper-based test: 580 with TWE 4.5
• TOEFL computer-based test: 237
• TOEFL Internet-based test: 92

Application Process

1. PAHRODF will only accept endorsed nominations from partner organisations following their respective scholarship screening process aligned with the eligibility requirements of Australia Awards in the Philippines.

2. Central office will announce fields of study open for application.

The central office of the partner organisation will announce the specific fields of study that will be open for scholarship application. Fields of study are reflected in the Human Resource and Organisation Development (HROD) Plan developed by the organisation through an organisational assessment or HROD Plan review in coordination with PAHRODF.

3. Interested applicants must notify immediate superior of their interest to apply.

Interested candidates must notify their immediate superior about their interest to apply for the scholarship program.

4. Submit application documents to central office.

Candidates must accomplish their organisation’s internal application form (from the central office) and request an endorsement letter from their immediate superior. Candidates must submit their application form, endorsement letter, CV, and service record to the organisation’s central office for screening.

5. Internal selection and nomination of candidates.

Partner organisations will hold internal screening (interviews and background check) of their candidates and will submit nominations of a principal and alternate nominee, for each field of study, to PAHRODF.

6. Nominated candidates will review and take an English proficiency exam.

Nominations of Principal and alternate candidates will be assessed by PAHRODF for eligibility check. Eligible candidates shall take an English proficiency examination. PAHRODF will arrange the review and examination of the nominated candidates including the necessary fees. Meanwhile, respective organisations will cover transportation, accommodation and other expenses of the candidates going to the testing centers.

7. Qualified candidates will undergo course counselling.

Principal candidates who passed the English proficiency exam will be eligible for course counselling. In the event that principal candidate fails the exam, the alternate candidate will be eligible for the slot.

Course Counselling

PAHRODF conducts a Course Counselling session for all the candidates who successfully passed the initial screening process and English proficiency exam. The candidates will review their organisation’s workplace development objectives (WDO) that will serve as basis in drafting the objectives of their Re Entry Action Plan (REAP). Australian universities are invited to participate in this event to provide the candidates a wide range of choices with regard to the most appropriate program of studies that will contribute to the candidates’ REAP. The decision in choosing programs and Universities are based on the nominated programs as a result of the organisational assessment or HR/ OD plan review.

Scholarship Entitlements

Scholarship entitlements include pre-departure support, visa expenses, full tuition fees, roundtrip fare, establishment allowance, cost of living expenses, introductory academic program, overseas student health cover, tutorial assistance if required, and fieldwork support for research students.

Frequently Asked Questions

What are the obligations of Filipino awardees?
Successful candidates are required to return to the Philippines after one year of completion of the scholarship (for those taking Master’s), to report back to their organisations and to contribute to its development through the implementation of their REAP.

Can a Filipino awardee bring his/her family to Australia?
Yes, awardees may bring their family members (spouse/partner and children below 18 years old) to Australia. However, awardees will have to wait after 3 months of stay in Australia, presumably by then the awardees have had fully adjusted and settled in their new environment, before their family members can join them.

Please note that the Australian Government does not provide any financial or other support for the dependants of awardees. Dependents are entirely the responsibility of the awardee.