

## DEVELOPMENT AWARDS – CARIBBEAN

### What are Australia Awards?

Launched in 2009, Australia Awards is an Australian Government initiative designed to promote knowledge, education links and enduring ties between Australia, our neighbours and the global community through Australia's extensive scholarship programs. Australia Awards offer opportunities for study and professional development in Australia through a range of scholarships.

### Why does Australia offer scholarships in the Caribbean?

Australia Awards – Caribbean include development awards administered by AusAID, the Australian Government's international development agency. These awards help promote knowledge, education links and enduring ties between the Caribbean community and Australia. They offer a range of opportunities for study and professional development, demonstrating Australia's ongoing commitment to building closer and enduring ties with the Caribbean region and showcasing Australia's cutting-edge capabilities in the education sector.

Through development awards, Australia seeks to:

- help people improve their ability to contribute to the development of their home country
- build people-to-people linkages at the personal, institutional and country levels.

Australia's aid program aims to help developing countries reduce poverty and achieve sustainable development. The Australia Awards are an important part of the aid program and help countries to build their own capacity to work towards the Millennium Development Goals.

Awards will predominately be offered at the Masters level; PhDs will only be available for applicants who occupy or are expected to occupy senior positions requiring individual research or the supervision of other researchers.

Australia will provide 110 development awards scholarships to the region between 2010 and 2014. The scholarships are development focused and provide financial support for international students for up to four years to undertake a postgraduate qualification at a Masters or PhD level, either by coursework or research in any field of study in Australia.

Australia has a world class education and training sector with significant experience and expertise in areas of concern for Caribbean countries. The priority areas that have been identified are as follows:

- **climate change/natural resource management** (marine science, environmental management, coastal resource management, forestry management, extractive industries, renewable energy, water resource management)

- **regional integration/economic resilience** (trade facilitation, public policy and administration, tourism management including eco-tourism, disaster management including structural design)
- **education** (science, technology, distance education management, special needs education, sport administration/management).
- **food security** (agricultural and fisheries management)

Australia Awards are a way for Australia to share its experience and build stronger education, leadership and people-to-people links with the countries of the Caribbean.

### How to apply for development awards - Caribbean?

Potential applicants are encouraged to read the application guidelines and eligibility requirements before applying. These are available at [www.usaid.gov.au/scholar](http://www.usaid.gov.au/scholar).

Applicants should be from one of the eligible Caribbean countries which include: Antigua and Barbuda, Barbados, Belize, Cuba, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Grenada, Guyana, Haiti, Jamaica, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Suriname and Trinidad and Tobago

Development awards – Caribbean target public sector employees, academic staff of public universities and employees of relevant regional development organisations. Desired applicant profiles are available in PDF format below:

- **Applicant profile for government employees**
- **Applicant profile for regional development organization employees**
- **Applicant profile for academic staff of public university**

'Being an AUSAID scholarship awardee has left an indelible imprint in my life. Not only has it enforced my academic capacity and development, it has also facilitated the exchange of remarkable experiences with a wide range of social networks. This experience has unfolded many opportunities of being engaged in such a multi-cultural society as well as being able to interact with some of the most wonderful and dynamic people I will ever meet in my lifetime. I can safely say that AUSAID has certainly made a dream come true in my life. THANK YOU AUSAID!!!!'

Insert picture here

Akilah Dorris, an Australia Award recipient from Guyana, was awarded an Australian Development Scholarship to pursue a Masters of Rural System Management (Social Science) at University of Queensland. Upon completing her degree, Akilah will return to Guyana and aims to help her country achieve the Millennium Development Goals, by helping to improve the quality of development in rural areas of her country.

Applicants are required to contact Australian universities directly and apply for an unconditional offer. AusAID does not select the area of study, however, there are clear areas to which the Masters or PhD award must relate, which are detailed in the applicant profiles. To aid in the search for an appropriate course and Australian university, applicants can visit <http://studyinaustralia.gov.au> and <http://cricos.deewr.gov.au>. These websites will facilitate

a search for the most appropriate university given an applicant's chosen area of study and provide details of what it is like to study in Australia.

Further information on scholarships offered can also be found at <http://www.usaid.gov.au/scholar/studyin.cfm>

Information on how to apply is detailed at [http://www.usaid.gov.au/scholar/ala\\_apply.cfm](http://www.usaid.gov.au/scholar/ala_apply.cfm).

Online applications are preferred, however, hard copy applications can be submitted to the High Commission in Port of Spain, Trinidad.

If your undergraduate studies have been obtained in a language other than English, or if English is not your first language, you will be required to obtain an IELTS or TOEFL test. For those applicants who require English language certification, IELTS and TOEFL testing is conducted in a number of countries in the Caribbean. AusAID is available to provide advice and assistance if necessary.

If you have further enquires related to the application process or the details above, please contact AusAID, Caribbean via [caribbeanscholarships@usaid.gov.au](mailto:caribbeanscholarships@usaid.gov.au) or 1-868-822-5482.

Short-term awards are currently only offered through partner government coordinating authorities and key ministries. For information on Australian Leadership Award Fellowships visit [www.usaid.gov.au/scholar](http://www.usaid.gov.au/scholar)

### **What entitlements are available?**

Development awards cover the costs of travel and study fees. Recipients receive a contribution to living expenses and health insurance for basic medical and hospital care in Australia. A full list of entitlements is available at [www.usaid.gov.au/scholar](http://www.usaid.gov.au/scholar)

### **What is Australia like?**

Australia covers 7.7 million square kilometres, with a continental landmass stretching about 4,000 kilometres from east to west and 3,000 kilometres from north to south. Australia has a diverse climate, culture and landscape. The location of Australia's educational institutions is varied and awardees should take into account and research the location of their higher education institution.

### **More information**

Further information on eligibility requirements including the dates for the next round of applications, is available from the Australian High Commission in Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago.

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➤ [www.australiaawards.gov.au](http://www.australiaawards.gov.au)

- [www.usaid.gov.au/scholar](http://www.usaid.gov.au/scholar)

Additional information on living in Australia is available at:

- [www.immi.gov.au](http://www.immi.gov.au) (Australian Department of Immigration and Citizenship see also the *Beginning a Life in Australia* booklets)
- [www.abs.gov.au](http://www.abs.gov.au) (Australian Bureau of Statistics)
- [www.gov.au](http://www.gov.au) (Australian state, territory and local governments)
- [www.studyinaustralia.gov.au](http://www.studyinaustralia.gov.au)