

INFORMATION PACK

Australian and New Zealand Scholarships

2019 for study beginning in 2020



1.0 INTRODUCTION

Each year the Australian and New Zealand Governments offer scholarships for eligible I-Kiribati women and men to undertake undergraduate or postgraduate study in post-secondary institutions in Australia, New Zealand and the region (Papua New Guinea, the Solomon Islands, Vanuatu, Fiji, Samoa and New Caledonia). These prestigious scholarships seek to develop awardees' skills and knowledge so they can contribute to the economic and social development of Kiribati when they return.

New Zealand Scholarships provide for study in New Zealand and in the region. Information about New Zealand Scholarships can be found on the New Zealand Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade website (www.mfat.govt.nz/en/aid-and-development/new-zealand-government-scholarships/).

Australia offers two different scholarships: **Australia Awards Scholarships** (for study in Australia) and **Australia Awards Pacific Scholarships** (for study in the region). Information about both can be found on the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade website (Australia Awards Scholarships at <https://dfat.gov.au/people-to-people/australia-awards/Pages/australia-awards-scholarships.aspx> and Australia Awards Pacific Scholarships at <https://dfat.gov.au/people-to-people/australia-awards/Pages/australia-awards-pacific-scholarships-aaps.aspx>).

Australia and New Zealand will use a joint application and selection process to award scholarships for study commencing in 2020. Described in full later, the selection process is merit-based and competitive. It involves the submission of a written application and, for those short-listed, an interview. Unlike previous years, there will be no aptitude test. The most competitive candidates will be invited to sit an IELTS exam to demonstrate their English language proficiency (those who have a current IELTS score that meets minimum requirements, and those wishing to study in regional institutions, will not be required to sit the IELTS exam).

2.0 SUPPORTED AREAS OF STUDY

Applicants must propose to study a course that meets the development needs of Kiribati as set out in the Government of Kiribati's *Kiribati 20-Year Vision 2016-2036* (KV20). Indicative areas of study are set out in Annex 1 and include the Government of Kiribati human resource priorities.

2.1 Choosing a course

Applicants are expected to have conducted careful research on their preferred destination country, courses and institutions before submitting their application. This includes considering the institution that provides the most appropriate course of study that meets their needs. The *Study in New Zealand* website (www.studyinnewzealand.govt.nz) and the *Study in Australia* website

(www.studyinaustralia.gov.au) are good places to start. Students are also advised to visit institutions' websites. Applicants are advised to pay close attention to course eligibility requirements.

3.0 HOW TO APPLY

Applicants must complete the *Common Application Form*. Hard copies of the form are available from Monday 11 February 2019 until Friday 22 March 2019 from the New Zealand High Commission in Bairiki. The *Common Application Form* can also be downloaded from the home page of the Australian High Commission website (www.kiribati.embassy.gov.au).

Accurate and up-to-date applicant telephone and email details must be included in the application form. If applicants cannot be contacted directly, they may miss the opportunity to participate in further stages of the selection process.

For further information, please call the New Zealand High Commission on 740 2 1400 or the Australian High Commission on 740 2 1184.

3.1 Submitting applications.

To ensure fair and equitable treatment of all applicants, completed, signed applications must be submitted in full so they are received no later than 4:00pm (Tarawa time) on Friday 22 March 2019. Hard copy application forms and supporting documents can be lodged at the New Zealand High Commission in Bairiki or emailed to TarawaScholarships@dfat.gov.au. Copies of specified original documents must be included. See Annex 2 for further information about supporting documents.

Please note that applications can be submitted at any time before this deadline. We strongly recommend completed applications be submitted in the days before the deadline. Being able to submit documentation by the due date and time is a core skill expected of all scholars, and demonstrates an ability to plan and organise, manage competing demands, and use time effectively.

3.3 What are Australia and New Zealand looking for?

Competitive candidates will be able to demonstrate they have the academic and personal attributes to succeed in their studies, make the most of the opportunities that living overseas presents, and be able to use the skills and knowledge they acquire in their studies to good effect when they return.

Competitive candidates will have a strong record of academic achievement. They will be proficient in English and possess sound oral and written communication skills. They will also meet all of the eligibility requirements (Annex 3).

Competitive candidates will have thoroughly researched their chosen course, institution and country of study. They will be able to articulate how and why their choice of course and institution best suits their skills, abilities and interests, and connects with their work experience and/or career ambitions and the development of Kiribati.

Competitive candidates will have a clear-eyed understanding of the challenges they are likely to face living and studying away from home, and to have given some thought as to how they will overcome them. Competitive candidates will be focussed, flexible and resilient.

4.0 THE APPLICATION and SELECTION PROCESS

The application and selection process is competitive and merit-based. In the course of the process the Australian High Commission and the New Zealand High Commission will seek the best outcome for each eligible applicants based on the information provided to them.

For a scholarship offer to be made, applicants must successfully complete the selection process, an outline of which is provided below.

- All written applications received by the deadline are checked for completeness (including a signed declaration at section 9). Incomplete applications, including those that do not include any of the supporting documents will be set aside and not assessed further.
- Written applications are then reviewed to ensure applicants meet all of the eligibility requirements for the award they are seeking (set out in Annex 3). Applications from ineligible applicants will be set aside and will not progress further.
- Complete written applications from eligible applicants will be assessed and scored. A marking key will be used to guide this assessment and to ensure consistency and objectivity. The highest scoring applicants will be short-listed to progress. It is *anticipated* that short-listed applicants will be notified in the week commencing 6 May 2019. Due to the likely high volume of applications, those who are not short-listed may not be notified.
- These short-listed applicants will be invited to an interview so that assessors can seek further information about the applicant's academic achievement, and professional and personal attributes. The interview will also be used to assess oral English language communication skills. A three-person panel will conduct the interviews in Tarawa from 20-31 May 2019. All applicants will be asked the same questions.
- After the interviews, applicants' scores for the written application and the interview are tallied. The highest scoring applicants will be selected to progress through the final stages with a view to them being offered a scholarship. Those seeking a place in a post-secondary institution in Australia or New Zealand will need to meet English language requirements and will be asked to sit the International English Language Testing System (IELTS) test to confirm they do. Those seeking a place in a regional institution do not require an IELTS score. Those highest scoring candidates who hold a current IELTS test result verifying they meet IELTS requirements (see 5.1 and 5.3) will not be required to re-sit the IELTS test.
- To complete the final stage and be eligible for a scholarship offer, candidates must satisfy: (a) admission requirements of the institution of study; (b) requirements for a police check; (3) visa requirements for the country of study, including passing a medical exam; and (4) attend any information seminars and pre-departure briefing required by Australia or New Zealand.
- Short-listed applicants currently undertaking Form 7 need to pass all Form 7 subjects to be eligible for a scholarship offer.

4.1 The number of scholarships available

The number of scholarships on offer each year varies, as do the splits between undergraduate and post graduate awards, and destination countries.

One thing that remains constant is the large number of applications received. Last year 523 applications were received, with 100 applicants progressing to the interview stage.

Of the 100 people interviewed, 50 were offered scholarships: 17 to study in Australia, 15 to study in New Zealand and 18 to study in the region (13 were offered by Australia and 5 by New Zealand). Of the 50 scholarships awarded last year, 26 were for undergraduate studies and 24 for postgraduate studies. New Zealand offered 20 scholarships and Australia 30.

It is anticipated, but cannot be guaranteed, a similar number will be on offer this year.

5.0 ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

5.1 General provisions

Scholarship awardees will be expected to succeed academically and meet all challenges posed by studying overseas. All applicants should be prepared to undertake study in English, live in a foreign country with a culture which may be very different to the awardees' expectations, and under stringent academic conditions. Maturity and resilience are qualities sought in applicants. Applicants should research destination country conditions and consider suitability to their particular needs before applying, as pre-existing conditions may be aggravated by the stress of undertaking the scholarship

Applications are welcome from people with disability who meet the eligibility criteria. To afford fair participation in the selection process, reasonable adjustments and additional assistance will be considered for people who identify as having a disability.

5.1 English language requirements for study in Australia

In order to be able to take up an offer of an Australia Awards Scholarship, an applicant/awardee must have an Academic IELTS score of at least 6.5 with no band less than 6.0. If the Australian institution's academic English requirements is higher for the proposed course of study, the applicant/awardee must meet the institution's requirement. These requirements are non-negotiable.

5.2 English language requirements for study in New Zealand

Generally, under a New Zealand Scholarship, you must have an IELTS score of 6.0 with no band less than 5.5 to study an *undergraduate* qualification or an IELTS score of 6.5 with no band less than 6.0 to study a *postgraduate* qualification

Applicants must meet the criteria in Annex 3 to be eligible for Australia Awards or New Zealand Scholarships.

LATE OR INCOMPLETE APPLICATIONS WILL NOT BE CONSIDERED

- Applications will not be accepted after 4:00pm (Tarawa time) on Friday 22 March 2019
- Hard copy applications can be lodged at the New Zealand High Commission, alternatively soft copy (scanned) applications can be emailed to TarawaScholarships@dfat.gov.au
- We strongly recommend completed applications be submitted in the days *before* the deadline.

ANNEX 1 – AREA OF STUDY PRIORITY LIST

Applicants are required to select undergraduate or postgraduate degrees within the following areas.

UNDERGRADUATE

Health

- Environmental health*
- Medical laboratory science
- Medical imaging technology
- Pharmacy
- Bachelor Medicine Bachelor Surgery* (MBBS)
- Dentistry
- Physiotherapy* / prosthetic/orthotic
- Nursing
- Public health
- Occupational therapy*
- Biomedical engineering*
- Epidemiology*
- Nutrition*
- Ophthalmology*
- Podiatry*
- Psychology*

Environment and Climate Change Mitigation

- Marine science
- Marine biology*/marine geology*
- Aquaculture*
- Environmental science
- Climate change and resilience*
- Environmental law
- Ecology*
- Renewable energy technology (including solar)
- Geology*
- Meteorology*
- Land planning / land survey / land management*
- Natural resource management (including land administration/management*)
- Food storage and packaging
- Biosecurity*

Science and Engineering

- Geospatial science*
- Marine engineering*/technology
- Electrical*/ electronic / radio engineering
- Mechanical engineering
- Building and construction
- Civil engineering*
- Water supply engineering*
- Hydrography*
- Quantity surveying*
- Architecture*
- Geographic Information Systems (GIS)
- Coastal engineering*
- Computing science & information systems
- Information Technology (all streams)*

Education

- Primary and secondary education
- Early childhood education
- Disability inclusive education
- Bachelor of Arts (Graduate Certificate in Education)

Private Sector Development

- Accounting*
- Business banking*
- Life insurance & insurance law*
- Business administration*, ethics & management
- Business analysis
- Economics*
- Competition and consumer law*
- Human resource management*
- Project management*
- Marketing*
- Industrial relations*
- Economics (including natural resource economics)*
- Auditing*

Public Sector Management/Governance/ Community Development

- Public administration*
- Cultural heritage management*
- Museum studies*
- Community/Social work
- Gender related studies
- Population studies & sociology
- International relations & diplomacy*
- Political science*
- Development studies
- Public administration & public policy
- Law (including International Law)*
- Legislative drafting*
- Intellectual property
- Statistics*
- Journalism*
- Border management*
- Counselling*
- Community work*
- Gender studies*
- Population studies*
- Sociology*

Fishing/Tourism/Transport

- Fishing technology
- Marine biology*/marine geology*
- Marine resource management (protected areas)*
- Aquaculture*
- Coastal fisheries management*
- Master mariner*
- Commercial cookery*
- Hospitality operations and management*
- Tourism marketing*
- Tourism management (eco-tourism / international)*
- Sustainable tourism management*
- Tourism planning*
- Aviation management*
- Aerodrome flight information services
- Airport management*

* Kiribati National Priority List (Open & Pre-service)

POSTGRADUATE

Health

- Prosthetics and orthotics*
- Environmental health*
- Health promotion*
- Public health*
- Mental health*
- Nursing (including specialised nursing)*
- Nursing administration*
- Biomedical engineering*
- Obstetrics and gynaecology
- Paediatrics
- Anaesthetics
- Epidemiology
- Dentistry /dental surgery / oral health
- Physiotherapy* / rehabilitation
- Surgery including maxillofacial surgery*
- Clinical pharmacy*
- Hospital management*
- Psychology / counselling*

Environment and Climate Change Mitigation

- Climate change and resilience
- Energy policy
- Energy planning and management
- Renewable energy
- Environmental management
- Ocean resource management (and development)*
- Natural resource management
- Coral reef ecology*
- Coral reef monitoring, surveying and conservation*
- Waste management*
- Water management*

Science and Engineering

- Computing science*
- Information and communication technology*
- Information systems *
- Geographic Information Systems (GIS)
- Construction management*
- Civil engineering*
- Quantity surveying*
- Marine science (aquaculture / fisheries)
- Food safety and technology
- Engineering (mechanical*, avionics*, marine*, water and sanitation, electrical*, energy*)
- Forensic science*
- Oceanography*
- Hydrogeology*

Education

- Education management* / administration*
- Education policy analysis*
- Education leadership
- Tertiary/ higher education teaching
- Teaching English as a Second Language
- Environmental education*

Private Sector Development

- Human resource management*
- Business management*
- Business administration*

- Business studies
- Project management*
- Business development
- International trade*
- International customs law and administration*
- Intellectual property
- Economics

Public Sector Management/Governance/ Community Development

- Accounting*
- Auditing*
- Economics*
- Public financial management*
- Fraud investigation
- Governance*
- Leadership*
- Public policy
- Public administration* / planning
- Politics*
- International relations and diplomacy*
- International development*
- Policing and law enforcement*
- Security* and transnational crime*
- Criminology*
- Criminal justice*
- Competition policy and consumer protection
- Anti-corruption*
- Law*
- Legal / legislative drafting*
- Social policy*
- Social work*
- Disability studies*
- Women and gender studies,
- Youth work / youth policy*
- Cultural heritage management / conservation*
- Museum*
- Land administration (including real estate)*
- Land management (including land development)*
- Land planning and survey

Fishing/Tourism/Transport

- Aviation management
- Shipping and maritime management
- Airport management*
- Tourism / eco-tourism planning*
- Tourism / eco-tourism management*
- Sustainable tourism*
- Hospitality operations
- Hospitality management*
- Tourism marketing*
- Fisheries management* (including data analytics)*
- Sustainable development
- Fisheries economics*
- Aquaculture*
- Coastal management*

* Kiribati National Priority List (Open and Pre-service)

Note: Applications for MBA courses will not be considered (it is offered at USP Tarawa). Applications for PhD scholarships will not be considered.

ANNEX 2 – SIGNATURES and SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

You will need to provide a completed scholarship application. Make sure you have signed the declaration at section 9. By making the declaration you are certifying the statements made in the application are true, complete and correct.

At a minimum, you will also need to attach the following supporting documents with your application:

- A copy of your birth certificate and/or passport (proof of age and citizenship)
- A copy of official transcripts for qualifications, including:
 - Form 6 and Form 7 results (only Form 6 if currently undertaking Form 7)
 - A copy of results from any post-secondary school study (including current or incomplete)
 - A copy of the assessment schedule used at each institution for all academic results or transcripts
- Written statements answering the questions specified in section 8 of the Application Form
- For postgraduate research students only - an outline of the proposed research project (500 word limit)

Where original documents are not in English, please provide copies of official English translations.

You are not required to provide certified copies of the originals at this stage (see below).

Please note: *Providing false information and/or false supporting documentation could be constituted as fraud. Applicants that provide suspected fraudulent documentation will be excluded from the process until the documents are verified.*

Those short-listed for interview will be asked to provide certified copies of specified original documents prior to the interview. A certified copy is where an authorised official of a school or institution or a Justice of the Peace, Solicitor, Public Notary, Magistrate or equivalent other authorised official signs, dates and gives an official stamp that the document is a true copy.

ANNEX 3 – ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

To be eligible for a New Zealand or Australian scholarship, you must meet all of the general criteria. There are additional country-specific criteria listed on the pages that follow that must also be met

GENERAL CRITERIA – ALL SCHOLARSHIPS

- You must be a minimum of 18 years of age on 1 February 2020;

While there is no upper age limit for applicants, the age limit for selected candidates (courses) will be determined in line with the Government of Kiribati human resource policy.

- You must be a citizen of the Republic of Kiribati;

- You must be residing in Kiribati and have lived in Kiribati for at least two years at the time of applying;

This condition does not apply to applicants who are members of the Kiribati diplomatic corps or their dependents; those who are undertaking a short-term scholarship overseas (or who have done so in the last two years); or Form 7 students, residing in Kiribati, who have studied overseas in the last two years.

- You must not be current serving military personnel;

- You must have completed Form 6 (at a minimum) at the time of applying, and must successfully complete Form 7 (or equivalent) *before* a scholarship can be awarded. Applicants who do not pass all Form 7 subjects will not be offered a scholarship;

- You cannot apply for a scholarship for a course of study at an academic level the same (or lower) than you have already achieved;

- You must inform staff at the Australian or New Zealand High Commission if you know a staff member employed by either the Australian or New Zealand Government. This helps us make sure your application is judged fairly and transparently.

- You must be seeking a qualification that will contribute to the sustainable development of your home country (see Annex 1); and

- You must commit to return to Kiribati for a minimum of 2 years at the end of your scholarship.

FOR AUSTRALIAN SCHOLARSHIPS:

- You must not be a citizen of Australia, hold permanent residency in Australia or be applying for a visa to live in Australia permanently;
- You must 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 time during the application, selection or mobilisation phases (*Residents of Cook Islands, Niue and Tokelau with New Zealand citizenship are eligible but must apply for a student visa (subclass 500)*)
- If you have previously held a long-term Australia Award Scholarship, you cannot apply for another until you have resided outside of Australia for twice the length of the total time that you were in Australia (*For example, if you studied in Australia for four years with an Australia Awards Scholarship, you cannot apply for another Australia Awards Scholarship until you have lived outside of Australia for eight years*).
- If you have previously held a long-term Australia Awards Pacific Scholarship, you cannot apply for another Australia Awards Pacific Scholarship until you have lived in your home country for two years since the conclusion of your previous scholarship;
- You must satisfy any specific criteria established by the Australian High Commission in Kiribati or the Government of Kiribati;
- You must be able to satisfy the admission requirements of the institution at which the award is to be undertaken (*This may mean that the Australian High Commission will need to withdraw an award offer if you cannot satisfy the institution's admission requirements, including English language requirements. This may not be known until a placement is requested at the selected institution*).
- You must be able to satisfy all immigration requirements of the host government. For Australia Awards applicants, you need to meet the student visa requirements of the Australian Department of Home Affairs. For Australia Awards Pacific Scholarship applicants, you need to satisfy the host government's immigration requirements (*If you are offered a scholarship but cannot meet the visa requirements, the Australian High Commission may need to withdraw your scholarship*).
- You must not be holding another scholarship during the intended period of study and you must not be transferring from another scholarship;

Australia Awards Scholarships are NOT available for:

- undergraduate courses that are available in Kiribati
- courses related to nuclear technology or flying aircraft
- undergraduate courses in Australia that require more than four years of study
- legal workshops
- military training

Note: Australia Awards Scholarships (for study in Australia) are available only for courses that are listed on the Commonwealth Register of Institutions and Courses for Overseas Students (CRICOS). The register is available at <http://cricos.education.gov.au>. Applicants must research preferred courses. Including information on institution websites and ensure it is on the CRICOS Register

FOR NEW ZEALAND SCHOLARSHIPS:

- You must not have citizenship or permanent residence status for New Zealand, Australia, USA, Canada, European Union countries, United Kingdom, Japan, Israel, South Korea, Qatar, United Arab Emirates or Saudi Arabia;

IMPORTANT NOTE: this condition does not apply to applicants from the Cook Islands, Tokelau or Niue, or applicants from Samoa with dual Samoa-NZ citizenship.

- If you are applying for a postgraduate award, or you have left school more than two years ago, you must have at least one year's full-time employment (30 or more hours per week) or two years' part-time employment (29 or fewer hours per week).

IMPORTANT NOTE: this condition does not apply to school leavers

- You must be able to satisfy immigration requirements for international student entry to New Zealand or the country in which you will study (i.e. medical checks, police clearances/character checks, etc.);
- You must be academically and linguistically able to obtain an 'Offer of Place' for the proposed programme of study from the tertiary institute where you will undertake your scholarship;
- You must not have been previously terminated from a New Zealand Government scholarship or breached any scholarship contract.

Preference will be given to applicants who:

- apply to study in an academic discipline relating to a target sector (these are listed on the Kiribati page of our website <https://www.mfat.govt.nz/en/aid-and-development/new-zealand-government-scholarships/new-zealand-scholarships-for-international-tertiary-students/study-subjects-we-recommend-for-your-country/>);
- demonstrate strong academic ability, leadership qualities, and a commitment to the development of their home country; and
- are between 18 years old up to the Government of Kiribati upper age limit.