



Mr. Habib-ur-Rehman Gilani, Chairman - Planning and Development Department Lahore,

## Subject: <u>Australia Awards Scholarships for study commencing in 2020</u>

Dear Mr. Gilani,

I am writing to draw your attention towards recently announced Australia Awards Scholarships for 2020. These Scholarships are prestigious international awards offered by the Australian Government to the next generation of global leaders for development. Through study and research, scholarship recipients develop the skills and knowledge to drive change and help build enduring people to-people links with Australia. Australia Awards align with the focus of Australia's development assistance to Pakistan, targeting human resource gaps in identified priority sectors and enhance awardees' skills and knowledge to contribute to inclusive, sustainable economic and social development.

A.S.(Admn) -

Date @ 11-03-19

**Diary No:** 

P&d Deptt.

761

Diary No:

March 5, 2019

DS (Admin) P&D

We have announced new cycle of Australia Awards Scholarships opened on 1<sup>st</sup> February 2019 in Pakistan and the closing date for applying is 30 April 2019. These Scholarships will be offered to professionals working in sectors that support Pakistan to achieve the **Sustainable Development Goals, with a particular focus on gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls, agriculture and water security** Please find enclosed Information Kit with details about the scholarship program. The program targets improved standards of governance in the public, civil society and private sectors. We strongly encourage applications from women, and people living with disability or people who are working with people with disability.

I would like to request you to disseminate information about this opportunity within your organisation and wider network. My team and I are available to respond to any questions that you or any interested applicant may have.

For complete and updated information please visit our website www.australiaawardspakistan.org

Australia Awards Pakistan program will be organising information sharing sessions across Pakistan. Interested applicants can write to us on info@australiaawardspakistan.org to register themselves for one of the sessions.

I look forward to your interest in Australia Awards Scholarships.

@ Send to PITB for publicizing

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Sincerely,

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## Pakistan

## Applying for an Australia Awards Scholarship

## Australia Awards Scholarships in Pakistan

Australia's international development assistance in Pakistan helps promote prosperity, reduce poverty, and enhance political stability.

Australia Awards Scholarships are prestigious international awards offered by the Australian Government to the next generation of global leaders for development. Through study and research, recipients develop the skills and knowledge to drive change and help build enduring people-to-people links with Australia.

Applicants are assessed on their professional and personal qualities, academic competence and, most importantly, their potential to impact on development challenges in Pakistan.

Applications are strongly encouraged from women, people with disability and other marginalised groups.

## **Priority fields of study**

Australia Awards Scholarships will be offered to professionals working in sectors that support Pakistan to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals, with a particular focus on gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls, agriculture and water security.

More details about these fields, for study commencing in January 2020, are available on our website.

## Level of study

Australia Awards Scholarships provide citizens of Pakistan with the opportunity to obtain a qualification at an Australian tertiary institution.

Scholarships for commencement in 2020 will be only for Masters level studies.

## Australia Awards benefits

Australia Awards Scholarships are offered for the minimum period necessary for the individual to complete the academic program specified by the Australian education institution, including any preparatory training.

Scholarship recipients will receive the following:

- return air travel
- a one-off establishment allowance on arrival
- full tuition fees

- contribution to living expenses
- Introductory Academic Program
- Overseas Student Health Cover for the duration of the scholarship
- supplementary academic support
- fieldwork allowance for research students and masters by coursework which has a compulsory fieldwork component.

## **Eligibility criteria**

Australia Awards applicants must meet all eligibility requirements detailed in the Australia Awards Scholarships Policy Handbook, available at: dfat.gov.au/aboutus/publications/Pages/australia-awards-scholarshipspolicy-handbook.aspx

## Country-specific conditions

In addition to the eligibility requirements, candidates from Pakistan must also meet the following conditions:

- be a Pakistani citizen currently residing in Pakistan
- have completed 16 years of education and five years of relevant work experience
- not be above 45 years of age at the time of submitting the application
- have valid IELTS (Academic) or TOEFL results that meet the English Language Proficiency requirements outlined in the Australia Awards Scholarships Policy Handbook
- submit a Development Impact Plan, which outlines clear objectives and motivations to contribute to development in Pakistan
- return to Pakistan at the completion of their study for at least two years.

Generally, Scholarships will not be available for courses of study in Australia where the applicant has already achieved that qualification and the qualification is deemed to be equivalent to the Australian qualification.

The program will request *recognition of prior learning* for all scholarship recipients from Pakistan. If this request is granted, the recipient may be placed in a degree program that may be shorter in duration than what they have originally applied for.

## Application dates

For study commencing in Australia in 2020

Opening date: 1 February 2019

Closing date: 30 April 2019 (11.59pm AEST)

Applications and/or supporting documents received after the closing date will not be considered.

## The application process

## **Online applications**

All applications must be lodged online through OASIS: https://oasis.dfat.gov.au

## Supporting documents

Applicants must submit all of the relevant supporting documents listed in the *Australia Awards Scholarships Policy Handbook*.

Applicants must also provide the following documents to meet the specific requirements for Pakistan:

| Required<br>document   | OASIS<br>document type                      | Certified |
|--|---|-----------|
| Completed<br>Development Impact<br>Plan (DIP) available at:  | Other Document                              | Original  |
| www.australiaawardss<br>outhwestasia.org/how-<br>to-apply/pakistan/long-<br>term-awards/how-to-<br>apply                           |   |           |
| Tertiary degree<br>certificates (Bachelor's<br>and Masters level) –<br>both sides of all<br>degrees should be<br>copied            | Degree<br>Certificate                       | Yes       |
| Academic transcripts<br>(Bachelor's and<br>Masters level) both<br>sides of all transcripts<br>should be copied                     | Academic<br>Transcript                      | Yes       |
| IELTS or TOEFL<br>results valid as at 1<br>January 2020  | Proof of English<br>Language<br>Proficiency | Yes       |
| Academic Referee<br>Reports (two reports<br>for Masters by<br>Research applicants;<br>one for Masters by<br>Coursework applicants) | Referee report<br>template                  | Yes       |

| Employment Referee<br>report (same template<br>as above)    | Referee report<br>template | Yes |
|---|----------------------------|-----|
| No Objection<br>Certificate for public<br>sector applicants | Other Document             | Yes |

### The selection process

- Applications will be shortlisted after eligibility checking
- Only shortlisted candidates will be contacted
- The selection process includes an interview. Applicants will be assessed against the following criteria:
  - academic competence
  - potential outcome, specifically the contribution to development outcomes in Pakistan
  - professional and personal leadership attributes including relevant work experience
- Successful candidates will be notified no later than August 2019.

## **Preparatory training**

Successful applicants will be required to attend:

- course counselling
- pre-departure briefing
- university's Introductory Academic Program
- other required preparatory study on arrival in Australia.

## **Further information**

Information about the Australia Awards — Pakistan can be found at http://www.australiaawardspakistan.org

More general information about the Australia Awards, Australia's aid program, and studying in Australia can be found at the following links:

- https://dfat.gov.au/people-to-people/australiaawards/Pages/australia-awardsscholarships.aspx
- studyinaustralia.gov.au

Information about visas and Australia Awards Scholarship entitlements and conditions can be found in the Scholarships Policy Handbook: dfat.gov.au/aboutus/publications/Pages/australia-awardsscholarships-policy-handbook.aspx

## **Contact details**

Australia Awards — Pakistan Hayat Halls, Block No. 2, Diplomatic Enclave - 1, Sector G-5, Islamabad. Telephone:+92-51-2832081-4 Fax:+92-51-2832085 Email: info@australiaawardspakistan.org



# Australia Awards Scholarships - Pakistan

## **2020 Eligibility Checklist**

Australia Awards Scholarships applicants must meet all eligibility requirements detailed in the Australia Awards Scholarships Policy Handbook, available at:

dfat.gov.au/about-us/publications/Pages/australia-awards-scholarships-policy-handbook.aspx

It is a precondition of accepting an Australia Awards Scholarship that Australia Awards recipients return to their home country following their Scholarship to take up a position that utilises their study for a minimum period of two years.

#### To be eligible, applicants must:

- be a Pakistani citizen currently residing in Pakistan for at least the past 24 months
- not have applied for or be entitled to permanent residency or citizenship in Australia or New Zealand
- satisfy Australian Government requirements for international student visas for entry to Australia (health, character etc.)
- · be able to provide a Police Security Clearance Certificate at the time of visa application
- · not hold another scholarship
- not have held a foreign scholarship in the 24 months preceding the application (calculated from the date of arrival back in Pakistan to the closing date for receipt of applications)
- be applying to commence a new course of study and not be seeking support for a course already commenced in Australia (ongoing study programs will not be supported)
- · be able to take up the Scholarship in the year for which it is offered
- have outlined a case that is clear about their objectives and motivation to make a contribution to development in Pakistan
- · apply for courses that fall within the priority development sectors identified for Pakistan
- satisfy the admission requirements of the Australian tertiary institution and the course to be undertaken
- · have an academic background relevant to the proposed study in Australia
- · be applying for a Masters degree-level course
- have completed 16 years of education
- not be above 45 years of age at the time of submitting the application form
- have at least five years <sup>1</sup> of work experience in the field in which they are applying. Internships and volunteer work will not be considered as work experience
- submit a Development Impact Plan (DIP) that clearly articulates how the proposed field of study could add value to improving the level and standard of service delivery, particularly in the priority development sectors and in promoting pro-poor development
- be able to demonstrate the ability to meet the English Language Proficiency requirements for the Scholarship at the time of application. The accepted English language tests are International

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> People with a disability may apply if they have at least two years of work experience.

English Language Testing System (IELTS)<sup>2</sup>, Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) or Pearson Test of English Academic (PTE Academic), undertaken at the candidate's own expense. The requirements are:

- I. an Academic IELTS result with an overall score of at least 6.5, with no band less than 6.0<sup>3</sup>
- II. an internet-based TOEFL score of at least 79, with a minimum of 21 in all subtests
- III. a PTE Academic overall score of 58, with no communicative skill score less than 50

#### **Special conditions**

Applicants must also meet the following conditions:

- applicants must submit applications online on the Online Australia Awards Scholarships Information System (OASIS) at <u>oasis.dfat.gov.au</u>
- applicants for masters degree by research must provide an outline of the research proposal (up to 1000 words) and have in-principle agreement (letter or email) from a research supervisor at their Preferred university in Australia.
- scholarships will not be available for courses of study in Australia where the applicant has already achieved that qualification and the qualification is deemed to be equivalent to the Australian qualification.
- the program will request recognition of prior learning for all scholarship recipients from Pakistan.
   If this request is granted, the recipient may be placed in a degree program that may be shorter in duration than what they have originally applied for.

(Note: Providing falsified documents at any stage of the scholarship cycle will render the applicant ineligible or be grounds for withdrawal of a Scholarship offer.)

#### Application dates (for study commencing in Australia in 2020)

Opening 1 February 2019 date:

Closing 30 April 2019 date:

Applications or supporting documents received after the closing date will not be considered.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> For information about IELTS test dates in your city, please contact Australian Education Office (AEO) or British Council Pakistan. British Council Pakistan is now conducting IELTS test in Quetta.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> People with a disability and who meet the eligibility criteria *may* submit an application with an IELTS score of 6.0 with no band less than 5.0, but if they are selected, they must re-sit an English Language Proficiency test (to be arranged by Australia Awards - Pakistan) and achieve the required score before they can take up their Scholarship.



# Australia Awards Scholarships - Pakistan Required supporting documents for applications for study commencing 2020

| Documents  | Document type                            | Attested/<br>notarised* |
|--|--|-------------------------|
| Passport and citizenship   | Proof of citizenship                     | Yes                     |
| Degree certificates  | Degree certificates                      | Yes                     |
| Academic transcripts / mark sheets   | Academic transcripts                     | Yes                     |
| IELTS or TOEFL or PTE Academic results (valid at 1 January 2020)   | Proof of English<br>language proficiency | Yes                     |
| Academic referee reports (two reports for applicants for Masters degree by research, and one report for applicants for Master's degree by coursework)  | Referee report                           | No                      |
| Employment referee report (same template as academic referee report)   | Referee report                           | No                      |
| Development Impact Plan (DIP) (use template)   | Other document                           | No                      |
| Curriculum Vitae (CV) (use template)   | Other document                           | No                      |
| Current employment letter  | Other document                           | Yes                     |
| Previous employment evidence   | Other document                           | Yes                     |
| No Objection Certificate (NOC)—for public sector employees only  | Other document                           | Yes                     |
| Certificates of special achievements or merit (if any)   | Other document                           | Yes                     |
| Applicants for Masters degree by research:   |  |                         |
| <ul> <li>Evidence (letter or email communication) that the applicant has<br/>received in-principle support for their research topic from a potential<br/>supervisor at the university</li> </ul> | Other document                           | No                      |
| <ul> <li>Research proposal (include a proposed methodology, timeline and<br/>a brief literature review)</li> </ul>   | Other document                           | No                      |

## Notes:

- Referee reports in other than the prescribed format will not be accepted and will make applications ineligible. Contact Australia Awards - Pakistan at info@australiaawardspakistan.org to clarify this requirement, if necessary.
- Experience shows that it takes time for supervisors to complete referee reports. Approach supervisors as soon as possible to obtain up-to-date referee reports. References should come from employers, senior colleagues or academics familiar with the applicant's academic and professional skills and achievements.
- \*A statement that the document is a true copy, signed and stamped by Notary Public or first class gazetted Public Servant.



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## **Disability Inclusive Development Fact Sheet**

The Australian Government is committed to ensuring that people with disability are included in, and equally benefit from, Australia's development assistance. The objective of Australia's work in disability inclusive development is to improve the quality of life of people living with disability through:

- enhancing participation and empowerment of people with disability as contributors, leaders and decision makers in community, government and the private sector.
- reducing poverty among people with disability.
- improving equality for people with disability in all areas of public life, including service provision, education and employment.

The Australian Government works with partners, people with disability and their representative organisations to achieve this, recognising the vital role of people with disability in effective disability inclusive development.

## **Disability inclusion and Australıa Awards**

Australia Awards provide opportunities for the next generation of global leaders, including those with disability, to study in Australia. Australia Awards proactively encourages, selects and supports people with disability to complete Masters-level Scholarships aligned with the priority sectors.

## Principles and procedures for disability support

Additional support is provided to people living with disability at all stages of the Scholarship cycle. Applicants with a disability are encouraged to notify the Australia Awards office as early as possible, preferably when applying for an Australia Award Scholarship. Early and full notification of a disability will not negatively affect the assessment of an applicant's eligibility and will enable Australia Awards to provide appropriate support throughout the application and placement process (including any support that may be required in meeting eligibility requirements).

Reasonable adjustments will be provided to allow scholars with disability to participate in their Scholarship on an equal basis with all other scholars. Each scholar's support requirements will be different and will be assessed on a case-bycase basis.

Australian universities have an obligation to provide students with disability reasonable adjustments to support their academic endeavours, such as additional training and/or access to assistive technology. Australia Awards will provide 'non-academic' reasonable adjustments to ensure that scholars with disability are adequately mobilised and supported and have a positive experience in Australia.

## For further information please contact:

Australia Awards - Pakistan Hall No.2, Hayat Halls, Block No. 2, Diplomatic Enclave - 1, Sector G-5, Islamabad. Tel: +92-51-2832081-4 Fax: +92-51-2832085 Email: info@australiaawardspakistan.org Website: www.australiaawardspakistan.org



# Profile: Lubna Hashmat

## Taking the lead to ensure inclusive development in Pakistan

Australia Awards alumna Lubna Hashmat has been instrumental in designing community development projects that have benefited over 500,000 people across Pakistan.



Above: Lubna Hashmat, Australia Awards alumna

Australia Awards alumna Lubna Hashmat has taken the initiative and leadership to design, introduce and implement successful community development projects to ensure inclusive development across Pakistan.

Since completing her Australia Awards Scholarship in 2002, she has been instrumental in designing more than 60 community development projects and has mobilised more than USD16 million to implement these programs. These programs have so far benefitted more than 500,000 community members, including people with disability, women survivors of violence, those affected by natural and manmade disasters, and extremely poor families living in remote and rural areas of all provinces of Pakistan. The efforts have been recognised nationally and internationally.

Before completing her Master in Development Administration at the Australian National University (ANU), made possible through an Australia Awards Scholarship, Lubna was working at entry-level positions. She wished for more responsibility and felt she was not able to utilise her skills and talent as much as she would be able to in a leadership role. After completing her master's degree in 2002, she re-joined the Swiss NGO Program Office, a program of Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC), where she was assigned responsibility for a program that required the strengthening of 25–30 Pakistani NGOs to have effective governance systems and community development programs.

The program was a great success and was transformed into an independent Pakistani NGO. This was the birth of CHIP (Civil Society Human and Institutional Development Program). The independent organisation started functioning in Islamabad in 2005 and expanded to Punjab and Sindh. It mobilised resources from sources other than SDC and achieved financial sustainability within three years. Lubna was appointed as Director of Programs in 2005 and was later given the responsibility of CEO in mid-2007.

At CHIP, Lubna designed an inclusive community development program under which communities were further enabled to design and execute community development processes through the inclusion of people with disability. Federal, Provincial and District Governments were key partners in supporting the process. UK Department for International Development funded the program for four years. At the conclusion of the program, external evaluation declared it a successful example in which mainstream development actors were sensitised and trained on inclusive development to include people with disability in the community development processes.





Above: Lubna Hashmat, during her time in Australia in 2002. At the Australian Botanical Garden (top) and at the Sydney Opera House (bottom).

Lubna also developed guidelines for the Program, making mainstream development inclusive through a consultative process with communities and major stakeholders. These guidelines were endorsed by the Federal Ministry of Social Welfare and Special Education for its onwards compliance under the system. The guidelines demonstrated how people with disability could be mainstreamed in the community development \_\_\_\_\_ process.

The success of the program led to its replication in the districts of Skardu and Ghanche in Gilgit-Baltistan and Bhakkar in South Punjab. By June 2018, 2233 people with disability had been medically rehabilitated and made part of the community development process through their induction in community organisations, enabling them to earn income, improve their education skills, and participate in sports and recreational activities.

Lubna also designed an approach for the social and economic empowerment of women survivors of violence. Under this approach, not only were women survivors of violence empowered, but also their male counterparts were made to realise the importance of keeping a positive attitude in family and community relations to attain happiness in life. More than 500 women survivors of violence attained social and economic empowerment. More than 20,000 community members were made to realise the importance of adopting positive attitudes in family and social relations.

Lubna had a wonderful experience in Australia. She found the academic system competitive but flexible, which accommodated differences of multiple contexts for students coming from more than 50 countries. Lubna was also awarded appreciation letters from the Vice-Chancellor of ANU for two consecutive years for maintaining High Distinctions for all her subjects. She believes her Scholarship has transformed her life and career from an ordinary professional to a professional who always looks out for innovative ideas, logical connections, consistent approach and quality standards. 'My academic training in Australia has sensitised me towards a systematic approach to plan and execute work,' she says. 'I am truly grateful for my Australia Awards experience, which I believe was instrumental in getting to the place that I am at today.'

Australia Awards are prestigious international Scholarships, Fellowships and Short Courses funded by the Australian Government. Australia Awards Scholarships aim to contribute to the long-term development needs of Australia's partner countries in line with bilateral and regional agreements.

## For further information:

Australia Awards: www.australiaawards.gov.au Australia Awards in South and West Asia: www.australiaawardssouthwestasia.org Australia Awards – Pakistan: www.australiaawardspakistan.org



# Profile: Muddassir Riaz Malik

## Making a difference in public sector administration in Pakistan

Australia Awards alumnus Muddassir Riaz Malik is making significant policy changes in Pakistan's public sector.



Above: Muddassir Riaz Malik, Australia Awards alumnus

Australia Awards alumnus Muddassir Riaz Malik is making a significant impact in developing districts in Punjab, Pakistan. He has been instrumental in improving several public service initiatives in districts under his purview. Muddassir received an Australia Awards Scholarship in 2015, through which he graduated with a Master of Public Policy from the Australian National University.

Upon returning home, Muddassir was appointed as the Deputy Commissioner in Jhang, a district of Punjab, where he made a difference to uplift the community while contributing towards policy reforms and implementation. In June 2018 he was appointed Deputy Commissioner of the Multan district.

During his time in Jhang he dealt with matters of land revenue collection, alongside administering education and the health department in the district. He was also responsible for the coordination among various provincial departments in the district for effective policy implementation along with chairing the district intelligence committee for maintaining law and order.

As the Deputy Commissioner of Jhang, Muddassir successfully reformed the District Head Quarter (DHQ) Hospital Jhang through upgrading facilities, improving staff training and implementing better administration policies. His efforts started to show results within four months – leading to an increase from 1,600 consultations per day in the Out-Patient Department (OPD) to 3,800 per day. This is the highest average number of outpatient department consultations ever recorded in any DHQ in Punjab. This was achieved through various interventions, including the introduction of new female registration associates, patient facilitators and pharmacy associates; increasing facilitation counters to manage the load; increasing availability of medicines; and improving doctor attendance. Due to Muddassir's efforts, DHQ Jhang Hospital became the first DHQ in Punjab that not only achieved ISO 9001 and 14001 certifications but also received minimum service delivery standard accreditation from the Punjab Health Care Commission.

Muddassir additionally introduced international-standard sports facilities for both boys and girls in the district of Jhang. These facilities include an International Swimming Federation standard swimming pool, sports centre for fifteen in-door games, separate basketball courts for boys and girls, hockey grounds and cricket pitches. Muddassir believes that sports are an essential part of physical development and character building for both boys and girls and that such facilities will bear fruit in terms of enhancing tomorrow's communities. Muddassir says the love for sports he developed during his time in Australia was instrumental when he introduced sporting facilities with international standards in districts of Pakistan.



Muddassir has been using skills acquired during his time in Australia to fulfil his duties as a public servant. 'When my children started studying in Australia during my Scholarship, I observed the emphasis put on sports in Australian schools... the love I developed for sports when in Australia, and having realised the positive outcome of sports activities, I introduced state-of-the-art sports facilities in the district,' he says, 'I used impact assessment studies – a course at Crawford – to improve service delivery in the health sector in Jhang.'

Muddassir adds that his Australia Awards Scholarship has had an immense impact in his career development: 'Australia Awards helped my career with knowledge, diverse experience and a skill set that I learnt at the university. I developed my research skills during my time Australia, which was very useful during my assignment as the Additional Secretary Welfare, especially when I was given the task to procuring a helicopter for the Government of Punjab!'

'Australia is now just like my second home and interacting with Australians is always a pleasure.' Australia Awards is a great influence in his personal and professional life. 'I have not only become more confident and independent in dealing with my personal matters, but I have also learnt how to live with people of different nationalities and views.' Muddassir appreciates that his time studying through his Scholarship in Australia has helped him develop a better sense of listening to arguments as well as tolerating them. 'As a person I have become more rational, composed and focused.'

In 2018, Muddassir was transferred from Jhang to Multan as the Deputy Commissioner. Multan is the 7th largest city of Punjab with a population of over 4.7Mn and is considered the largest city in Southern Punjab.

Muddassir plans on continuing his work as a civil servant and aims to also specialise in health policy or water resource management through further education.

Australia Awards are prestigious international Scholarships, Fellowships and Short Courses funded by the Australian Government. Australia Awards Scholarships aim to contribute to the long-term development needs of Australia's partner countries in line with bilateral and regional agreements.

## For further information:

Australia Awards: www.australiaawards.gov.au Australia Awards in South and West Asia: www.australiaawardssouthwestasia.org Australia Awards – Pakistan: www.australiaawardspakistan.org