



**Australia Awards**

# Australia Awards in Cambodia Opportunities for All



“Development efforts that include and benefit people with disabilities are integral to achieving Australia’s aid policy objective of promoting prosperity, reducing poverty and enhancing stability in our region.”

*Vat Chunnleang, Pre Departure Trainee Intake 2017; Sot Kimson, Alumni Masters Graduate 2015; Chum Da, Equity Pathway Participant*

**Australia Awards Scholarships recognize the important contribution made by Cambodians with a disability in community, civil society, non-government and government. The Australian Government is committed to ensuring people with disability have the same opportunities and benefit equally from Australia’s development Program.**

Australia Awards Scholarships are fully funded scholarship opportunities for Cambodians to study at Australian Universities. Most awards are provided for study at the Masters level and in exceptional cases, PhDs.

An Equity Pathway Program ensures people with a disability can compete for an Award on an equal basis. The pool of potential applicants with disability who meet eligibility requirements is quite low, compared to able-applicants. Our goal is to increase the number of people with disabilities who are eligible to apply and who are ultimately offered an Australia Award Scholarship.

## **Eligibility Requirements for an Australia Awards Scholarship**

Some of the more challenging eligibility requirements for people with disabilities to successfully apply for a Master’s degree include:

- Possession of a Bachelor Degree;
- English language proficiency of at least an IELTS score of 5.5 overall with no sub-band less than 5.0 (or equivalent); and
- At least 24 months full-time (equivalent) work experience.

For more information about the eligibility requirements please refer to [www.australiawardscambodia.org](http://www.australiawardscambodia.org)

## **Equity Pathway Program: Support in Achieving the Eligibility Requirements**

The Australia Awards Office in Cambodia is able to provide flexible guidance, support and encouragement and to work long-term to support individual applicants with a disability. This includes working with individuals who have the potential to become eligible to make an application and compete for an award on an equal basis. We welcome referrals from the disability and other sectors.

We are actively seeking people with disabilities most likely to:

- Demonstrate high levels of personal motivation/drive and intellectual capability

- Identify their preferred course of study in Australia and are able to articulate the rationale and their plans for contributing to Cambodia’s development
- Meet most eligibility requirements for an Award (except English language and work experience requirements)
- Have minimum intermediate level English language
- Be able to be placed in their preferred course of study in Australia (or with some guidance or support this being able to be achieved)
- Have a realistic study plan to improve their English.

Those accepted into the Equity Pathway Program are offered a combination of the following:

- Up to 30 months part-time English language training (including testing)
- Participation in workshops to keep participants on track with their studies, scholarship application plans and for mutual support and learning opportunities (including soft skills training)
- Access to a network of informal mentors and encouragers who can share their experiences with Equity Pathway participants (successes and challenges)



“After finishing high school in 1999, I had to stop my studies temporarily as my family could not support me so what I had to do was to find a way out to the university myself. I was very lucky to have a chance to do the intern job at CARE International and subsequently was selected and promoted to higher posts. I always had a dream to study in an English-speaking country, so what I had to do was to wage wars against my disability – work hard and study hard.”  
Sot Kimson Australia Awardee Alumni

Sot Kimson, Australia Award Alumni

- Assistance and advice in determining if a placement in an Australian University is possible
- Contribution toward transport and/or accommodation for scholarship and equity related activities if required
- 24 months' internships to gain required work experience, expand access to leadership opportunities as well as knowledge and experience in development in a field relevant to proposed study (Internships will be advertised and an application process applies)
- Identification of any barriers to equal participation and resolution of those barriers as far as is reasonable.

### Australia Awards Selection Criteria

Selection of awardees is highly competitive. Australia Awards Scholarships are awarded to the best and brightest applicants based on merit. This ensures that awardees have the highest capability to successfully complete their studies in Australia and return to Cambodia to make an impact in their chosen field. Applicants are assessed against the following criteria:

- Academic competence;
- Potential outcome, including contribution to development outcome in Cambodia; and
- Professional and personal leadership attributes.

### Equity Program: Applicants, Pre-Departure Trainees and Awardees

Applicants are encouraged to disclose their disability as early as possible. The Australian Government has a strong commitment to disability-inclusiveness and disclosure of your disability will **not** harm your scholarship application chances.

Applicants with disabilities are encouraged to seek advice from the Australia Awards Office in Cambodia to ensure they fully understand the:

- Eligibility and selection criteria, as well as the application process; and
- Financial and practical supports that may be provided throughout the application process, Pre-Departure Training and whilst on-Award.

The Australia Awards Office in Cambodia may also be able to connect you with other Australia Awards Scholarships alumni for encouragement during the application and selection process.

The Australia Awards Office in Cambodia will work with you to assess your needs including:

- Providing reasonable adjustments during the process of shortlisting and selection (including IELTS testing) to ensure you can participate on an equal basis; and
- Ensuring your needs as a person with a disability are met during pre-departure training and on Award in

Australia should you be offered an Award (dependent upon the nature of your disability this may include materials in special format, software or hardware, note taking support, additional tutors, carer support, additional financial support for suitable accommodation and/or transport etc.)

### Mobilizing to Australia

The Australia Awards Office in Cambodia is committed to ensuring the best outcomes for awardees with disabilities. The Australia Awards Office in Cambodia will not mobilize a person with a disability until we are confident that all preparations, including visa, health insurance and university placements have been satisfactorily finalized. This may mean deferral of commencement of the Award for a period.

### Contact us

People with disability and referral partners are encouraged to contact the Australia Awards Office in Cambodia to discuss the Equity Pathway Program or scholarship applications.

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