



Australia Awards

Australia Awards Cambodia

Questions and Answers from our Applicant Feedback Session Intake 2018
Saturday 2 September 2017

Shortlisting for Interview

1. My application was eligible, but I was not short listed for interview? What was the weak point of my application?
Due to limited resources, Australian Awards Cambodia is unable to provide individual feedback to general applicants other than those who were invited to interview. All applications that are eligible are assessed by an independent panel. Our assessment panel assesses applications against the selection criteria, then scores, and ranks applications. The top 100 ranked applicant are selected for interview.
2. I went to IELTS test in June and achieved 6.0 but I was not invited for an interview? Why? Was the application assessed? ***Yes your application was assessed. If after your IELTS test you were not selected for an interview that is because your application was not one of the top 100 ranked applications. As we are not certain how many applicants will pass the IELTS test, we send more applicants to IELTS test, to ensure we will have 100 applicants to choose for interview. Some applicants with lower scores will not be selected for interview. The invitation to interview makes this point very clearly that achieving the pre-requisite IELTS score does not necessarily mean applicants will be invited to interview***
3. How does the assessment panel score and rank applicants, who apply for similar or same degree?
The assessment panel assesses each application against detailed selection criteria to determine a score for each application. Most applications are double assessed to ensure consistency in scoring. Applications are then ranked to provide an order of merit.

IELTS

4. When do AAS provide the IELTS certificates to applicants? ***Our office will email you when the IELTS certificates are ready for collection.***

Policy Changes

5. I know in the past there were 2 sectors (Open and Public). This is now combined into 1 category. Will there be 2 sectors next year? Is there benefit for government employers?
There are no benefits for government employees in the selection process. In October or November 2017 we will announce any changes for Intake 2019.
6. Was there any priority fields of study for this year, or for next year?
Intake 2018 did not have any priority fields of study. In October or November 2017 we will announce any changes for Intake 2019.

Employment Evidence

7. Regarding the letter of evidence of employment, can we use the same letter next year with our application?
That will depend if the letter is still providing the information that we need. Applicants should carefully check the requirements for Intake 2019 and the letter itself. Also, please refer to Applicant FAQ 24 on our website for further information.
8. Was it a problem if the seal was not on the employment letter and signed just by the head of the administration office (Government Employee)
Official government letters are on an official letterhead, signed and usually they have the Ministry seal applied. We do require all employment evidence letters to be on an official letterhead and signed by a senior official or human resource manager. Please review Applicant FAQ 24 for more information.
9. I worked as an independent consultant and I see we need our employment evidence to be on an official letter head, how can I achieve this?
The staff at the Australia Awards Office can provide this advice to you. Please contact us by phone or email to discuss your unique circumstance.

Applicants should also note that many employers do not provide the evidence of employment in the required format. It is the applicant's responsibility to ensure they carefully check the letter to ensure it meets AAS Cambodia strict requirements, and have the letter corrected by the employer if there is an error or omission prior to submitting your application.

If you do not submit the employment evidence in the correct format then your application will not be eligible.

Strengthening your application

10. Choosing a field of study, should I, and could I change the field of study?
Applicants should choose the field of study that will support their future career plans and proposed contribution to development in Cambodia.
11. If the applicant changes their career path to work in private business, do you have any advice so we can make our application stronger?
12. Career Path – is there any impact if we work in private sector but want to shift to government and visa versa
13. Is it OK to apply for a different field to my Bachelor Finance and Banking, for instance a Master of Public Administration
(these 3 questions are very similar)
For Intake 2018 applicants were encouraged to select courses that align with their experiences and qualifications. In this instance the Bachelor of Finance and Banking has clear alignment with a Master of Public Administration.

Where applicants are looking to shift their career path or to study in a very different field the applicant needed to:

- **Highlight how their past experiences and qualifications aligned with the proposed field of study; and**
- **Present a convincing argument that they have the potential to have a positive future impact on the development of Cambodia**

14. If I have a Master Degree, can I apply for another Master Degree?

Yes you can. You must ensure that you include your current Master's Degree in your application. This year preference was given to applicants who did not already have a Masters degree from another country (other than Cambodia).

Researching a course of study

15. How do I research the course of study?

Applicants can research courses of study through:

- **the CRICOS website <http://cricos.education.gov.au/>**
- **individual university websites (where you can usually access detailed information about course content)**
- **consulting alumni and universities themselves**
- **visiting the Study Abroad Centre at ACE**
<https://acecambodia.org/ACEWebsite/Facilities/Study%20Abroad%20Resources%20Centre>
- **attending a Study Abroad Exhibition (organised by IDP Cambodia twice per year)**

Required Supporting Documentation to achieve eligibility

16. Before I commenced my Bachelor Degree, I did a freshman (Foundation) year, and I changed to another University. I did not submit the academic transcript for the freshman (Foundation) year? Should I?

Yes you must submit the Foundation Year transcript. If you do not submit your Foundation Year transcript then your application will not be eligible.

17. My Masters is not yet finished. The results for my last semester were late. Can I submit a transcript that does not have the last Semester.

Yes. You can submit the most up to date transcript that you can have issued. This is because the degree is still "in progress".

18. Can you tell me why my application was not eligible this year?

Due to limited resources, Australian Awards Cambodia is unable to provide individual feedback to general applicants other than those who were invited to interview. Applicants should self-assess their application and supporting documents to determine what errors they made. Next year you should ensure you fully understand the eligibility requirements that are included in our brochures, on our website and in the Information Sessions. When you are completing your application, you can always contact us to check if you are unsure about our requirements.

Quotas

19. Is there a limited quote for Master and PhD?

PhD scholarships are awarded only in exceptional cases. Each year we receive many more applications for Masters than we do for PhDs. Each year we have a limited number of scholarships that can be awarded. For Intake 2017 this was 50 Awards.