



Australia Awards

# Opportunities for all Supporting people with disability to achieve an Australia Awards Scholarship



*Mr Van Sokvat is an Intern who has been placed with CARE Cambodia since August 2018, under a 24-month paid internship. The photo shows Sokvat at a stakeholder workshop convened by CARE Cambodia in November 2019, sharing his views with health care providers on how to offer disability inclusive health care services.*

**Australia Awards Cambodia recognises the important contribution made by Cambodians with disability in their communities and workplaces. The Australian Government is committed to ensuring that people with disability access and benefit from Australia's aid and development program.**

For over 25 years the Australian Government has funded scholarships, including Australia Awards Scholarships, to enable Cambodia's current and future leaders to access high quality education by studying at post graduate level at prestigious Australian universities.

Over this time, Australia Awards Cambodia has worked to address the barriers to access for people with disability, and to help applicants prepare for and achieve an Australia Awards Scholarship. In recent years, Australia Awards Cambodia has seen a growing cohort of applicants and scholarship recipients who are people with disability, and want to continue to encourage this positive trend.

### Reducing the barriers for people with disability

Australia Awards Scholarships are granted on the basis of strict eligibility criteria and through a competitive, merit-based selection process. For people with disability, due to the effects of past disadvantage, eligibility criteria tend to be more difficult to satisfy. To reduce barriers to access, Australia Awards Cambodia offers two support programs for individuals with disability who need additional help before they apply for an Australia Awards Scholarship:

1. Access to English language training through the Equity Pathways Program.
2. Access to paid employment through the Internship Program for People with Disability.

For more information  
[www.australiaawardscambodia.org](http://www.australiaawardscambodia.org)





### The Equity Pathways Program

**The Equity Pathways Program (EPP) provides access to English language training for people with disability who aspire to apply for an Australia Awards Scholarship in the future, but who do not currently meet the eligibility requirements for English language proficiency.**

Through the EPP, people with disability who aspire to achieve an Australia Awards Scholarship in the near future, can access English language training and other development support so they are able to meet the English language eligibility requirements, and are well prepared to apply for an Australia Awards Scholarship.

To be accepted into the EPP, applicants must meet the general eligibility requirements for an Australia Awards Scholarship<sup>1</sup>:

- Must be a citizen only of Cambodia
- Must be resident in Cambodia for 24 months immediately prior to application
- Must possess a Bachelor degree

Entry into the EPP requires that applicants have a basic minimum level of English language competence. For people with disability, this minimum is an overall IELTS of 5 (sub-band requirements are assessed on a case by case basis). If applicants do not know their IELTS, Australia Awards Cambodia may arrange for testing before confirming acceptance into the EPP.

Once accepted into the program, participants in the EPP are funded for between 3 and 10 terms of high quality, part-time English language training at an ACE Education Centre. Allowances are also provided for travel and accommodation to provincially-based participants. Ongoing EPP participants are required to demonstrate commitment to attending classes and achieving satisfactory grades.

### The Internship Program for People with Disability

**The Internship Program for People with Disability provides access to paid<sup>2</sup>, secure and suitable employment for individuals who wish to apply for an Australia Awards Scholarship in the future, but who do not currently meet the eligibility requirement of 24-months full-time equivalent work experience.**

Individuals who apply to be accepted into the Internship Program must meet the general eligibility requirements for an Australia Awards Scholarship, with the exception of the work experience criteria. Individuals must also meet the basic minimum level of English language competence as required for the Equity Pathways Program.

Interns are placed with a Host organisation that provides paid meaningful work for up to 24 months. Host organisations offer workplaces that are socially inclusive, and predominantly English speaking which provides opportunity for Interns to hone their English language skills. Interns are usually also eligible to access English language training under the Equity Pathways Program.

#### **For more information about how to apply, please direct all inquiries to:**

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<sup>1</sup> Detailed eligibility requirements can be found at [www.australiaawardscambodia.org](http://www.australiaawardscambodia.org)

<sup>2</sup> Interns receive a basic salary from the Host organisation which is topped up by a stipend paid by Australia Awards Cambodia

