



Australia Awards

# Mekong-Australia Partnership

## Applying for an Australia Awards Scholarship

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

At the ASEAN-Australia Special Summit in March 2024, the Minister for Foreign Affairs announced a further five-year commitment to support the resilience and prosperity of the Mekong subregion through the **Mekong-Australia Partnership (MAP)**. MAP aims to support a resilient and inclusive Mekong subregion that pursues joint solutions to shared and transboundary challenges.

From 2026, MAP will offer Scholarships for Thailand, Cambodia, Vietnam, Laos and Myanmar at postgraduate (Masters) level to undertake coursework or research in MAP thematic areas. Recipients will have exclusive access to the Mekong-Leaders Network. The priority areas of study include:

MAP thematic areas	Priority areas of study
<b>Water Security</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Water resources and sustainable management</li><li>Catchment science</li><li>Integrated water management</li><li>Hydrology/Hydrogeology</li><li>Aquaculture</li><li>Fisheries</li></ul>
<b>Climate Action</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Climate/environmental adaptation and resilience</li><li>Renewable energy</li><li>Sustainable development</li><li>Rural development</li><li>Disaster management</li><li>Forest and wildlife conservation</li><li>Natural resource management</li><li>Infrastructure and transport</li><li>Mineral resources</li><li>Environmental management</li><li>Sustainable agriculture and food stability</li><li>Sustainable tourism</li><li>Construction management</li></ul>
<b>Transnational Crime</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>International/criminal law</li><li>Criminology</li><li>Prosecution and Judicial system</li><li>Maritime security/sustainability</li><li>Criminal Law</li><li>Digital and Forensic Science</li></ul>
<b>Economic Resilience and Subregional Integration</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Economics</li><li>Economic governance</li><li>Agricultural economics</li><li>International trade</li><li>Agribusiness</li><li>Public financial management</li><li>Food science and technology</li><li>AI and robotics</li><li>Digital transformation</li><li>Digital communication</li><li>Information technology</li><li>Multi-media communication</li><li>Entrepreneurship and innovation</li><li>Hospitality management</li></ul>



MAP thematic areas	Priority areas of study
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Logistics and supply chain management</li> <li>▪ Regional stability</li> <li>▪ Critical technology</li> <li>▪ Quality and standard management</li> <li>▪ Construction and infrastructure management</li> <li>▪ Public administration and policy</li> </ul>
<b>Gender Equality, Disability and Social Inclusion (GEDSI)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Gender studies</li> <li>▪ Disability policy and practices</li> <li>▪ Disability service</li> <li>▪ Human rights, gender-based health care</li> <li>▪ Social work</li> <li>▪ Social policy and social protection</li> </ul>

### MAP on-award enrichment: the Mekong-Leaders Network

The MAP-funded scholarships offer exclusive access to an on-award enrichment program: the **Mekong-Leaders Network**. This dynamic program will include activities, events and development opportunities that foster enduring connections between MAP scholars across the Mekong subregion to cultivate a collaborative cohort and set the foundations for a strong future alumni network.

### Level of study

MAP-funded scholarships provide an opportunity for citizens of Thailand, Cambodia, Vietnam, Laos and Myanmar to obtain a Masters by research or Masters by coursework qualification at an Australian tertiary institution.

### Award benefits

The MAP-funded scholarship benefits remain the same as the Australia Awards program with additional exclusive access to on-award enrichment, through the Mekong-Leaders Network.

### The application process

The application process and online portal for MAP-funded scholarships will be the same as for the Australia Awards Scholarships. Applicants can apply for a MAP-funded scholarship if the choice of study or research falls within one of the key thematic areas outlined above. Applicants can also choose to apply for both an Australian Awards Scholarship and a MAP-funded scholarship in their respective countries.

Applicants interested to become a MAP scholar should highlight their eligibility for a MAP-funded scholarship in their written application.

Applicants are assessed on their professional and personal qualities, academic competence, relevance of study to the key thematic areas and their potential to contribute to joint solutions to current and emerging challenges in the Mekong subregion.

Applications are strongly encouraged from women and people living with disability.

### Online applications:

Citizens from Vietnam, Cambodia, Laos and Myanmar should follow the same application procedure for the Australia Awards Scholarships for your country. For further information, please visit the Australia Awards website: [www.dfat.gov.au/people-to-people/australia-awards/australia-awards-scholarships](http://www.dfat.gov.au/people-to-people/australia-awards/australia-awards-scholarships)

Citizens from Thailand please visit the Thailand Australia Awards intake information website: [www.dfat.gov.au/people-to-people/australia-awards/participating-countries/thailand-australia-awards-intake-information](http://www.dfat.gov.au/people-to-people/australia-awards/participating-countries/thailand-australia-awards-intake-information)