



Australia Awards

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



2023 Australia AID Conference - AAS alumni, scholars and Ponlok Chomnes together through the Mekong-Australia Partnership Program

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 development assistance 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.

For more information

www.australiaawardscambodia.org

In recent years, Australia Awards Cambodia has seen a growing cohort of applicants and scholarship recipients who are people with disability, and we 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 and professional development support through the Equity Pathways Program.
2. Access to paid employment through the Internship Program for People with Disability.



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.

Qualifying people with disability can access English language training and other professional development support to help them to meet the English language eligibility requirements, and prepare to apply for an Australia Awards Scholarship.

To be accepted into the EPP, applicants must meet the general eligibility requirements for an Australia Awards Scholarship¹. Therefore, applicants must:

- Be a citizen of Cambodia, with no dual or additional citizenship
- Be a resident of Cambodia for a period of 24 months immediately prior to application
- Possess a Bachelor's degree
- Have at least 24 months full-time (or part-time equivalent) work experience
- Be proposing to apply for an Australia Awards Scholarship in the future
- Be competent at an intermediate level in English. (English Language Test will be provided).

Entry into the EPP requires that applicants have a basic minimum level of English language competence. For people with disability and Indigenous people, the minimum is an overall IELTS of 4.5 (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 EPP program, participants are funded for three terms of English language training delivered by ACE. Each term is a part-time class that runs for 10 weeks and is delivered 50% online and 50% face-to-face in Phnom Penh. Accommodation and travel allowances are also provided to provincially-based participants. Participants also receive ongoing support to build the skills and confidence to apply for an Australia Awards Scholarship through EPP professional development trainings and mentoring from EPP and Australia Awards Alumni. Throughout the program, EPP participants are expected 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,² 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.



September 2025 Re-integration Workshop – Sokvat shares his experience after his return from Australia.

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

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¹ Detailed eligibility requirements can be found at www.australiaawardscambodia.org

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