



Australia Awards



Disability
Inclusion &
Australia Awards
Nepal



Australia Awards empowers future leaders, including those with disability, to drive change and contribute to development.

Australia Awards

Australia Awards Scholarships provide opportunities for people from developing countries to undertake study within priority development sectors at participating Australian universities and education institutions.

Australia Awards Scholarships and Short Courses aim to empower a network of talented individuals and future leaders, including those with disability, to drive change and contribute to development.

Australia Awards offers Scholarships on the basis of merit, transparency and equitable access for all, and supports recipients with disability to achieve their educational aspirations.

What is a disability?

The term ‘disability’ is broadly defined as an impairment that may be physical, intellectual, sensory, neurological or psycho-social, or any combination of these. Not all disabilities are visible. People with disability may experience barriers that hinder them from fully and effectively participating in society on an equal basis with others.

People with disability in Nepal are encouraged to apply for Australia Awards Scholarships and Short Courses.

Applying for an Australia Awards Scholarship

If you are a person with disability and are applying for an Australia Awards Scholarship, we encourage you to notify the Australia Awards office about your disability as early as possible. Early and full notification of a disability will not negatively affect the assessment of your eligibility and will enable Australia Awards to provide appropriate support throughout the application and placement process. Australia Awards promotes equity of access, participation and contribution for all.

The Australia Awards office in Nepal assists applicants with practical advice about Australia Awards application processes and also connects them with alumni who have travelled to Australia on an Australia Awards Scholarship.

Support for people with disability

If you receive an Australia Awards Scholarship and notify the Australia Awards office that you are a person with disability, you will be provided with tailored support to enable you to live and study in Australia.

The support requirements of each person with disability are different and are assessed individually.

Australian universities have an obligation under Australian law to provide students with disability reasonable adjustments to support their academic endeavours. A ‘reasonable adjustment’ is a change that enables a student with disability to participate on the same basis as other students, such as additional training and/or access to assistive technology. Australia Awards provides reasonable adjustments to ensure that Australia Awards scholars with disability are appropriately mobilised and supported. This support is designed to provide Australia Awards Scholarship scholars with a fair and positive experience in Australia.

By applying for and completing an Australia Awards Scholarship, you can join a community of Australia Awards alumni—including people with disability—in contributing to development in Nepal.

You will be provided with tailored support to enable you to live and study in Australia.



Neeti Aryal Khanal

Australia Awards scholar Neeti Aryal Khanal's existing qualifications in Women's Studies and her successful career to date prepared her well for her studies in Sociology at Monash University's School of Social Science. Neeti is an advocate for young professional women in Nepal. She also has a hearing impairment.

As a working mother and a person with disability, Neeti is particularly driven to help other women who have experienced barriers to participation in their careers, as well as those from underprivileged backgrounds. 'I am deeply motivated [by] teaching and research to empower women that come from disadvantaged backgrounds' she said, 'I want to assist people that do not have [easy access to] the same opportunities.'

Before her Australia Awards Scholarship, Neeti was working full time as a Lecturer within the

Central Department of Sociology/ Anthropology at Tribhuvan University in Nepal.

Neeti intends to use her knowledge, skills and networks gained from her Australia Awards Scholarship to help equip and empower her students when she returns to Nepal. 'I like to help young women as it is hard for them to start off their careers. I am already in contact with several young women working on research in Nepal; I will try to connect them with others within their fields.'

She is also planning to share her new knowledge of ethical research with her students. 'Another thing I would like to bring back to Nepal is what I have learnt about academic culture and the ethics of doing research' she said, 'It is not in my power to change the policies... however, I might be able to influence my students to make ethical decisions.'



Rajuna Singh

Australia Awards scholar Rajuna Singh from Nepal completed a Master of Education at Flinders University in 2018, with a focus on Special Education. Before commencing studies in Australia, Rajuna was a computer teacher within a special education program in Nepal.

'Being a part of Australia Awards is a life-changing opportunity for me. The things I never expected in my life I experienced through Australia Awards. I never thought I would study at Flinders University. It was like a dream for me to come to Australia and Australia Awards made it possible' says Rajuna. She says that the support she received from Australia Awards has been tremendous both in terms of her education and personal support. 'I learnt about new technologies that support people with disability, and it was amazing. Many people with disability depend on other people. In

Australia, I learnt how technological support can make them independent. I experienced more freedom because of the excellent infrastructure in Australia. For instance, I got an electric wheelchair from Australia Awards, so this gave me freedom.'

She believes the connections she made in Australia will be helpful when conducting research on special education in Nepal. 'When I arrived in Australia, I saw people from different countries, different cultures working together. It's truly amazing to see such people co-existing in peace and harmony'.

Now that she's back home, Rajuna believes she can make a significant difference in society through her passion for working with assistive technology for individuals with multiple disabilities. She considers her life a testimony to how education and technology can enhance the ability of individuals with disabilities.

Australia's aid program

The Australian Government is committed to ensuring that people with disability are included in, and equally benefit from, Australia's development assistance.

Beyond Australia Awards, Australia's broader aid program promotes improved quality of life for people with disability in Nepal.

The objective of Australia's work in disability-inclusive development is to improve quality of life for people with disability. The Australian Government aims to achieve this by:

- enhancing participation and empowerment of people with disability as contributors, leaders and decision-makers in community, government and the private sector
- reducing poverty among people with disability
- improving equality for people with disability in all areas of public life, including service provision, education and employment.

The Australian Government works with people with disability and their representative organisations (Disabled People's Organisations) to achieve its objectives, recognising the vital role that people with disability play in promoting disability-inclusive development.

Australia's aid program promotes improved quality of life for people with disability in Nepal.

You can join a community of alumni contributing to Nepal's development.

Apply for an Australia Awards Scholarship, receive tailored support in Australia, and join a community of alumni contributing to Nepal's development.

For further information

Visit the Australia Awards – Nepal website at:

www.australiaawardsnepal.org

Contact the Australia Awards – Nepal office:

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Australia Awards Scholarship entitlements and conditions can be found in the Scholarships Policy Handbook, available at

<https://dfat.gov.au/about-us/publications/Pages/australia-awards-scholarships-policy-handbook.aspx>

