



Australia Awards



# Australia Awards Myanmar

Guide for assessing and  
selecting courses



# Guide for assessing and selecting courses



Selecting a suitable course is an essential part of the application process for an Australia Awards Scholarship.

Once a candidate has been selected, course changes can only be approved under exceptional circumstances, such as a course cancellation or unavailability in a specific semester. Requests for changes due to other reasons will not be supported or approved.

As an applicant for an Australia Awards Scholarship, you must hold a Bachelor's degree that is recognised by Australian universities. You should understand the skill requirements

of your sector and how higher qualifications will enhance your contribution to Myanmar's development. This understanding should be reflected in your Development Impact Plan. Therefore, you should have ideas about potential fields of study for your Master's course.

This guide contains general information to help you refine your thinking and select courses that build on your academic background, reflect your personal strengths and interests, and contribute to Myanmar's development.

## Preparation Before Research

### Step 1: Self-assessment questions before starting your research



- What skills and knowledge do I want to gain?
- How will those skills help me in my current and future employment?
- What are my short and long-term career goals?

### Step 2: Finding the course that's right for you



To find the course that will best meet your needs, think about:

- Do you want a degree that is very focussed in one area, or would you prefer one that allowed you more flexibility?
- Do you want a degree that incorporates a research project?
- Do you want a degree that includes an internship?
- Focus on course content, not ranking or prestige of university

### Step 3: A word on rankings



- Rankings are subjective and depend on the criteria used
- None of the international ranking matrices cover student satisfaction
- There is no correlation between standard of education and ranking
- Every university in Australia is accredited and recognised by the Australian Commonwealth Government
- All universities are internationally recognised
- Every university has its own strengths

### Step 4: Choosing the right university



Choosing the right university is as important as choosing the right course of study. Consider the following factors:

- **Living environment:** What kind of environment do you want to live in? A big city, a smaller city, or a regional centre? There are universities in all areas!
- **Cost of living:** In the major capital cities such as Melbourne and Sydney the cost of living is high. Accommodation options off-campus are becoming difficult to find and are expensive. Take the location of your proposed university into consideration
- **Other important factors:** Think about the weather, the size of the university, and the presence of other students from your country.
  - The biggest universities are the size of small cities, having up to 80,000 students. It can take 30 minutes to walk from one end of campus to the other. They can feel impersonal, and it can be more difficult to make friends and networks
  - Smaller universities offer the same high-quality facilities, teaching and research. Smaller universities may have smaller class sizes meaning it can be easier to interact with your lecturers, access resources and build networks
  - Explore university websites to find out about the resources available to Australia Awards scholars, accommodation options, and the general student population



**It may be helpful to draw up a list of criteria - a 'checklist' - for choosing both your course and university.**

## Using CRICOS

CRICOS is the Australian Government's website for universities offering courses to international students.

Where you start your course search depends on how much thinking and planning you have already undertaken. This guide takes you through the process from the start.



### Step 1: Identify possible courses of study

If you are researching courses for the first time, it is a good idea to search in several universities. The following steps help you do this:



- Go to the CRICOS front page and select 'Course Search'
- Use the information tabs to understand what each input field means. The more fields you complete, the more refined your search will be
- Use the search button in the top right-hand corner to type in the title of the course
- Navigate to the course home page to get an overview of the course
- Check the course content to see if it meets your skills and knowledge needs
- Click on the relevant tab to view the structure of the course structure and units of study
- Ensure the course includes important elements like research projects or internships if these are important to you. Keep your checklist in mind as you are going through the course information
- If this course meets your need, research the university to ensure it aligns with your criteria
- If both the course and university meet your criteria, you can add it to your shortlist
- Go back to CRICOS and repeat the process with other courses
- Once you've got four or five on your shortlist do another comparison of the courses and universities and finalise your top two preferences
- Use CRICOS to identify the CRICOS code when completing your application

### Step 2: Researching particular university courses



It is important to note that every university organises their websites differently, but the course content is available for every course at every university. When researching courses, be clear about the following:

- Ensure you know the precise names of the courses you select
- Understand the duration of each course
- Identify the subject combinations that make up the course
- Course content: what subject combinations make up the course?
- For compulsory subjects, units, or modules, ensure you have the necessary academic background from your first degree, especially for courses with significant mathematics, statistics, and economics components
- Check if there are any pre-requisites for the course and whether you meet the academic and/or experience requirements
- Verify the English language entry requirements for the courses
- Determine if the courses are offered in each semester, as some universities may offer courses only one semester a year



### Step 3: Contact the university

The university websites all have contact details if you need more information. Take advantage of these contact points to follow up matters you want to clarify.



### Step 5: More information on the Australia Awards Myanmar

For more information about eligibility criteria and priority fields of study visit the Australia Awards Myanmar website [www.australiaawardsmyanmar.org](http://www.australiaawardsmyanmar.org)



### Step 4: Strategies for crafting a high-quality application

When selecting courses for your Australia Awards Scholarship, keep the following strategies in mind to enhance your chances of success:

- **Diversify university choices:** Apply to at least two different universities to demonstrate your openness to diverse academic environments and increase your chance of acceptance
- **Opt for similar courses:** Choose two similar courses that align with your interests or career goals to show focus and commitment
- **Emphasise your first choice:** Prioritise your top choice and clearly explain why this university and course are the ideal fit for you.
- **Connect course content to skills and knowledge:** Link specific course content to the skills and knowledge you seek, explaining how they align with aspirations
- Keep in mind that a well-researched and thoughtful application can make a significant impact.





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