



Australia Awards



Disability  
Inclusion &  
Australia Awards



Timor-Leste

**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 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 disabilities may experience barriers that hinder them from fully and effectively participating in society on an equal basis with others.

People with disability in Timor-Leste are encouraged to apply for Australia Awards Scholarships.

## 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 Timor-Leste assists applicants with practical advice about the 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 disabilities reasonable adjustments to support their academic endeavours.

A ‘reasonable adjustment’ is a change that enables a student with a 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 disabilities 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 disabilities — in contributing to development in Timor-Leste

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



**Casmira Maia**

Casmira Maia is an Awardee for the 2019 Intake for the Australia Awards Timor-Leste program. Casmira will study a Masters in Disability Policy and Practice at Flinders University in Adelaide, South Australia. Casmira has cerebral palsy.

Casmira first began studying English last year, 2017. She studied for only 8 months before thinking that she might try to apply for an Australia Awards Scholarship. Casmira has a sister currently studying a Masters in Australia on an Australia Award, and this inspired Casmira to apply.

Casmira was more surprised than anyone that she was successful in winning an award. In many ways she can still not believe she will be departing to Australia early next year.

Casmira is aware that many people in Timor-Leste think people with a disability can't do

anything. She believes that not enough is being done to ensure disabled people have access to education in Timor-Leste. If she had power to influence others, she'd focus on changing attitudes towards people with a disability and making society a more inclusive one.

Casmira hopes that her studies will equip her with the skills and knowledge to participate confidently in the planning and decision-making processes strengthening Timor-Leste's inclusive education policies and disability support services.

**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 the Australia Awards, Australia's broader aid program promotes improved quality of life for people with disability in Timor-Leste.

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 Peoples 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 Timor-Leste.**

### For further information

Visit the Australia Awards – Timor-Leste website at: [www.australiaawardstl.org](http://www.australiaawardstl.org)

Contact the Australia Awards Timor-Leste office:

Email: [inquiries@australiaawards.org](mailto:inquiries@australiaawards.org)

Australia Awards Scholarship entitlements and conditions can be found in the Scholarships Policy Handbook, available at <http://dfat.gov.au/about-us/publications/Pages/australia-awards-scholarships-policy-handbook.aspx>

