



Australia Awards

Australia Awards South Asia

Candidate Profile and Selection Criteria for Short Course

Multisectoral Approaches to Nutrition and Food Security – Sri Lanka

Course Objectives

The short course will provide training for 25 working professionals to enhance their professional capacity in the formulation and implementation of nutrition and food security in Sri Lanka. This course will promote a heightened understanding of the benefits of how an integrated multi-sectoral approach, combined with gender-sensitive programming, can improve nutritional and food security outcomes.

The course will ultimately contribute to improved nutrition indicators and food security policy in Sri Lanka and could also open the door to further collaboration and development of inter-sectoral relationships for achieving a greater impact for better nutrition and food security. Upon completion of the short course, Participants will be better prepared to incorporate nutritional and food security considerations within the sector specific plans and to adapt activities to meet the country's emerging needs.

The short course will place an emphasis on:

- Equitable economic growth for enhanced nutrition and food security outcomes
- Food security in targeted value chains
- Building institutional and human resource capacity to support national food security and nutrition objectives across; public health, water and sanitation, agriculture, education and social welfare in the post COVID context
- Developing/improving food production, crop production and safety nets of smallholder farmers and vulnerable communities
- Operationalising existing multi-sectoral program frameworks (including results-based incentives and budgeting models) to accelerate improvements in health and nutrition indicators
- The development of evidence-based sector specific and nutrition sensitive solutions to address vulnerabilities in food security in geographical locations that are less developed than others
- Participatory planning and the promotion of local ownership to better understand and address key challenges in improving the food security and nutritional status of vulnerable communities
- Initiatives to improve nutrition outcomes through the inclusion of women (pregnant and nursing women, young children, and adolescent females), minorities and persons with disability, in nutrition planning
- Developing government policy frameworks and strategies (food security and nutrition) to improve harmonisation, collaboration and coordination between agencies
- Learning from Australia's experience in the different roles of national versus local governments, and relationships with the private sector and civil society in food security through exposure to key counterpart agencies, civil society and aligned organisations

- Improving nutrition literacy in targeted and influential populations through behavioural change and awareness strategies
- Creating opportunities for the development of linkages and professional networking between Sri Lankan officials, partner organisations and aligned Australian counterparts (online through forums and networking).

Participant Profile

Applications are sought from a cross-section of emerging and middle management leaders representing government, non-government, and private sector organizations in Sri Lanka. Selection will prioritise applications from practitioners associated with or working on nutrition specific or sensitive projects. This includes representation from key ministries, agencies, private sector, academia and civil society organizations with an established role in the development of sector programs.

Gender equity will be maintained throughout the selection process.

A maximum of 25 professionals will be selected for this short course.

General Eligibility Criteria

Candidates must:

- be **Sri Lankan** citizens and currently residing in **Sri Lanka**
- not have applied for or hold permanent residency in Australia or New Zealand
- obtain the necessary study and travel approvals from their employer
- meet the specific eligibility criteria specified for this short course and adhere to the application process detailed in this document
- complete a Return to Work Plan with their supervisor
- demonstrate digital literacy including experience with online learning and meeting platforms
- be available to participate in the short course for the entire duration in accordance with the dates and have a reliable and secure internet connection in place.

Specific Eligibility Criteria

Candidates who can demonstrate the potential to apply the knowledge and experience gained through course participation are encouraged to apply. Selected candidates will be required to complete their negotiated 'Return to Work Plan' which will involve the implementation of observations and learnings obtained throughout the short course.

Female applicants, people with disability or individuals from traditionally marginalised groups are strongly encouraged to apply.

To be eligible candidates must:

- Be currently working in a relevant area with particular experience in the development and / or implementation of nutrition-specific and/or nutrition-sensitive programming
- Have occupied their current position for **at least one year** with a minimum of **two years** of relevant work experience
- Not be **retiring or being considered for transfer** for at least **one year** from the conclusion of the short course
- Not have attended any previous Australia Awards Fellowships or Short course
- Have access to the internet and be computer literate
- Be assessed as having an adequate level of English to be able to participate in this course

- Be committed and available to participate in each of the three major components of the short course by ensuring release from usual professional duties during the course delivery phases due to its demanding subject matter.
 - Preliminary activities will take place over four days from 14 – 17 June 2021.
 - The core learning elements modules will take place over two days per week from 19 July – 10 September 2021.
 - Applied learning activities will take place over three days from 3 – 5 November 2021.

Application Process

To apply for the short course, applicants must follow the subsequent procedure.

- All candidates are required to complete their applications online at: <https://apps.australiaawardssouthasia.org/register> and complete the upload of required documentation by **7 May 2021**. Only completed applications submitted online will be considered.
- Final selected candidates will be notified by **1 June 2021**.
- For more inquiries, call 0115772980 or email inquiries@australiaawardssrilanka.org