



**AUSTRALIAN HIGH COMMISSION
BANGLADESH**

20 October 2024

✓ Ms Mirana Mahrukh
Wing Chief-Asia, JEC and F&F (Additional Secretary)
Economic Relations Division, Ministry of Finance
Block 16, Room 30, Sher-e-Bangla Nagar, Dhaka

**Request for Government nominations for Australia Awards Short Course on
Bilateral Trade Negotiations in the Context of Bangladesh's Graduation
from Least Developed Country status**

Dear Ms Mirana Mahrukh

I am delighted to inform you that the Australian Government is offering an Australia Awards short course on *Bilateral Trade Negotiations in the Context of Bangladesh's Graduation from Least Developed Country status* for the Bangladesh Government officials working in international business and trade.

The objective of this course is to prepare and equip relevant government officials with analytical and negotiations skills and knowledge about trade and investment for economic development.

The course will take place in **Australia** for two weeks in **April-May 2025** following pre departure online activities.

I would appreciate the assistance of the Economic Relations Division to share this information with the following ministries and division to nominate officials for this short course. All nominated officials must submit an online application through <https://oscar.australiaawardssouthasianmongolia.org> by **30 November 2024**.

Ministry/Department	Target Wing/Section	Number of Nominations (Total 40)
Ministry of Commerce	FTA/WTO/Export	12 in total (6 female and 6 male)
Finance Division	Law/Macroeconomics	4 in total (2 female and 2 male)
Economic Relations Division (ERD)	Wing 1: America and Japan Wing 7: Europe Wing 10: Development Effectiveness	8 in total (4 female and 4 male)
✓ National Board of Revenue	Customs/VAT	8 in total (4 female and 4 male)
Bangladesh Investment Development Authority (BIDA)	Strategic Investment/International Investment promotion/ Investment Environment Services	4 in total (2 female and 2 male)
Ministry of Industries	Policy, Law and International Co- operation	4 in total (2 female and 2 male)

The Australian Government will support all costs (e.g. flights, accommodation, meals and tuition fees) for Bangladeshi participants to join the course under the Australia Awards scholarship program.

Australian High Commission

The short course concept note including the selection process is enclosed for your reference.

While nominating the officials, please consider that official should ideally:

- working at Deputy Secretary or Joint Secretary level
- have occupied their current position for at least 12 months and not planning/scheduled to retire in the next 24 months.
- be computer literate and proficient to communicate in English.

(The course provider (institution) may contact individual applicant to assess his/her suitability for this course.)

Participants must be committed and available to participate in the activity both in person and online and must obtain the necessary study leave approvals from their business.

- Preliminary Activity (online): February 2025
- Core Learning Elements (in-Australia): 28 April – 9th May 2025
- Applied Learning Activity (ALA) (in Bangladesh): August 2025

(All dates and locations are tentative, and more information will be provided at the time of selection)

Please feel free to contact the Australia Awards Office (email: inquiries@australiaawardsbangladesh.org mobile: +880 1730 338 495 if you have questions regarding the course or the nomination process.

Australia remains committed to supporting Bangladesh's human development priorities. We believe that the Australia Awards scholarships will significantly contribute to further strengthening the ties between Australia and Bangladesh

Yours sincerely,



Syed Haider
First Secretary (Head of Development Cooperation)

Encl: Concept note and selection criteria

Copy *(not ordered in terms of seniority or any preference)*

- Md. Shahriar Kader Siddiky, Secretary, Economic Relations Division
- Zakia Sultana, Senior Secretary, Ministry of Industries
- Dr. Md Khairuzzaman Mozunder, Secretary, Finance Division
- ✓ Md Abdur Rahman Khan FCMA, Chairman, National Board of Revenue
- Md Selim Uddin, Secretary, Ministry of Commerce
- Dr. Khandoker Azizul Islam, Secretary in Charge (Additional Secretary)
- Dr. Nazneen Kawshar Chowdhury, Additional Secretary (WTO), Ministry of Commerce
- Ayesha Akther, Additional Secretary (FTA), Ministry of Commerce
- Mohammad Navid Safiullah, Additional Secretary (Export), Ministry of Commerce
- Nasima Parvin, Additional Secretary (Law), Finance Division
- Dr. Ziaul Abedin, Additional Secretary (Macroeconomics), Finance Division
- ✓ Hossain Ahmed, Member (Custom), National Board of Revenue
- ✓ Mohammad Belal Hossain Chowdhury, Member (VAT policy), National Board of Revenue
- Shah Mohammad Mahboob, Executive Member (Additional Secretary), Strategic Investment (Additional Charge)
- K. M Shahabuddin, Wing Chief (Additional Secretary), America and Japan, ERD
- Utam Kumar Karmaker, Wing Chief (Additional Secretary), Europe
- A. H. M. Jahangir, Wing Chief (Additional Secretary), Development Effectiveness
- Md. Salim Ullah, Additional Secretary (policy, law & IC), Ministry of Industries
- Joshua Gacutan, Second Secretary, Australian High Commission Dhaka.

Selection Criteria for Short Course
Bilateral Trade Negotiations in the Context of Bangladesh's Graduation from Least
Developed Country status

Purpose and Objectives

The primary purpose of this Short Course is to prepare and equip relevant government, academic and private sector leaders of Bangladesh with analytical skills and knowledge about trade and investment for economic development with special focus on bilateral trade negotiations.

The course will help build the participants' capacity to advocate, negotiate and implement trade policy, with a particular focus on Bilateral trade agreements and engagement in international forums.

Expected Learning Outcomes

Through participation in this program and on completion of this program it is expected participants will have a deeper understanding:

- About major aspects of trade and investment for socio-economic development.
- About positive impacts of bilateral trade agreements on protecting domestic businesses, creating employment and boosting overall trade in the context of LDC graduation.
- Key skills required for engaging in trade negotiations at the World Trade Organisation and other international organisations.
- Understand the implications of policy and legal considerations prior to trade negotiations.
- Trade databases and tools, and how they can be best utilised.
- Have a clear understanding of what makes bi-Lateral trade agreements successful.
- On how to ensure coverage of environment and GEDSI issues relating to Trade during negotiation.
- Participants will have developed networks and linkages between individuals and organisations in Australia.

Participants' Return to Work Plans (RWP) will describe how Participants will apply their newly acquired skills and knowledge to a specific project or set of activities.

Each RWP will include measures to reduce the likelihood of discrimination against women as it may relate to policy development, program planning or service delivery.

Participant Profile & Eligibility Criteria

The course will be relevant for senior Bangladeshi public officials who work across organisational or other boundaries such as Ministry of Commerce, Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Livestock and Fisheries and Ministry of Finance, including the National Board of Revenue, to achieve outcomes and who are dealing with complex leadership challenges

Up to 24 mid to senior Bangladeshi public service officials will be selected through an open application and competitive selection process.

- Participants for this Short Course should meet the following criteria:
- Be a citizen of Bangladesh, currently residing in Bangladesh
- Not be applying for or hold permanent residency in either Australia or New Zealand, or be married, engaged to, or a de facto of a person who holds, or is eligible to hold, Australian or New Zealand citizenship or permanent residency. This criterion applies at any stage of the application, selection or mobilisation phases of the course
- Be able to provide attested documents for processing a visa application to enter Australia for the

of Home Affairs for an Australian Student Visa (Subclass 500) or an Australian Visitor (Business Visitor stream) Visa (Subclass 600)

- Not be a currently serving military personnel
- Obtain the necessary study and travel approvals from their employer and be available and committed to participate in the course based on the anticipated course schedule outlined below
- Not have attended any previous Short Course (however Australian Awards Scholarships alumni who have completed their degrees more than two years ago may be considered)

Specific Eligibility Criteria

- Demonstrate a strong commitment to contributing the skills and knowledge gained during the Short Course within and across Participants' organisations to support whole of government connectivity.
- Willing to participate in a virtual 'community of practice' with other Participants and the course Provider to maintain connections made during the course.
- Have occupied their current position for at least 12 months and not planning/scheduled to retire in the next 24 months.
- Have at least 12 months of relevant work experience.
- Have access to the internet and be computer literate

When assessing applications, the following criteria will be considered:

- Evidence of organisational support for the objectives of the course and the applicant's participation for the duration of the program
- The relevance of the applicant's current workplace role and responsibilities to the course outcomes
- The applicant's demonstrated capacity and willingness to act as an organisational change agent, sharing new skills and knowledge with colleagues to build capacity in the trade sector.

The Australian High Commission in Bangladesh with assistance from the Managing Contractor and Provider, will determine the final list of participants for this Course.

Time Commitment Required

Participants must be committed and available to participate in the activity both in person and online and must obtain the necessary study leave approvals from their business.

- ✓ • **Preliminary Activity (online):** **February 2025**
- ✓ • **Core Learning Elements (in-Australia):** **28 April – 9th May 2025**
- ✓ • **Applied Learning Activity (ALA) (in Bangladesh):** **August 2025**

All dates and locations are tentative, and more information will be provided at the time of selection.

Application Process

To apply for this Short Course, applicants must: complete an application online at -

<https://oscar.australiaawardssouthasiamongolia.org> and upload the required documentation by **30**

✓ **November 2024**. Only completed applications submitted online will be considered.

All candidates will need to submit an online application, including their responses to application questions (exploring their motivation for joining the Short Course) and a CV outlining the roles and responsibilities of their current role, as well as any other relevant experience or qualifications.

For more inquiries, contact the Australia Awards Bangladesh team by emailing

inquiries@australiaawardsbangladesh.org or calling: +880 9611699934 or +880 01730338495.