



Australia Awards

## Selection Criteria

### Short Course: Inclusive Education in Practice – Delivery 3 (2019)

#### Course Context:

The Australian Government's Development Cooperation Program (DCP), in partnership with the Government of Nepal (GoN), focuses on gender equality, disability and social inclusion.

The DCP seeks to contribute to the development and execution of the GoN's policies and practices to better provide for the needs of people with disability. Using targeted investments aimed at improving the quality of inclusive education, people with a disability are provided with the opportunity to acquire knowledge and skills to contribute as productive members of Nepalese society.

The DCP seeks to *“promote learning with a special focus on girls, disadvantaged children and those with disability, through teacher training, curriculum development and education infrastructure”*.

Following the successful delivery of two Inclusive Education Short Courses (2016 and 2018), the Australian Embassy, Nepal will continue to support the GoN's vision to mainstream inclusive education practices, supported by policies and systems that promote equitable access to education services.

The development of the *National Policy and Action Plan on Disability 2006* has resulted in improvements in the quality and availability of resources for inclusive education. Challenges do however remain, for example, limited technical capacity, lack of coordination between different ministries and stakeholders in implementing inclusive education, the combination of low levels of awareness and ownership of the *National Policy and Action Plan on Disability 2006* (the Plan) across line ministries and government bodies. These issues are significant constraints to the successful implementation of the Plan. The Department of Education, Ministry of Education, *Status Report 2016/17*, reported that the “identification and classification of children with disabilities was difficult due to the lack of proper technical knowledge in the subject matters and human resource in the districts”.

The adoption of Article 24, Comment 4 of the *UN Convention on the Rights of People with Disability* (September 2016) provides all government agencies with direction on their roles and responsibilities in providing inclusive education.

Guidance on actions to strengthen and accelerate the development and adoption of policies and practices to enhance access to inclusive education in Nepal include:

- Development of effective practice models, systems and learning resources for adoption across a variety of formal and informal learning environments, including the professional development of teachers and support staff;
- Cultivating a common understanding, overcoming misconceptions and creating a shared vision that promotes inclusive education as a pathway to national prosperity and well-being;
- Understanding cultural, geographical and political factors to improve the effectiveness of partnerships between: governments, Disabled People's Organisations, parents, teachers, schools, communities and students;
- Promoting the participation of parents, schools and local communities in the planning and delivery of services; and
- Increasing the availability and efficient allocation of accessible resources through adequate funding and well-conceived coordination / implementation arrangements.



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Nepal is already making good progress with 365 specialist classes (169 for deaf and hard of hearing, 77 for the visually impaired and 119 for the intellectually disabled). 34 special schools also operate in Nepal with approximately 75,000 students with disability enrolled.

However, not all disabilities are adequately supported with learning resources. Further targeted support is needed for children with autism, cerebral palsy and those with multiple disabilities.

### **Australia supports education and disability in Nepal primarily with contributions to the following initiatives:**

- Building Back Safer Schools for All 2015 - 2017 (BBSSFA);
- School Sector Reform Plan Programme 2009 - 2016 (SSRP);
- Australian NGO Cooperation Program (ANCP) and the Direct Aid Program (DAP);
- Australia Awards – South and West Asia; delivery of two Short Courses in April 2016 and April 218; and
- Australian Volunteers Program (AVP) – Nepal.

### **Australia Awards recipients:**

Eleven officials representing the Government of Nepal will be selected for this Short Course. An additional ten recipients will be selected from the 'open category' and will comprise of representatives from schools/colleges working with students with disability or people from Disabled Peoples Organisations (DPOs), including organisations run by people with disability and parents of children with disability. A total of 21 recipients from Nepal will be selected for this Short Course.

Gender equity will be maintained in the initial nominations and in the final selected recipient list for the Short Course. Applications are strongly encouraged from women, people from traditionally-marginalised groups, people from remote areas of Nepal, people with disability, and the parents of people with disability.

### **Applicants and recipients with disability**

The Australian Government's 'Development for All' Strategy aims to ensure that people with disability are included in, and benefit equally, from Australia's development assistance. This commitment is reflected in Australia Awards. All recipients with disability are properly supported to enable their participation in Australia Awards Short Courses on an equal basis with all other applicants and recipients, including the provision of reasonable adjustments and accommodation. Nominees/applicants should disclose their disability and the support they require in the application form.



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### **Selection Criteria for the *open category***

Recipients considered in the *open category* will consist of representatives working for Disabled Peoples Organisations (DPOs), Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) or private schools with students with disability. Staff from DPOs responsible for making classrooms and/or curriculum inclusive will also be considered.

Applications will be actively pursued from education staff representing:

- Schools
- Universities that provide teacher training
- Resource Centres
- Nepalese Disabled Persons Organisations
- Parent organisations

These applicants should have a sound understanding of inclusive education practices and the challenges of working in the field of disability in Nepal. Applications from people working with different types of disabilities will be considered in order to increase understanding and knowledge of approaches and practices to address specific needs across a spectrum of disabilities.

The Short Course will be promoted via the Australia Awards – Nepal website and through social media of the Australian Embassy in Kathmandu. The Short Course will also be promoted to DPOs via the National Federation of Disabled Nepal (NFDN). Similarly, alumni particularly from the first and second delivery of the Inclusive Education Short Courses will be asked to promote this Short Course to potential applicants.

Interested applicants who meet the eligibility criteria should apply online through the Australia Awards - South and West Asia application portal.

*Gender equity will be maintained in nominations, and the selection of female applicants will be prioritised.*

### **General Selection Criteria for the *open category***

To be eligible for this Short Course you must:

- be a Nepali citizen and currently reside in Nepal
- satisfy Australian Government requirements for entry into Australia
- be able to provide attested documents for processing a visa application to enter Australia for the duration of the Short Course
- be currently working in a relevant area
- have not applied for or hold permanent residency in Australia or New Zealand
- have not participated in an Australia Awards Fellowships or Short Course previously

At least 50% of the selected recipients will be either women, people from traditionally-marginalised groups, people with disability or their parents.



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### Specific Eligibility Criteria for Open Category:

Applicants who have the potential to apply the knowledge and experience gained through Short Course participation on their return to Nepal are encouraged to apply. Selected applicants will be required to complete their negotiated 'Return to Work' Plan, which will involve the implementation of observations and learnings obtained during the Short Course.

Female applicants, people with disability, or parents of people with disability – especially those who are working in the relevant area or are from traditionally-marginalised groups – are encouraged to apply.

To be eligible, candidates must:

- be currently working in an area of relevance to the course
- have *at least three years* of work experience in the field of disability
- fulfil one of these criteria:
  - be a member of staff and/or an executive board member (from DPOs/NGOs/schools) working in education/training for people with disability; or
  - be a member of staff and/or a board member with substantial experience working with people with disability who play a significant role in transferring knowledge and skills through teaching and training with parents and families; or
  - be a member of staff and/or a board member or advisor responsible for working closely with the Ministry of Education / Department of Education systems and in close coordination/ collaboration with DPOs working in the disability sector; or
  - be a member of staff and/or a board member who is a person with disability who works with parents and families of people with disability; or
  - be a member of staff at a registered private school that is a member of the Private and Boarding Schools' Organization, Nepal (PABSON); or
  - be a member of staff at a DPO/NGO that is registered with the Social Welfare Council (SWC) and be operating legally in Nepal.
- 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
- commit to actively participate in the online component (25-29 March 2019); the in-Australia training (29 April - 10 May 2019); and the in-Nepal training and workshop (12 - 14 August 2019).

**Female applicants, people from traditionally marginalised groups, people with disability or the parents of people with disability are encouraged to apply.**

### Selection Process for Open Category:

- All interested applicants will need to complete their applications online through the Australia Awards – South and West Asia Short Course application portal here: <https://apps.australiaawardssouthwestasia.org/register> by 28 February 2019
- The Australian Embassy, Nepal will only review applications made through the Australia Awards - South and West Asia application portal
- The Australian Embassy, Nepal will select 10 applicants for the Short Course
- The Australian Embassy Nepal will notify the final selected participants by 15 March 2019.