

Blog 4: Scholarships, Tuition Fees and Living Costs — Can Bangladeshi Students Afford Australia?

The Financial Question Every Family Should Ask

Studying in Australia can be a life-changing experience, but it also represents a significant financial commitment.

For many Bangladeshi families, the question is not simply whether a student can secure admission to a prestigious university. It is whether the family can sustain the financial commitment throughout the degree.

The answer requires examining tuition fees, living expenses, scholarships and available sources of financial support.

1. Understanding Tuition Fees

International tuition fees vary according to the university, degree, course load and year of commencement.

Degrees with specialist facilities, laboratory components or professional accreditation may cost more than other programs.

Rather than relying on an average Australian tuition figure, check the published international fees for your exact course and commencement year.

Remember that some universities calculate fees by subject or unit, meaning the overall cost of your degree may change over time.

2. Living Costs Beyond Tuition

Tuition is only one component of studying overseas.

Students must also budget for accommodation, groceries, transport, utilities, internet, health insurance and personal expenses.

Your spending will depend heavily on your location and lifestyle.

For example, sharing accommodation and preparing meals at home may be more economical than living alone and frequently eating out. Yet lower-cost accommodation may involve longer journeys to campus.

The Australian Government provides a cost-of-living calculator to help students estimate their expenses.

3. What Scholarships Are Available?

Scholarships generally fall into several categories.

Academic merit scholarships

These recognise academic achievement and may reduce tuition fees. Eligibility criteria, award amounts and application processes differ substantially between institutions.

Faculty or program scholarships

Certain awards target students studying particular disciplines, undertaking research or meeting other academic criteria.

Government-funded scholarships

Programs such as Australia Awards support eligible applicants from participating countries. Eligibility varies by nationality, study level, professional background and the relevant country program.

Not every scholarship is available to newly graduating high-school students.

4. How to Research Scholarships Properly

Begin with the official scholarship pages of your chosen universities.

Check whether the scholarship is available to Bangladeshi citizens, applies to your intended qualification, requires a separate application and covers tuition only or additional expenses.

Pay close attention to deadlines.

Some awards are considered automatically during admission, while others involve essays, references or additional documentation.

A partial tuition scholarship is valuable, but it does not necessarily make an otherwise unaffordable degree financially sustainable.

5. Can Part-Time Work Cover Your Expenses?

Eligible international students can generally work up to 48 hours per fortnight while their course is in session, with different rules applying to certain research students and official study breaks.

However, finding employment is not guaranteed.

Part-time employment should be treated as a possible supplement to your finances, not the foundation of your study budget.

Build a Financial Plan Before Applying

Create a budget covering your expected degree duration.

Include tuition, accommodation, living costs, insurance, travel, emergencies and possible annual increases. Calculate the cost in Australian dollars and consider exchange-rate changes when converting family funds from Bangladeshi taka.

Where possible, explore scholarships early rather than waiting until after receiving an offer.

Studying abroad should be an investment made with confidence, not one built on unrealistic financial assumptions.

Your next step: Use Vitaliah's university comparisons to investigate scholarships and develop a family budget before making your final shortlist.

Sources: [Australian Government — Financial Assistance](#), [Study Australia](#) and individual university scholarship pages.