



Australia Awards



Australia Awards Factsheet

What are Australia Awards?

Australia Awards are prestigious international Scholarships and Fellowships funded by the Australian Government. They offer the next generation of global leaders an opportunity to undertake study, research and professional development in Australia and for high-achieving Australians to do the same overseas.

Australia Awards are a whole-of-government initiative bringing together scholarships and fellowships administered by the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade; the Department of Education; and the Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research.

Australia's commitment to international education began with the Colombo Plan, which between 1951 and 1986, delivered around 570 scholarships a year to the Asia Pacific Region. This was the genesis of the Australia Awards, which currently provide almost 5,000 Scholarships and Fellowships each year for recipients from more than 145 countries to undertake study, research and professional development.



Awardees at an Australia Awards Leadership Conference in Canberra, Australia



Kalawati Rai, a Nepalese awardee from Macquarie University at an Australia Awards farewell event in Sydney, Australia

Why are Australia Awards important?

The Australia Awards strive to develop leadership potential and stimulate lasting change by empowering a global network of talented individuals through high-quality education in Australia and overseas. Recipients return home with new ideas and knowledge, and the ability to make a significant contribution to the development of their home country or region as leaders in their field.

The Australia Awards administered by the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade are a key pillar of the aid program. The Australian Government's new development policy *Australian aid: promoting prosperity, increasing stability, reducing poverty* recognises that tertiary education is an important component of any investment in education. Australia Awards contribute to the long term human development needs of Australia's developing partner countries providing education opportunities designed to improve living standards and stimulate economic growth.

For Australia, the Awards build an engaged and influential global network of leaders, advocates and change-makers and establish a network of soft ambassadors across the world. Australia Awards provide recipients with a deeper understanding of their chosen field of study and greater knowledge and understanding of their host country.

The Australia Awards complement the Government's New Colombo Plan initiative which enables Australian students to study in the region. Together, the Australia Awards and the new Colombo Plan create a two-way exchange that is critical to Australia's engagement with the Indo-Pacific region.

Together they contribute to the productivity of Australia and the development of people-to-people links between Australia, our regional neighbours and the broader international community.

What have Australia Awards achieved?

Australia Awards alumni include many high profile leaders in their home country, such as government Ministers, members of parliament, ambassadors, magistrates, judges, and heads of government departments. Others make significant contributions in their chosen fields such as public health, trade, agriculture, education and economic development.



Firdaus Wajdi, an Indonesian awardee from the University of Western Sydney at a leadership event in Sydney, Australia

Quick Facts

- In 2013–14, expenditure on Australia Awards managed by the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade was an estimated \$310 million. The Department offered 4450 new awards to recipients from 117 eligible developing countries.
- The Government has been supporting international scholarships for 60 years, beginning with the Colombo Plan in the 1950s. Since then, more than 100,000 people have benefited from these scholarships.
- Indonesia, Papua New Guinea and Vietnam were the three largest recipient countries of Australia Awards in 2013, with approximately 55 per cent of incoming recipients coming from the Asia region.

More Information

For more information including the application forms and guidelines see:

<http://aid.dfat.gov.au/australia-awards/Pages/default.aspx>

www.australiaawards.gov.au