

Australia Awards

Endeavour Scholarships & Fellowships 2014 Round

About the Prime Minister's Australia Asia Scholarships

1. What are the Australia Awards?

The Australia awards bring together the following under a single recognisable brand:

- The Endeavour Scholarships and Fellowships administered by the Department of Industry, Innovation, Climate Change, Science, Research and Tertiary Education (DIICCSRTE)
- Scholarships and fellowships administered by the Australian Agency for International Development (AusAID)
- Fellowships administered by the Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research (ACIAR)

2. Why have the Australia Awards been established?

To maximize the benefit to Australia of its extensive scholarship programs and to support enduring ties between Australia and our neighbours.

3. What are the Endeavour Scholarships and Fellowships?

The Endeavour Scholarships and Fellowships are the Australian Government's internationally competitive, merit-based scholarship program providing opportunities for citizens of the Asia Pacific, the Middle East, Europe and the Americas to undertake study, research and professional development in Australia.

4. Are the Endeavour Scholarships and Fellowships available for Australians?

Scholarships and Fellowships are also available for Australians to undertake study, research and professional development abroad.

5. What are the Prime Minister's Australia Asia Scholarships and how are they related to the Endeavour Scholarships and Fellowships?

The Prime Minister's Australia Asia Scholarships are a prestigious component of the Endeavour Scholarships and Fellowships that recognise the best and brightest scholars from Australia and Asia. They provide an opportunity for postgraduates and undergraduates to undertake international study or research and an internship to:

- Gain occupational and work related knowledge and skills
- Build networks with industry and other organisations in the region.

6. What do the Prime Minister's Australia Asia Scholarships aim to do?

The Scholarships aim to build deep and enduring education and professional linkages between Australia and Asia. They also provide an opportunity for Australian universities and the Australian Government to work in partnership to identify and reward high calibre scholars.

7. What will the Prime Minister's Australia Asia Scholarships provide?

The PMAAS will provide the following:

- Forty scholarships annually to high calibre Australian University students
 - Twenty at undergraduate level
 - Twenty at postgraduate level
- Twenty scholarships will also be awarded to the top international postgraduate scholarship recipients from the ten participating countries and regions in Asia each year.

Category Summary

Postgraduate Scholarships

Category	Study Level	Duration	Total Value \$AUD
<i>Prime Minister's Australia Asia Postgraduate Scholarship (Outgoing)</i>	Postgraduate study/research for a Master's degree or PHD	Up to 2 years	Up to \$63,500
Prime Minister's Australia Asia Postgraduate Scholarship (Incoming) ***	Postgraduate research for an Australian PHD	Up to 4 years + up to 1 year optional internship	Up to \$263,500

*** Allocated to the top 20 ranked applicants from the incoming Endeavour Postgraduate Scholarships.

Undergraduate Scholarships

Category	Study Level	Duration	Total Value \$AUD
<i>Prime Minister's Australia Asia Outgoing Undergraduate Scholarship</i>	Bachelor Degree or Honours	Up to 2 years	Up to \$53,500

Role of the University Contact Officer

8. What is the role of the University Contact Officer?

The contact officer will be the contact point between the Department and potential Australia applicants from their institution. They will:

- Promote the scholarships within their institution
- Facilitate the nomination process
- Provide an un-ranked shortlist to the Department of up to five undergraduates and five postgraduates by the due date (30th June 2013)
- Contact officers will also be required to assist any successful award holders from their institution to arrange an international internship

Application Process

• **Preparations**

It is highly encouraged that applications who want to apply for a Prime Minister's Australia Asia Scholarship (outgoing) to first contact and be supported by their university contact officer before applying.

• **Round Opens – early April 2013**

All applications must be submitted through Endeavour Online

• **During the Round**

- Contact officers will receive an email with a PDF copy of the application
 - Please contact Endeavour Management Team if you would like to receive a copy of an application at any time
- Due to confidentiality reasons, contact officers will not receive copies of applicant's referee reports or any other supporting documents. Referee reports are submitted by the applicants referee directly to the Department
- If you wish to view a copy of the referee report, please ask the applicant to request their referee email you a copy of the report directly.

• **Round Closes – 11.59am, 30th June 2013**

- No applications can be submitted after this date
- An email acknowledging receipt of the application will automatically be generated and forwarded to the applicants email address
- 1st July 2013 – Contact officers will be emailed a list of all the applicants who have submitted an application from their university
 - If these documents are not received shortly after the round has closed, please email the Endeavour Management Team

- Any applicant who you do not wish to nominate will be deemed ineligible – when commencing an application, **applicants are advised that they must be nominated by their university to be eligible**
- **University internal process – 1st – 31st July 2013**
Each university will undertake its own internal selection process to determine a shortlist of applicants to nominate to the Department
- **Nominations are due by COB 31st July 2013**
 - Universities may nominate up to five undergraduate and up to five postgraduate applicants
 - The completed student nomination form should be sent to endeavour.awards@innovation.gov.au
 - Please note:
 - Late nominations cannot be accepted
 - No ranking order is necessary
 - It is not a requirement that you fill all ten nomination allocations – putting forward only high quality applicants will help to manage expectations
 - If you do not wish to nominate any applicants, please advise the Endeavour Management Team
 - Successful PMAAS applicants may be advised **unofficially** prior to an official announcement to allow for preparations for a presentation dinner in December
 - At this stage the offer is unofficial and should be kept in strict confidence until the official announcement is made
- **University contact officers will be advised officially 24 hours prior the public announcement, expected to be in December 2013**

Key dates for 2013 (2014 Round)

Early April 2013	Applications open for the 2014 Endeavour Scholarships and Fellowships
30 June 2013	Applications close at 11:59 AM (AEST) on Sunday 30 th June 2013
1 July 2013	Applications submitted for the PMAAS (Outgoing) are sent to the university contact officers
31 July 2013	Nominations from university contact officers are due to the Department
August/Sep 2013	Applications allocated to selection panels for assessment
December 2013	Official announcement made
December 2013	Briefing program and presentation dinner

Details (including Internship)

There are two stages to the outbound scholarships:

- Stage One
 - The full-time study or research component for up to 12 months (one semester or 6 months minimum)
- Stage Two
 - An internship component for up to 12 months (two months minimum)

Internship

A unique aspect of the PMAAS is the opportunity for award holders to undertake an internship.

9. What is the aim of the internship?

The overarching aim of the internship is:

- To develop internationally-aware future leaders who have the skills and knowledge to be able to compete and collaborate in a globalised market
- For the individual award holder, the aim of the internship component is to provide an opportunity to gain international professional experience in their field (or broader field) and build professional networks in Asia

10. Where must the internship be undertaken?

- Australian undergraduate award holders:
 - Must undertake an internship in a participating country of the PMAAS, generally at the completion of their study program
- Australian postgraduate award holders:
 - Are encouraged to undertake an internship in a participating country of the PMAAS, also generally at the completion of their study program

11. What is an internship defined as?

- For the purpose of the PMAAS, an internship is defined as '*Any paid or unpaid work related to the award holder's field of study outside of their host institution and/or specific research or study group*'
- Internships could therefore be with:
 - Any company, business, government department or agency, not-for-profit organisation, or research organisations on the host country

12. Are there any variations on what the internship component might look like?

There are many variations on what the internship component might look like. It could be:

- A paid position with a local company or business;
- An unpaid position with a government agency or NGO;
- A position at an Australian Government post, if it is applicable for the award holders field of study and they have the capacity, or
- With an agency or organisation in Asia that the award holder's Australian university has, or seeks to develop links with

13. Is the recipient eligible to gain credit for the internship?

The recipient may be eligible to gain credit for the internship if it meets the course requirements. The credit should be negotiated with the recipient's course convenor.

Duration of Internship

14. How long must the internship be?

The internship may be up to 12 months (minimum of two months full time or part-time equivalent) in duration and may be with more than one employer.

15. When should the internship take place?

The internship should be undertaken after the study component. It may only be undertaken during the study component under exceptional circumstances and with approval from the Department. There can be no more than one month maximum duration between the completion of the study component and the commencement of an internship except in exceptional circumstances and with approval from the Department.

Approval for more than three separate internships and/or internships of less than one month duration must be gained from the contractor and final approval from the Department.

Arranging the Internship and Approval Process

16. Whose responsibility is it to arrange the internship?

It is the award holder's responsibility to arrange and confirm the internship. However, award holders are supported in this by their home university, Austraining International and the Department.

The award holder's home university is provided with a \$3,000 payment to offset costs associated with assisting each award holder in identifying suitable internship placements. This payment will be made to the university once the internship is approved.

17. Who can approve the internship?

The internship must be approved by Austraining International and an internship approval form must be submitted by the award holder and approved no later than one month prior to the completion of

the study component.

18. How can you have the internship approved?

To have the internship approved, award holders must:

- Complete the Internship approval form available from the Endeavour Online system
- Forward it to Austraining International

19. How do award holders ensure they are entitled to work in a host country?

Award holders undertaking an Internship will need to contact the relevant authority in the host country to determine whether they are entitled to work and to obtain information about visas. Award holders may be required to change visas when transitioning from study to the Internship component of their award.

20. When must applicants have their internship confirmed?

Applicants are not required to have an internship confirmed at the time of application. Instead, they are asked to indicate their proposed plans (i.e. intended dates and host organisation(s) for the internship component in their application).

Applicants will not be disadvantaged in the selection process if they have not confirmed their internship at the time of application.

Endeavour Online

21. What is Endeavour Online and what does it do?

Endeavour Online is an online application system that allows applicants to enter their personal details and information regarding their proposed program and attach required supporting documentation directly. Applicants may only view and submit their own applications.

22. How can applicants apply online?

To apply online, an applicant should go to

<http://endeavouradmin.deewr.gov.au/ES/ESApplication/Security/Login.aspx>

New applications will be allocated a unique application number. This application number should be referred to in any correspondence with the Department.

A **Step by Step Guide to using the Endeavour Online System** can be found under the 'Apply Now' tab on the Endeavour website

<http://www.innovation.gov.au/InternationalEducation/EndeavourAwards/Pages/ApplyNow.aspx>

Requirements and Conditions

Participating (Destination) Countries and Regions for the PMAAS

23. What are the eligible participating countries that applicants may choose as their host destinations?

There are ten eligible participating countries that applicants may choose as their host destination:

- The People's Republic of China (including Hong Kong and Macau)
- India
- Indonesia
- Japan
- Malaysia
- Republic of Korea
- Singapore
- Taiwan
- Thailand
- Viet Nam

Citizenship and/or Permanent Residency

24. What citizenship status must the Australian applicants have?

Australian applicants must be citizens and/or permanent residents of Australia.

Australian award holders must retain Australian citizenship and/or Australian permanent residency status for the duration of their award. In the event that the award holder's Australian citizenship/residency status lapses, the award will be revoked or terminated from the date of effect. The award holder may continue their program but they will no longer be funded to do so.

Age

25. What age must award holders be?

Award holder must be aged 18 years or over at the commencement of their award. There is no maximum age limit.

Approved Fields of Study

26. Are there any limitations on fields of study for the awards?

There are no limitations on fields of study for the awards.

Visas

It is the responsibility of award holders to apply for and satisfy the requirements for the issue of an appropriate entry visa to their host country. Award holders will be advised of the visa process and will have the support of their case manager to make suitable arrangements prior to their commencement. The offer of an award does not guarantee the granting of a visa and is conditional upon gaining a visa.

Any costs associated with obtaining the visa is the responsibility of the award holder. Award holders are responsible for any visa application costs. Award holders may be required to undertake a medical examination to satisfy health requirements for the issue of a visa for entry into their host country.

Family members wishing to visit or accompany an award holder are required to obtain their own visa.

Police Checks

27. Do award holders need to undergo a police check?

All Australian award holders are required to undergo a police check before their award is confirmed. It is an important consideration of the Department that recipients are suitable persons who will enhance the reputation of Australia and the Australia Awards-Endeavour Scholarships and Fellowships overseas.

28. Does a criminal record automatically disqualify an applicant from receiving an award?

A criminal record will not automatically disqualify an applicant from receiving an award. However, if an award holder is found to have a criminal record or conviction which the Department considers would harm the reputation of the Australia Awards – Endeavour Scholarships and Fellowships, then the Department may, in its absolute discretion, refuse to grant or revoke an award.

Award Suspension and Termination

29. Why would the award be suspended/terminated?

The award may be terminated at any time for misconduct, for:

- **Failing to comply with the laws of the host country**
- **For breaches of the award conditions**
- **For failure to make satisfactory academic progress (where applicable)**

Employment

30. Are award holders allowed to undertake paid employment while they are in their host country on their award?

Award holders must obtain permission from their host organisation and confirm the conditions of their visa in order to determine whether they are allowed to undertake paid employment while they are in their host country on their award.

Award Completion

Award holders are expected to return to their home country at the completion of their program.

Travel Warnings

An award holder must not travel, without the approval of the contractor, to a country/region or part of a country/region that has been assessed by DFAT as an area to which Australians are advised not to travel' or where the Department considers a particular country/region or part of a country/region is not likely to be safe; or where the Department considers that the award holder would not be able to complete the program for which the award was given.

If this condition is breached an award may be suspended, revoked or terminate.

Applicants should monitor the DFAT website from the following link for current information about countries that are considered a travel risk: <http://www.smartraveller.gov.au>

Holding Other Scholarships

PMAAS Postgraduate and Undergraduate award holders who currently hold or who have completed an Australia Award after 1st January 2012 are not eligible to apply. Applicants are not eligible to apply in a category in which they have already completed an Endeavour Scholarship or Fellowship.

Award holders in receipt of an International Research Scholarship (IPRS), Australian Postgraduate Award (APA) or Australian Research Council (ARC) grant must adhere to the conditions placed on those scholarships.

Award Conditions

- Successful recipients must sign a contract with Austraining International (the contractor of the Department) formally agreeing to the conditions of the award, prior to commencement of their award
- An award is conditional upon the successful recipient meeting any specific conditions that are outline in the award offer letter issued by the Department
- Successful recipients must commence their approved program and award after 1st January 2014 but no later than 30th November 2014
- Applicants who have already commenced or will commence their program at their host organisation prior to 2014 are ineligible to apply
- Australian successful recipients must undertake their award and approved program within the approved host country with the only exception being approved fieldwork. Successful recipients cannot undertake their award at an offshore campus of an Australian university (excludes the internship component of the PMAAS)
- Successful recipients must undertake the program outlined in their application, unless otherwise approved by the Department, for at least the minimum award duration
- Successful recipients must abide by the rules of the host organisation/institution
- Any changes to the successful recipients program or itinerary must have prior approval of the contractor with final approval from the Department
- Should a successful recipient be prevented for any reason from taking up their ward within a reasonable timeframe, the Department may withdraw the offer of an award
- An award is conditional upon a successful recipient gaining and maintaining confirmed enrolment or nomination with a host organisation and satisfying the requirements for the issue of an appropriate entry/residence visa to the host country. The offer of an award does not guarantee enrolment/nomination or the granting of a visa. It is the responsibility of the successful recipient to ensure they obtain the correct visa type for their intended stay.
- Academic progress will be assessed against reports provided by the award holder, the host organisation and the program outline in the award holder's application
- Where the Departments terminates an award (and directs the contractor to terminate the award contract) the award holder must immediately cease undertaking their program and return to Australia, as soon as reasonably practicable
- The Department may temporarily suspend an award when it is deemed appropriate to do so. Monthly stipends are not payable during periods of suspension.
- An award holder is responsible for all of the program fees and charges that exceed their benefits. Funding is limited to the duration stipulated for each Scholarship category.
- The decision to take up a Scholarship and travel overseas is the responsibility of the ward holder. The Department will not be liable for any loss, damage, injury or ham that might be suffered during, or in connection with, the award. Award holders should make their own independent inquiries about the risks involved in overseas travel, and to the host country, and be fully informed about the risks at all times. Australia residents should check the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) website for information about risks overseas and how they can better prepare for overseas travel. Award holders must register with DFAT and subscribe to www.smartraveller.gov.au prior to commencement of their award. The Department recommends that award older consider organising comprehensive travel insurance covering medical costs, emergency travel and repatriation. The travel allowance can be used for this purpose.

Post Selection Support Services, Alumni, Briefing Program & Award Holder Responsibilities

Post Selection Support Services

A contractor has been engaged by the Department to provide post-selection support services to all award holders. These services include:

- A dedicated case manager
- Pre-departure briefings
- Provision of advice on visas, health, travel, insurance, accommodation, security and legal matters
- Payment of allowances
- Reporting to the Department on award holder progress

Once the successful applicants have accepted their offer of an award and returned a signed declaration of acceptance, their details will be transferred to the contractor, who will contact them shortly afterwards to confirm details including commencement dates and their program.

Alumni

Upon successful completion, award holders may be invited to become a member of the Australia Awards Alumni Network (AAN). This network will assist alumni to maintain the personal, institutional and education links and friendships they make during their award.

Briefing Program

A briefing program for award holders will be held in Canberra in December 2013 over 2-3 days. The program is an opportunity for award holders to meet with each other and network with:

- representatives from Endeavour Scholarships and Fellowships Alumni
- Australian universities
- the Diplomatic community
- Australian Government representatives

A meet and greet opportunity with a Minister and/or senior Ministerial staff may also be available.

The program will include vital information on:

- Internships
- Visas
- Post-selection support services
- Hints and tips for media opportunities
- Communicating about the awards
- Host countries

All award holders will be flown to Canberra and accommodated. Whilst attendance at the briefing program is not compulsory, it is strongly recommended all award holders attend as it is an integral part of the PMAAS.

The briefing will also include the **awards presentation dinner**. This esteemed dinner showcases and celebrates the award holders and allows them further opportunity to network with diplomatic and academic communities, as well as with fellow award holders.

Award Holder Responsibilities

PMAAS recipients are ambassadors for the program, Australia and their home and host universities and as such there are certain responsibilities that come with the opportunity.

- Award holders are expected to act in a professional and respectable manner befitting of a PMAAS recipient (expectations are discussed at the briefing program) and to engage with as broad a group as possible at their host universities, internship host organisations and in the communities in which they reside.
- Award holders are encouraged to engage with their colleagues, supervisors and community and create or enhance existing linkages between individuals, research groups and institution. They will be expected to share their award experiences and new knowledge and skills with colleagues and peers in Australia on return.

More F.A.Q's

31. Does an applicant have to apply to a host university to undertake a PMAAS?

No, as long as the applicant meets affiliation requirements at their proposed host.

32. Is a PMAAS recipient entitled to university credit?

This is a decision between the university and award holder.

33. Will a PMAAS recipient be required to pay fees to their home/host university?

The award holder may use their award allocation to pay any tuition/university fees. If the host university does not charge tuition fees, but the award holder's home university will continue to whilst the award holder is undertaking their award, the award holder may use their award allocation towards those fees.

34. Is the PMAA Outgoing Postgraduate Scholarship at Masters level for either coursework, research or both?

The PMAA Outgoing Postgraduate Scholarship at Masters level can be by either coursework or research, in any field of study.

35. Can award holders of the PMAA Postgraduate Scholarship hold any other Australian Government sponsored scholarship?

Award holders of the PMAA Postgraduate Scholarship are not permitted to hold any other Australian Government sponsored scholarship.

36. Can a student studying externally/online still be eligible for a PMAAS?

Applicants will be marked eligible if they are undertaking full time online course work towards their Curtin qualification as long as they meet all other eligibility requirements.

Contacts & Assistance

If you require any further information or assistance for the 2014 round please email endeavour.awards@innovation.gov.au with the subject line to read 'PM's University Contact Officer Enquiry'.

If you require any support with promotional activities, please contact endeavour.promotions@innovation.gov.au