



Factsheet – Scholarship holders

The Australian Government is committed to ensuring the quality, integrity and sustainability of Australia's international education sector. Arrangements to improve the integrity and sustainability of the international education sector are set out in the Education Services for Overseas Students Amendment (Quality and Integrity) Bill 2024.

This Bill has not passed Parliament in time for arrangements to be implemented by 1 January 2025. The proposed legislative amendments are not in operation.

Engagement with Australia's education sector, has highlighted the value that some students and sectors bring with them to Australia, including certain scholarship holders.

Australian government scholarships

Education is central to Australia's partnerships with the region and Australian Government scholarships are a foundational feature of our bilateral and regional relationships. They help contribute to the development needs of Australia's partner countries, in line with bilateral and regional agreements. These scholarships develop the skills and knowledge of individuals to drive change and contribute to development in their own countries and the world more broadly.

Through its scholarships programs, Australia will continue to invest in the education of a new generation of local leaders with links to Australia. Students receiving an Australian government scholarship, including from States and Territories, will not count towards a provider's total new overseas student commencements. This includes, but is not limited to:

- Australia Awards recipients – long term, short term and Fellowship awards
- Australia for ASEAN scholarship recipients
- Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research (ACIAR) scholarship recipients
- Any Foreign Affairs student or Defence student (within the meaning of the *Migration Regulations 1994*) and
- Recipients of an Australian State or Territory scholarship.

Scholarship students from foreign entities or state-owned enterprises

It is in Australia's strategic and economic interest to support international partners choosing Australia as a preferred destination for their scholarship awardees. These are people who will play a

critical role in their country's future development. These individuals will contribute to Australia's people-to-people links, as well as the resilience of our region and global influence.

Students receiving a scholarship from a foreign entity or state-owned enterprise are also in Australia's strategic and economic interests. This includes:

- Scholarships from foreign entities as defined under section 8 of Australia's [*Foreign Relations \(State and Territory Arrangements\) Act 2020*](#). This includes foreign governments and hospitals, utilities, universities and other entities owned or funded by foreign governments and
- Scholarships from state-owned enterprises.

Scholarship students from multilateral or regional organisations

It is in Australia's strategic and economic interest to support multilateral or regional organisations choosing Australia as a preferred destination for their scholarship awardees.

This includes scholarships from the World Bank and other organisations.

Scholarship criteria

Indicators for scholarship arrangements for international students include:

- Prospective students must meet provider student admission requirements and meet Department of Home Affairs eligibility criteria for a student visa
- Tuition fees must be fully funded, and
- The prioritisation would not be contrary to Australia's foreign policy settings including sanctions regime and international obligations.

The Department of Education will contact providers through Principal Executive Officers (PEOs) and update the information on Scholarships on PRISMS. The initial data collected in November 2024 will be updated in PRISMS from 18 December 2024.

