



Annual Scholarships Update 2010

December 2010

Overview of Australia's development scholarships in 2009 and 2010

The Australian Government recognises the power of education in helping individuals to achieve their potential. Australian scholarships develop leaders who are capable of driving their own country's development and meeting emerging regional and global challenges. Scholarships build important links with influential leaders who share our values and have strong ties to Australia. Networks and mutual understanding established through scholarships promote international collaboration in addressing global issues and in fostering stability and prosperity.

Development scholarships implemented by AusAID provide opportunities for current and emerging leaders from developing countries to study at Australia's world class universities and education institutions or to undertake short-term study or professional development.

Scholarships administered by AusAID and the Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations (DEEWR) are implemented under the Australia Awards.

AusAID scholarship objectives

AusAID administers scholarships to developing countries for both long- and short-term study and professional development in Australia. Long-term study is largely post graduate level.

AusAID's scholarships have two objectives:

- > achieving country and regional program development outcomes through strengthened individual and institutional skills and knowledge, and by supporting leadership
- > supporting Australia's broader foreign policy agenda through long-term linkages and partnerships.

To ensure that scholars use their new skills and knowledge to further development, they must return home at the end of their scholarship.

Scholarships are an effective tool to support development objectives

Scholarships are one of a range of options available to support the achievement of development objectives. Scholarships are particularly relevant in areas where low capacity or weak leadership has been identified as constraints to development. The alignment of scholarships to country and sector strategies ensures that the skills and knowledge built support the achievement of broader development results in priority areas.

AusAID's scholarships engagement

Scholarships were provided to 48 developing countries in 2009 and, 56 countries in 2010.

Table 1: Scholarships expenditure 2008-09 and 2009-10 (\$m)

	FY 2008-09	FY 2009-10
Short-Term Awards	\$12.7	\$14.6
Long-Term Awards	\$132.9	\$139.1
Total	\$145.6	\$153.7

Table 2: Number of scholarships intake years 2009 and 2010

	2009	2010
Short-Term Awards	598	712
Long-Term Awards	1276	1370
Total	1874	2082

Figure 1 shows the countries that received the highest number of long-term scholarships in 2009 and 2010. Numbers of long-term scholarships are agreed with partner governments. A small number (around 200) are awarded in a regionally competitive process to target emerging leaders. Increasing long-term scholarships in Asia reflects high demand from partner governments and the capacity in these countries to absorb additional scholarships. In 2009 there was a one-off allocation of 120 Australia Iraq Agriculture Scholarships.

Figure 2 shows the countries that received the highest numbers of short-term scholarships. AusAID's short-term awards have largely been in the form of fellowships awarded through a regionally competitive process. Fellowships are awarded to Australian institutions partnered with institutions in developing countries. AusAID is piloting a new approach to short-term scholarships that target specific sector interventions. Short-term courses are for specific purposes and numbers by country tend to vary between years.

Figure 3 shows the areas of study for scholarships commencing in 2010. These areas of study reflect courses, not necessarily the intended sectoral outcome. Note that Natural and Physical Sciences includes areas of study that will have impact across a number of sectors, predominately climate change and environment, food security, infrastructure and rural development. Society and Culture includes a large number of development studies degrees.



Figure 1 Recipient of highest no. of long term scholarships 2009 and 2010

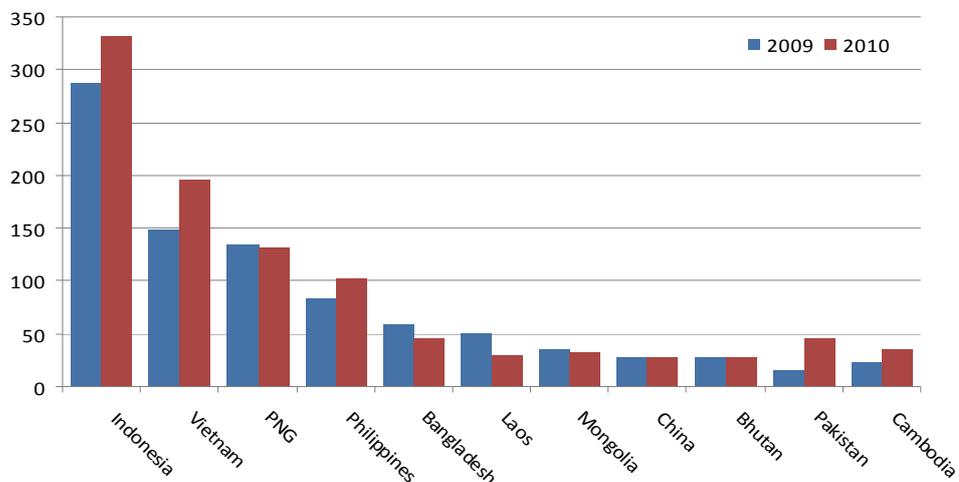


Figure 2: Recipients of highest no. of short term scholarships 2009 and 2010

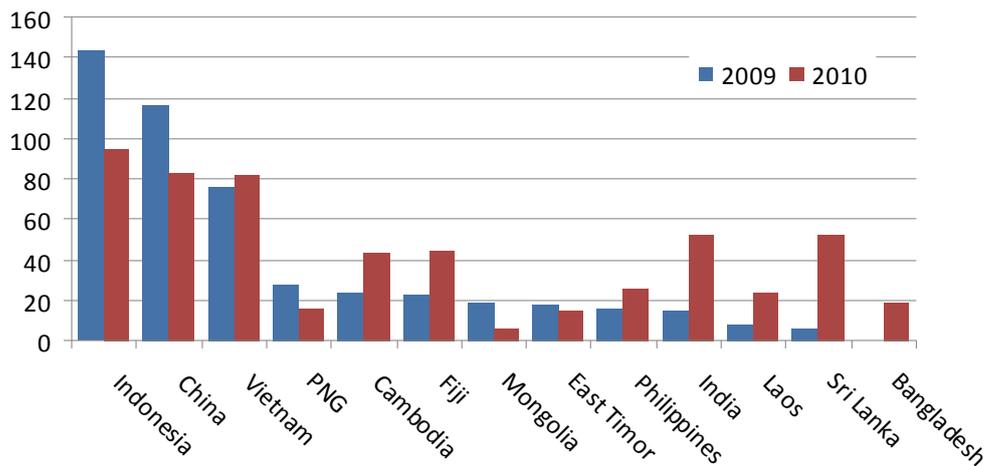
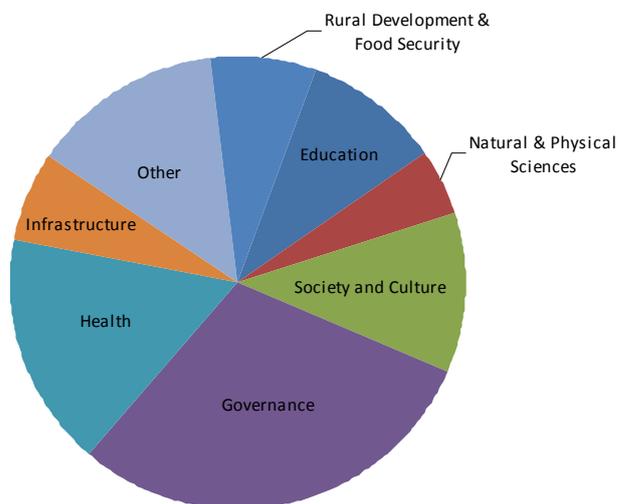


Figure 3: Long term scholarships by field of study 2010





Major developments

2009 and 2010 have been a significant period of change for scholarships and mark the beginning of a new phase of scholarships engagement. In the second half of 2010, the Australian National Audit Office commenced a review of AusAID's management of support to tertiary education, examining AusAID's performance over a ten year period. The review focuses heavily on scholarships and its findings will provide useful additional guidance as AusAID meets the challenges outlined below. The final report will be tabled in April 2011.

Australia Awards

The Australia Awards initiative was announced by the then Prime Minister in November 2009. The initiative aims to bring together the identification of scholarships administered by AusAID and DEEWR under one name, the Australia Awards.

The Australia Awards is supported by a secretariat located in the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, and including secondees from AusAID and DEEWR. The secretariat coordinates whole-of-government briefing on scholarships and is driving the development of the Australia Awards concept.

Development awards will continue to be implemented by AusAID, with AusAID's existing long- and short-term scholarships programs already being delivered under the Australia Awards banner. AusAID and DEEWR will also work together in 2011 to pilot a joint alumni data base and an alumni small grants scheme.

New geographic engagements

The last two years has seen an expansion of development scholarships into new geographic areas. The scholarships engagement for Africa has expanded, and long-term scholarships were offered to the Caribbean, Latin America and Burma for the first time in 2010. Scholarships to the Caribbean and Latin America are an important feature of the Australian aid program in these areas.

Increasing scholarships

The Government's 2010-11 Budget statement announced a doubling of scholarship to around 3,800 places annually in 2014. This includes an increase in scholarships for Africa from 260 in 2010 to 1,000 per year by 2013. At any given time there are between 2,500 and 3,500 people studying in Australia on development scholarships. By 2014, it is estimated that more than 6,000 people from developing countries will be studying in Australia on scholarships funded through the aid program. Based on current projections, it is expected that 16,000 scholarships will be provided over the next five financial years, at a total cost of around \$1.7 billion.



Scholarships performance

Key country achievements¹

The scholarships engagement in Vietnam is high profile and expanding, and will increase to 225 annually. Recent reports² show that scholarships are effective. Between 1998 and 2009 over 80 per cent of alumni remained in Vietnam and 52 per cent are in management positions. Most alumni are confident they can effect positive change within their organisations (90 per cent).

Drawing on alumni

The Indonesia program is driving innovative approaches to alumni and coordination with partners. The Government of Indonesia established the Overseas Scholarships Roundtable in 2009. The round table is aimed at improving coordination and planning of overseas scholarships as human resource development tool. Bilaterally, the Australia Indonesia Alumni Reference Group was established and brings together 150 leading experts in areas of development priority who assist in the planning for the development programming into the future. Notable alumni of Australian scholarships in Indonesia include Vice President Boediono and Foreign Minister Dr Marty Natalegawa.

Scholarships are a key part of Australia's engagement in South Asia, with scholarships provided to Bangladesh, Nepal, Bhutan, Sri Lanka, Maldives and India. In Bhutan, almost all alumni remain in their home country and contribute effectively to the development needs of Bhutan. In Bangladesh, all 17 alumni from the Bangladesh International Centre for Diarrheal Disease Research who graduated in 2008 returned home and among them 14 are still working for the Centre. Scholarships to Bangladesh also target the poor region on the border with the Chittagong Hill Tracts. Students from this area often need more support to complete their studies, and the program is investigating how the tertiary education needs of these students can be better met through greater flexibility in study options.

Scholarships to Vanuatu

Scholarships are an important element of Australia's assistance to Vanuatu. Vanuatu has extremely high retention rates of alumni, with only two alumni emigrating in 15 years. Around 30 per cent of senior Vanuatu Government officials are Australian Scholarship alumni.

In 2009 a tracer study, examined the impact of all donor and Vanuatu Government-funded scholarships in Vanuatu. The study found that 97 per cent of graduates are employed, with specialists in areas such as law, architecture and medicine all employed in their specialist fields. The data showed little significant difference between the experiences of men and women graduates on their return to Vanuatu.

A 2009 independent evaluation of the Australia scholarships to Cambodia found that the program produces good results. Over 260 civil servants have completed postgraduate qualifications in Australia since 1992. Alumni occupy a range of senior Government positions in Cambodia, including Under-Secretaries of State, Directors-General and senior advisors.

The Australia Awards for Africa Program is increasing to 1,000 scholarships a year across Africa by 2013, from a base of about 100 scholarships across ten countries in 2009. Sixty per cent of scholarships will be for short-term study and professional development, and the innovative design for the program includes options for in region training. The Program will be the Australian Government's largest single form of assistance in Africa.

¹ These results are drawn from Annual Program Performance Reports for 2009 – the most recent available.

² The 2009 annual report on Australia scholarships to Vietnam, and a 2008 impact study.



In 2009, over 100 agricultural scholarships were provided to Iraqi officials and training was provided to more than 260 Iraqi government employees in Australia and Jordan on modern agricultural practices, human rights, trade, financial management and customs and quarantine. Scholarships in Afghanistan are helping to build the capacity of four key central government ministries health, education, agriculture, and rural rehabilitation and development through an integrated program of training and scholarships for staff, and expert technical assistance.

Philippine Australia Human Resource Organisation Development Facility

A Human Resource and Organisational Development Facility was set up in Manila in 2010. As well as progressing Australia's development objectives in the Philippines, the facility is a vehicle for delivering scholarships and aims to enrich the broader bilateral relationship in areas of strategic importance to both the Philippines and Australia. A facility board comprised of Philippine Government and AusAID representatives is responsible for strategic oversight and sets direction on priority programs and targets partner organisations. The Facility calls for a more selective use of scholarships and other capacity building support through deeper engagement with key partner organisations. Specific innovations, including twinning arrangements and local scholarships, will be piloted and provide valuable learning across AusAID.

Initiative level performance

The performance of scholarships programs is assessed through AusAID's Quality Reporting System. Quality reports for 2009 show that scholarships programs are highly relevant and efficient. Scholarships also perform well in terms of sustainability and gender; however, they need to increase focus on effectiveness, largely due to unrealistic objectives. Strengthened monitoring and evaluation is major part of the forward agenda for scholarships, outlined below. There is more information on Quality at Implementation reports in Annex A.

Regular on award monitoring provides an early indication of success – a scholars' experience of their time in Australia is important to helping to develop a lasting link with Australia. The surveys also provide an indication of whether selection processes and pre-departure support mechanisms are working well. The 2010 survey³ showed a 99 per cent satisfaction rate.

Achievements and Challenges

Flexible approaches

A number of new designs were completed over 2009 and 2010, including new designs for Africa, Pakistan and the Caribbean. Design work for the Latin America scholarships program will be finalised in early 2011. The PNG program has been redesigned, and the Philippines scholarships engagement has been strengthened through a new approach to human resources management in through the Philippine Australia Human Resource Organisation Development Facility, outlined above.

These new designs have introduced more flexibility into AusAID scholarships, increasing their responsiveness to the needs of partner government through short courses, twinning and options for study in region. The program is also piloting short courses to provide further

³ 2010 Arrivals survey (June 2010)



options to use scholarships to support specific sectors. Short courses are a valuable tool for targeting senior personnel, cohorts with in or across departments, provinces, countries or regions and those who cannot be away from their jobs or family for extended periods. Short courses are also a mechanism for reconnecting with alumni and provide further opportunities for those who have studied long-term in Australia.

Consolidation and rationalisation

AusAID implemented two scholarships programs in 2009 and 2010 – Australian Development Scholarships and Australian Leadership Awards (scholarships and fellowships). These scholarships will be consolidated to streamline application and selection processes, align entitlements and ensure consistent and clear communications. Aspects of the scholarships which provide the flexibility to target those with leadership potential will be retained. The initial stages of consolidation will be in place for the 2012 intake (selected in 2011).

Monitoring and evaluation

A total of five tracer studies, three independent completion reports and three joint reviews (with New Zealand) of scholarships programs were completed over 2009 and 2010. These reviews provide valuable information on scholarships and have led to redesigned scholarships engagements and closer relationships with partner governments and other donors.

A mid term review of the Australia Leadership Awards was completed in September and a review and redesign of the leadership development program will be completed in early 2011. Lessons from these reviews will inform further work on strengthening the leadership development opportunities presented by AusAID's scholarships engagements. AusAID is also trialing a new tool – Sensemaker – to assess scholarships impact. Results of the trial will be available in March 2011.



Annex A

Table 1: Quality at Implementation Reports (27 reports)

	Relevance	Effectiveness	Efficiency	M&E	Sustainability	Gender Equality
Very high quality	0%	0%	4%	0%	0%	4%
Good quality	48%	33%	59%	22%	22%	48%
Adequate	37%	37%	37%	30%	70%	44%
Sub-total Satisfactory	96%	70%	100%	52%	93%	96%
Less than adequate	4%	30%	0	48%	7%	4%
Poor quality	-	-	-	-	-	-
Very poor quality	-	-	-	-	-	-
Sub-total Unsatisfactory	4%	30%	0	48%	7%	4%