

**Australia Awards
Fellowships
Frequently Asked
Questions and Answers**
(Updated August 2024)



Application FAQ's

1. Can Individuals apply for an Australia Awards Fellowship?

Answer:

- No. Only Australian Organisations in partnership with Overseas Counterpart Organisations (OCO) in eligible developing countries are invited to apply for an Australia Awards Fellowship.
 - o Australian Organisations must be legal entities with a current and active Australian Business Number
- Individuals are encouraged to seek out interested Australian Organisations who align with the objective to:
 - o strengthen partnerships and links between Australian Organisations and partner organisations in developing countries, in support of Australia's strategic development objectives; and
 - o increase the capability and professional development of selected Fellows to advance priority development issues bilaterally, sub-regionally and/or regionally.

2. Will there be a round to apply for next year?

Answer:

- Fellowships have in the past been an annual funding round, however, future commitments are always subject to delegate approval.
- Please look out for future rounds and dates on our [website](#).

3. Would an Australian Organisation be able to nominate more than one partner organisation; for example, nominate a Fellow from Nepal partner organisation and another from a Bangladesh partner organisation?

Answer:

- Yes. Australian Organisations can nominate Fellows from different partner organisations/countries.

4. Is there a need for co-contributions from non-government organisations (NGOs)?

Answer:

- All Australian Organisations must demonstrate commitment to the program and ongoing collaboration by providing a co-contribution to the Fellowship costs.

5. Can the proposed budget include accommodation and travel of instructors from other States/Countries?

Answer:

- No. Any costs related to instructor costs must be allocated to the Australian Host Organisation (AHO) and/or OCO as co-contribution. See Section 4.7.1 of the Guidelines for costs that cannot be claimed.
- See Section 5.2 of the Guidelines document for further information on what costs can be included in the proposed budget.

6. Can the proposed budget include cost to develop, print and collate training material?

Answer:

- No. See Section 4.7.1 of the Guidelines for costs that cannot be claimed.
- See Section 5.2 of the Guidelines document for further information on what costs can be included in the proposed budget.

7. We would like to fully fund a Fellow, i.e. no contribution from DFAT will be sought. Is this possible, and how many Fellows can we include in the Fellowship?

Answer:

- Yes. There is no limit on the total number of self-funded Fellows.
- DFAT must approve their nomination in Stage 2 of the process.

8. What detail should be included *the application form to confirm the Overseas Counterpart Organisation(s) had agreed to participate in the Fellowships?*

Answer:

- In the application form, the Australian Organisation that is applying is required to provide contact details for the Overseas Counterpart Organisation (OCO) and declare the OCO has agreed to support the Fellowship program as set out in the application.

9. What is the purpose of the *Program Overhead Fee*? And what percentage can we claim?

Answer:

- The Program Overhead Fee is a contingency fund to cover unexpected costs, such as: increases to Fellow's airfares, accommodation, support for medical repatriations, visa medical checks, etc.
- Up to 10 percent of the total DFAT funds requested, with an upper limit of \$25,000, can be claimed.
- **Note:** AHO's (direct or indirect) costs are not covered by the Program Overhead Fee and are not considered unexpected costs.

10. Do we need to acquit the *Program Overhead Fee*?

Answer:

- No. You do not need to acquit the *Program Overhead Fee*.

11. Can an AHO (applicant) partner with another Australian organisation which is based overseas?

Answer:

- The nominated OCO(s) cannot be an international arm or branch of the Australian Organisation, nor can it be under the same overarching international organisation or international consortium as the Australian Organisation.
- The OCO must operate and reside in an eligible country.

12. Does DFAT cover the travel costs for a Fellow to submit their visa application, attend a medical and/or attend a pre-departure briefing hosted by a DFAT Post?

Answer:

- Yes. AHO can seek funding to cover travel costs associated with a Fellow's Australian visa application and/or attend pre-departure briefing hosted by a DFAT Post. *Note: Fellows are to travel and return to their home location by the most direct, economical route.*

Delivery FAQs

13. If an application is successful, what is the earliest date we can expend the funds?

Answer:

- DFAT Funds can be spent from the invoice date and no later than the contract expiry date i.e. than 29 March 2027.

14. Do we have to spend the funds in this current financial year?

Answer:

- No. All payments and activities must be completed before 29 March 2027. No exemptions will be granted.

15. The proposed Fellow holds a current multi-entry visitor (subclass 600), do they need to apply for student visa (subclass 500)?

Answer:

- DFAT's preference is for all Fellows to travel on Student visa (subclass 500).
- If the Fellow proposes to travel on any other visa type for the purpose of completing the in-Australia activities, the Fellow should contact the Department of Home Affairs (Home Affairs) to ascertain if this is acceptable BEFORE they travel to Australia. There is a high-risk Fellows may be refused entry into Australia if Home Affairs approval is not obtained before departure.

16. Does the student visa (subclass 500) fee apply to Fellows?

Answer:

- No. The application fee will be waived for the DFAT sponsored student visa (subclass 500), as long as the Fellow uploads a copy of their DFAT approved Letter of Offer with their application and select subclass 500 (Student Visa) and Foreign Affairs and Defence stream.

17. What are the requirements to obtain an Australian Visa?

Answer:

- The Department of Home Affairs is responsible for issuing of Australian Visas. please visit [Subclass 500 Student visa \(homeaffairs.gov.au\)](https://www.homeaffairs.gov.au/subclass-500-student-visa) for further details.

18. How long will it take to get a Student Visa?

Answer:

- The Department of Home Affairs is responsible for the issue of visas.
- Visa processing times may vary, and in some cases, it may take longer than expected to be finalised.
- Apply early, as it can take up to 3 months for a visa to be issued following the submission of a correctly completed visa application.