



Australia Awards

# Professional Networking Brochure

Australia Awards –  
South Asia & Mongolia



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# 1. Guide to professional networking

Congratulations on your Australia Awards Scholarship. We are looking forward to welcoming you as part of the Australian professional network.

Australia Awards aims to enhance your learning experience by encouraging you to seek opportunities for networking in Australia with professional associations, academic associations, university clubs and societies, chambers of commerce, and volunteering organisations, as well as - following your return to your home country - with alumni associations and networks.

## 1.1 This Brochure

This Professional Networking Brochure has been developed for Australia Awards recipients from South Asia and Mongolia to support the connection of on-award scholars with Australian organisations and associations. Networking can provide you with exposure to different skills, knowledge and ways of doing things in Australia on which you can draw when you return home.

To assist awardees, this brochure provides a 'snapshot' of key Australian organisations as well as contact information so that you may endeavour to create professional links and build relationships that are maintained through to the post-award stage.

If you would like additional or more specific information about a particular organisation, we suggest that you contact the relevant organisation directly.



## 2. Professional associations in Australia

If you are serious about your career, consider joining a professional association. In addition to providing information about your chosen field, professional organisations can enhance your personal and professional development and provide endless networking opportunities.

### 5 reasons to join a professional networking association:

1. **Professional development:** Associations often offer lectures to keep members up to date on latest industry innovations, research and trends
2. **Networking:** Opportunities to participate in networking events and establish networks within your industry and sector
3. **Build a better résumé:** Listing your association membership on your résumé is impressive to current and future employers as it shows you are committed to staying connected in your profession
4. **Mentorship:** Some associations offer a formal mentorship program, while others offer new members the chance to reach out to more experienced people in your network for guidance and suggestions
5. **Make new friends:** Opportunities to meet new people and build contacts with experienced industry professionals

These are just a few of the many reasons to join a professional association. Remember, you never know who you will meet or what new opportunities might appear!



## 2.1 Australian professional associations

Below is a list of Australian professional associations by sector of study. This list is not exhaustive and you are encouraged to seek out other associations that may be better suited to your specific field of study. If you are not familiar with the professional associations in your chosen industry, search online to see which organisations you can choose from.

### **Agriculture & Food Security**

Australian Agricultural and Resource Economics Society  
Australian Institute of Agricultural Science and Technology

### **Education**

Asian Studies Association of Australia  
Australian Association for Research in Education  
Australian Council of TESOL Associations  
Australian Professional Teachers' Association  
Business Educators Australasia Inc.  
International Education Association of Australia  
VETnetwork Australia

### **Engineering**

Association of Professional Engineers, Scientists and Managers Australia  
Engineers Australia  
Society of Automotive Engineers Australasia

### **Health**

Australian Health Care and Hospitals Association  
Public Health Association Australia

### **Natural Resources Management/Mining**

AusIMM The Minerals Institute

### **Natural Resources Management/Environment**

Australasian Systematic Botany Society Inc.  
Ecological Society of Australia  
Environmental Health Australia  
Environment Institute of Australia and New Zealand  
National Trust  
Society for Conservation Biology

### **Public Policy/Governance**

Australian Institute of International Affairs  
Australian Institute of Management  
Financial Services Institute of Australasia  
Institute of Public Administration Australia

### **Research**

Australian Research Council

### **Water & Sanitation**

Australian Water Association  
International Water Centre

## 2.2 Membership Fees

Membership could cost from as little as \$10 per year for students depending on the association and the location. Some professional associations offer discounts for group membership of five or more students. Contact the association directly to find out their membership fees.



# 3. Academic associations and institutes

Australia Awards scholars have the opportunity to establish and maintain professional networks with academic associations and institutes throughout their studies. Some students will create links for future research collaborations or meet their potential employer before they finish their studies because they have been proactive in attending events, meetings and connecting with people and organisations.

Throughout your university Introductory Academic Program you will receive information from your host institution regarding which affiliated bodies are relevant to you and your field of study. A tip is to subscribe to the association's eNewsletters to receive information of upcoming events, news, conferences and seminars.



## 3.1 Academic associations and institutes

Below is a list of associations and institutes specialising in Asian studies at some major Australian universities:

**Australian National University**  
South Asia Research Institute  
Southeast Asia Institute

**Griffith University**  
Griffith Asia Institute



**Monash University**

Monash Asia Institute  
South Asia Studies Association of Australia

**The University of Melbourne**

Asia Institute

**University of Sydney**

Research Institute for Asia & the Pacific

**University of New South Wales**

The Asia-Australia Institute

**Victoria University**

Australia Asia Pacific Institute

Further links and information of centres supported by Australian Universities (i.e. research centres, associations, networks, colleges, and institutes) can be found on the Asian Studies Association of Australia website: [http://www.asaa.asn.au/asiapacific\\_centres.php](http://www.asaa.asn.au/asiapacific_centres.php)

# 4. University associations

Increase your employability by building your professional networks while at university! There are a range of activities you can undertake while studying that will help you become a stand-out applicant when seeking employment. Employers are looking to recruit individuals who display a range of skills, experience and professional engagement. Begin building your professional reputation while at university, through your interactions with university clubs and societies.

## 4.1 Clubs and societies

Check out your host institution's website for a list of clubs and societies. You can join an existing group or start your own. Usually, most clubs and societies will have a stall at the university Orientation Week for students to learn more about their activities and how to sign up for membership. Australia Awards scholars can request further information from university staff during the Introductory Academic Program.

## 4.2 International student clubs

While you are studying in Australia you may be interested in joining students who have a common cultural background, hobby or interest to your own. Groups of international students often establish international student clubs and societies to share their common interests and provide social, welfare and general support to each other. All students are encouraged to join these cultural, religious and political clubs. You should be able to find a list of existing international student clubs and societies on the university website.

Joining a university club or society is a fantastic way for you to get to know Australians and fellow international students and other scholarship recipients!





# 5. Australian Chambers of Commerce and Industry

The Australian Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ACCI) is Australia's largest and most representative business association, comprising State and Territory Chambers of Commerce and national industry associations. It speaks on behalf of the Australian business community globally.

The Australian Chamber contributes to public discussion and government decision-making on issues that impact on business, including economics, trade, workplace relations, work health and safety and employment, education and training. It represents the broad interests of the private sector rather than individual clients or a narrow sectional interest.

Each chamber runs networking and educational events which can assist you in developing professional networks that you can use while you are in Australia and when you return home.

## 5.1 Australian State and Territory Chambers of Commerce

### **National**

Australian Chambers of Commerce and Industry

### **Australian Capital Territory**

Canberra Business Chamber

### **New South Wales**

NSW Business Chamber

### **Queensland**

Chamber of Commerce and Industry Queensland

### **South Australia**

Business SA

### **Tasmania**

Tasmanian Chamber of Commerce and Industry

### **Victoria**

Victorian Employers Chamber of Commerce and Industry

### **Western Australia**

Chamber of Commerce and Industry Western Australia

# 6. Volunteering

Are you interested in gaining valuable experience and making a positive difference? Volunteer while in Australia!

## 6.1 Volunteer as part of your Award

Volunteering as part of your Australia Awards Scholarship is an opportunity for you to make a difference, to share skills, and to foster linkages with Australians and Australian organisations.

Volunteering can be valuable in connecting people to career paths and labour markets that may result in a better paid and more stable job. Volunteering also plays an important public diplomacy role, by promoting a positive perception of the South Asia and Mongolia region in Australia.

Volunteering provides many opportunities:

- a possible pathway to employment
- making a positive difference
- sharing skills and experience with others
- taking on a new challenge
- making new friends and networks

Organisations offer a wide range of volunteering assignments, including emergency volunteering, event volunteering, and holiday volunteering. Volunteering is available across a range of interests, including: environmental issues, indigenous communities, health, education, sports and recreation, animal welfare, youth, culture and communications.

Visit [www.volunteeringaustralia.org](http://www.volunteeringaustralia.org), the national peak body for volunteering, to find out more about volunteering and to connect with your State/Territory body.

## 6.2 Volunteer via your host institution

Many Australian host institutions offer their students opportunities to volunteer. Look for information in your Introductory Academic Program or contact your Student Contact Officer for further information.



# 7. Australia Awards alumni engagement

Stay connected and get engaged!

Australia Awards scholars return home with new ideas and knowledge, and the ability to make a significant contribution to their home countries as leaders in their field. Many alumni networks provide a variety of benefits and services to help alumni maintain connections, explore personal and professional development, and create new friendships and business networks with people of similar background.

## 7.1 Australia Awards – South Asia & Mongolia Alumni Networks

### **Bangladesh**

Australia Alumni Association Bangladesh

### **Bhutan**

Bhutan Australia Alumni Association

### **Maldives**

Maldives Australia Alumni

### **Mongolia**

Mongolia Australia Alumni 'Mozzies'

### **Nepal**

Association of Nepalese Alumni from Australia

### **Pakistan**

Australia Awards Alumni – Pakistan

### **Sri Lanka**

Sri Lanka Association of Australia Awards Alumni

## 7.2 Australia Awards – South Asia & Mongolia - Women in Leadership Network

Maintain connections with your Australian institution and fellow graduates by joining the university alumni network.

Your institution may have a local chapter of its alumni network in your city.

## 7.3 University Alumni Networks

The Network welcomes alumni from Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, the Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka.

## 7.4 Australian Government: Australian Global Alumni Engagement Strategy

The Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) is leading the development of a Global Alumni Engagement Strategy in collaboration with Australia's education institutions.

# 8. Tips for effective networking

The purpose of networking is to build and maintain mutually beneficial relationships with industry professionals. Networking is a two-way process: you need to think about how you can help others before you can expect help in return, especially in relation to employment opportunities.

Below you will find a list of tips to use during a networking function.

**How to work a room: Diana Carroll, Managing Director at DIANA P.R. offers the following 10 top tips for managing the mingling**

- 1. Be prepared** – Know the who, what, when, where and why of the function. Why are you going? Who do you want to talk to? What do you want to achieve? Remember to take your business cards and a pen.
- 2. Practice** – Create an engaging self-introduction and practice it at every occasion. Be open, be interesting and be sincere.
- 3. Arrive early** – Have a chat with the organisers; rescue a wall flower (is anyone standing alone?)
- 4. The three Es** – Energy, effort and enthusiasm. Look like you want to be there; look like you're having fun. Be positive, be friendly, and make everyone feel special.
- 5. Say something** – Have the courage to converse. Plan conversation starters and know how to find areas of interest. Remember, everyone loves to talk about themselves.







**6. Be positive** – Negativity is never attractive. So, never criticise the speaker, the venue, or the food – you could be talking to the caterer.

**7. Be polite** – Good manners open doors. Always RSVP (respond to the event invitation); remember to thank the host; always follow-up.

**8. Act as a conduit** – Invite the person with you to meet others.

**9. Avoid the sleaze factor** – Dress appropriately; behave properly; leave on time.

**10. Thank you and goodnight** – Know when to leave a person, a group, a function. Use something like: ‘It’s been lovely talking with you; enjoy the rest of the evening’.

Remember that the most important aspect of networking is to follow up the contacts you have received. Place a phone call, send an email, or book a lunch and the person you just met will get a more lasting impression; this shows professionalism as well as respect for the time the other person took to meet you.





/ Professional associations  
/ Academic associations and institutes  
/ University clubs and societies  
/ Chambers of Commerce / Volunteering  
/ Alumni / Networking



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