



Australia Awards

Pre-interview Information Sheet No 2: Returning Home

As an applicant for an Australia Award, you were asked to provide detailed information about your expectations in undertaking study in Australia and to tell us how you will use the knowledge and connections you gained from your scholarship, when you return home. If you are offered an Australia Award, we will build on these commitments and develop a Reintegration Action Plan (RAP). This plan will become central to your journey as an Australia Awards scholar. On completing your Award, you will return home to implement your RAP. We will use it as a monitoring and evaluation tool to ensure that you implement your acquired knowledge and skills. As an Australia Award recipient this is your contracted obligation.

Expectations

At your interview, you will be expected to discuss in detail how studying in Australia will contribute to your skills and knowledge gap and how you will use these learned skills to make an impact on returning home. You must be able to explain how your plan supports the needs of your organisation or sector; how it relates to your country's development priorities; and how your proposed studies will help actualise these plans. There are three key areas that you should be prepared to defend:

Skills and knowledge you expect to gain from an Award.

Ask yourself:

- What is my objective?
- What is the course content of my proposed course of study, does it include my areas of special interest?
- What skill or knowledge gap do I want to build on? Why?
- What is the problem I want to solve and how will I apply my new skills, knowledge, and experience to this problem?
- What are my long-term career objectives?
- Can I demonstrate coherence in my past, present and future work?
- How does my planned study relate to my career path – past and future (medium – long term)?

Your country's development priorities

Ask yourself:

- What development challenges does my country face?
- What change is needed to advance these developmental challenges?
- What direct knowledge or experience do I have of such development challenges?
- How do they relate to my area of expertise and my proposed area of study?
- How might I help in the future to address these development challenges?

**Refer to Pre-interview Information Sheet No 3: Development Agenda*

1. Improving policy or practice in your current or future job

Ask yourself:

- How will I influence or affect change to policy or practice in my organisation, sector, and country?
- How do I expect to make an impact when I return home?
- How will I disseminate and share the skills and knowledge I gain from the Award in my workplace?
- Who can I influence or whose support will I need when implementing my new skills and knowledge to create change?

**Refer to Pre-interview Information Sheet No 4: Change for Development*

Be inspired...

"The developing world is full of entrepreneurs and visionaries who with access to education, equity, and credit would play a key role in developing the economic situations in their countries".

**Professor Muhammad Yunus
Nobel Laureate**

Remember...

The Australian Government and your government work in partnership to meet your country's development goals. If you are awarded an Australia Award, your RAP is the plan of action that you, in collaboration with your employer, commit to. This is the critical link between your studies and your future contribution to change for development in your country. You must be prepared to sell your ideas at your interview.

By accepting an Australia Award, you agree to:

- Return home on completion of your scholarship to implement your RAP.
- Contribute to the outcomes and objectives - directly or indirectly - linked to your country's vision for development.

Remember to...

- Sell yourself.
- Sell your intentions.
- Show your creativity.
- Sell your vision of the future.

