



Australia Awards

# Pre-interview Information Sheet No 3: The Development Agenda

## Understanding context

The Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) administers the Australia Awards. They contribute to the long-term development needs of Australia's partner countries in line with bilateral and regional agreements.

As an applicant for an Australia Award Scholarship, it is important that you clearly understand how you, your role, and your professional background fit into the big picture of both the Australian Government's and your own Government's national interests and agreed development agenda.

## The Australian perspective

Australia's approach to development is closely aligned with its economic diplomacy policy.

*Australia's development cooperation with African nations helps to advance stability, growth and prosperity.*

**Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade**

Gender Equality, Disability, and Social Inclusion (GEDSI) stand central to inclusive development and to the Australian perspective.

Information on Australia's new development policy is available at these web links:

- › [Australian aid: promoting prosperity, reducing poverty, enhancing stability](#)
- › [Australia's new development policy and performance framework: a summary](#)

## Know your country's plans

Before your interview, take time to research your own Government's vision for development, strategic policies, and plans, and understand how your own sector of work and the organisation in which you work, fit into these plans.

In recent years, most African countries have developed their "Vision" for development over the long and medium term. Such plans articulate how the country will pull together to achieve its common development goals.

*Development Vision 2025 has identified the kind of enabling environment that is essential for the nation to flourish economically, socially, culturally, and politically.*  
**Planning Commission, Tanzania**

## Questions to ask yourself

- What are the key elements of my government's development agenda?
- What are the key priority areas of my country and how does my organisation fit into this?
- What are the key issues to be addressed for sustainable development?
- How does my work link to the sector priorities and targets through my organisation's mandate and strategic plans?
- How will an Australia Award help me in my work, to contribute to these overarching objectives in the future?
- What are the gender equality, disability, and social inclusion (GEDSI) factors to be considered priorities?

## Selling your ideas

During your interview, you must be able to sell yourself and your application in terms of potential future contributions to the development agenda.

*The National Development Plan is a plan for the country to eliminate poverty and reduce inequality by 2030...*

**National Planning Commission,  
South Africa**

## Be prepared

For your interview, be ready to discuss your ideas – have your own vision for the future that links to your nation's development priorities, your current and future job, and your proposed study in Australia. How will your preferred master's course make this a reality?

*We are confident that Africa has the capability to realise her full potential in development, culture, and peace and to establish flourishing, inclusive and prosperous societies.*

**African Union – Agenda 2063**

Visit the DFAT website to learn about Australia's development and economic diplomacy policies:  
<http://www.dfat.gov.au>

