



## **MINISTER FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS**

The Hon Julie Bishop MP

7 September 2017

### **AUSTRALIA AWARDS 2018**

Today I announce the Australian Government will provide more than 3,700 Australia Awards Scholarships and Fellowships in 2018 to emerging leaders from 40 countries in Asia, the Pacific, Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean, to study in Australia and the Pacific.

The Government will contribute \$320 million from our aid program to the Australia Awards in 2018, funding 1,272 Scholarships for study at Australian institutions and 94 Fellowship grants involving 1,136 fellows across 48 Australian host organisations. Australian hosts include government agencies, universities, research centres, national sports organisations, NGOs and industry bodies.

The 2018 Australia Awards program will also provide funding for 950 Australia Awards short courses and 345 scholarships for study at universities in the Pacific.

The Awards offer the next generation of global leaders an opportunity to undertake study, research and professional development which will help them contribute to development in their home countries. Students will acquire knowledge, skills and cultivate networks across a range of areas, including engineering, education, health, agriculture and public sector management.

The Australia Awards complement the work of the Government's New Colombo Plan, which is supporting more than 30,000 Australian undergraduates to live, study and work in the Indo-Pacific region. Australia's international alumni are influencers and leaders in their home countries, and through our Global Alumni Strategy, we grow a community that strengthens and maintains our regional connections.

Together, the New Colombo Plan and the Australia Awards deepen Australia's engagement with the region and facilitate genuine two-way educational exchange.