



Australian Government

Community  
Grants Hub  
Improving your grant experience



# Destination Australia Program 2021 (Round Two)

## General Feedback for applicants

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### Overview

The objective of the grant opportunity is to attract and support domestic and international students to study in regional Australia, to grow and develop regional Australian tertiary education providers and to offer students a high quality learning experience.

The program will:

- support regional and remote Australian education providers to recover from the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic
- enhance regional and remote Australian education providers through promoting activities that contribute to growth and sustainability
- offer students from Australia and overseas the opportunity to undertake high quality education, training and research, and to experience life in regional and remote Australia
- ensure regions share in the social, cultural and economic benefits of our international education sector


### Selection results

The Destination Australia Program 2021 (Round Two) application period opened on 12 May 2020 and closed at 11pm AEST on 7 July 2020.

A total of fifty-three applications were received. Seventeen organisations were successful in receiving funding totalling \$9,545,250 (GST exclusive). Successful applicants may have received less funding than requested.

### Selection process

The Community Grants Hub (the Hub) administered a targeted competitive selection process on behalf of the Department of Education, Skills and Employment. A 'targeted competitive' process ensures all eligible applicants had an equal opportunity to apply.



The Hub received fifty-three applications. These applications underwent eligibility and compliance checks against the eligibility criteria as outlined in Section 4 and Section 7 of the Grant Opportunity Guidelines (GOG).

Forty-seven organisations were identified as eligible to apply. The Hub completed a preliminary assessment of the eligible organisation's responses to the assessment criteria.

Following preliminary assessment by the Hub, all outcomes were referred to a Selection Advisory Panel (SAP) made up of Department of Education, Skills and Employment officers from relevant business areas, who made funding recommendations to the Decision Maker.

Members of the SAP considered whether the application provided *value with relevant money*<sup>1</sup>, having regard to:

- the initial preliminary score against the assessment criteria facilitated by the Hub
- the overall objective/s to be achieved in providing the grant
- the capacity of the applicant to administer the scholarships
- the relative value of the grant sought
- the extent to which the evidence in the application demonstrates that it will contribute to meeting the outcomes/objectives
- how the grant activities will target individuals
- the relative merit of each application

The SAP also took into consideration a fair and equitable distribution of funded activities across geographic locations, qualifications and student types.

Following recommendations from the SAP, the Minister for Education, Skills and Employment approved the amount of funding to be awarded to successful grant recipients.

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<sup>1</sup> 'Value with relevant money' is a judgement based on the grant proposal representing an efficient, effective, economical and ethical use of public resources and determined from a variety of considerations.



## Criteria specific feedback

### Criterion 1:

**Describe how the scholarship program will contribute toward the strategic priorities of your institution.**

**When addressing the criterion, strong responses clearly described:**

- How the award of a Destination Australia grant will enable the institution to grow student numbers.
- The type of courses in which the institution proposed to offer scholarships. These details included field of study and qualification level upon graduation.
- Relevant aspects of the institutions strategic plan or similar, and clearly linked the proposed scholarships to this plan.
- How the grant would enable students in regional areas to study locally rather than moving to city locations.
- How the provision of a scholarship makes moving to regional areas a more attractive proposition to domestic and international students.
- The connection between regional employment opportunities and scholarships and how they would provide students with opportunities to identify a pathway from study to working in the local community.



## Criterion 2:

**Demonstrate how the funding will contribute to the delivery of quality education, and growth within your institution and your community.**

**When addressing the criterion, strong responses clearly described:**

- How the Destination Australia grant will enable growth in the institution as a result of new scholarships (beyond increases in student numbers) either by building on existing delivery of quality education, research and training, or developing new education, research and training capacity.
- How the scholarships will allow the institution to expand their current offering by supporting extra classes, equipment purchases or engaging more teaching staff.
- How the scholarships would assist the institution in increasing its reputation in industry.
- How the scholarships will build on the institution's existing research or training capacity.
- How the scholarships would attract students to specific fields of study, resulting in better industry and research partnerships to enhance the quality of education and delivery experience to the participants.
- The linkages the institution has with its regional community (e.g. through local industry and community organisations) and how these will be leveraged to maximise the benefits of the Destination Australia Program to the community more broadly.
- The nature and scope of existing linkages with the community and industry.
- Examples of how the existing community and industry linkages will be leveraged to generate benefits such as employment opportunities for local communities or tailoring of education to meet local industry needs.
- How linkages with local industry provides benefits to scholarship participants.



### Criterion 3:

**Demonstrate your capacity and capability to provide effective student support that meets or exceeds minimum legislative requirements.**

**When addressing the criterion, strong responses clearly described:**

- How the institution will ensure scholarship students will have access to adequate support services throughout the duration of their scholarship, including health and welfare services, career advice, and accommodation support.
- Quantifiable evidence of how the institution has provided support services to international and domestic students in the past.
- The results of internal and external surveys and comparative studies between institutions, including current and previous provision of support services.
- Other examples of the institution's track record such as how it responded to student feedback by implementing improvements to services.
- Clear access to support services. For example, a counsellor or accommodation officer as part of the welcoming team that are also available on an ongoing basis.
- How Destination Australia Scholarship recipients would have access to support services over the life of the scholarship.
- The range of services available and the demonstration of how the applicant would ensure they continue to be accessible.



**Criterion 4:**

**Describe how you will promote, market and manage the scholarship program, including how you will attract high achieving students.**

**When addressing the criterion, strong responses clearly described:**

- How the institution will promote the scholarships in line with the funding agreement including how they will attract high achieving students
- The types and methods of activities the institution would undertake to promote the scholarships and where applicable, examples of how these activities have been effective in the past.
- The type of students the institution proposes to attract, and the planned strategies to attract this target group.
- The institutions definition of what they considered a high achieving student to be.
- A proposed approach on how the institution plans to ensure students are maintaining their ongoing eligibility including, but not limited to their living circumstances.
- How students will be required to provide regular evidence of residing in the regional or remote area.
- The controls the institution has in place or would adopt to ensure the funds are appropriately used.
- Examples or details of how the institution will use the \$1,500 administration/promotions funding.



## Guidance for future Destination Australia Program grant applications

### Read the supporting information before applying

- It is important to read all available information provided about Destination Australia when applying for funding, especially the Grant Opportunity documentation provided on the Hub's [website](#).
- The Grant Opportunity documentation is specific to each Destination Australia round and contains important information about the purpose of the program, eligibility and compliance requirements, eligible items, timeframes and how to apply.
- The Application Form includes helpful information and details on questions relating to eligibility, priority for funding, and mandatory information required by the Hub and Department of Education, Skills and Employment for the selection process.

### Check the application before it is submitted

Applicants are encouraged to check the Application Form for completeness prior to submission.

- Check that all fields in the Application Form have been completed in full.
- Check that all answers to questions have been entered correctly.
- Check that responses to criteria are accurate, clear and easy to read.
- Check that the application provides a level of detail that is in proportion to the amount of funds requested and the complexity of the project.