



Australian Government

**Community
Grants Hub**
Improving your grant experience



Destination Australia

General Feedback for Applicants

Overview

The Destination Australia Program is a targeted competitive grant round, announced as part of the Planning for Australia's Future Population on 20 March 2019. The program aligns with the National Strategy for International Education 2025.

Destination Australia is funded under the Department of Education's Outcome 2.7 – International Education Support. The objective of Outcome 2.7 is to support the sustainable growth of Australia's high quality international education, training and research through strong government-to-government engagement, strategic policy and legislation.

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

The program will provide grants to eligible Australian tertiary education providers to allocate, administer and promote scholarships for international and domestic students studying in regional Australia.

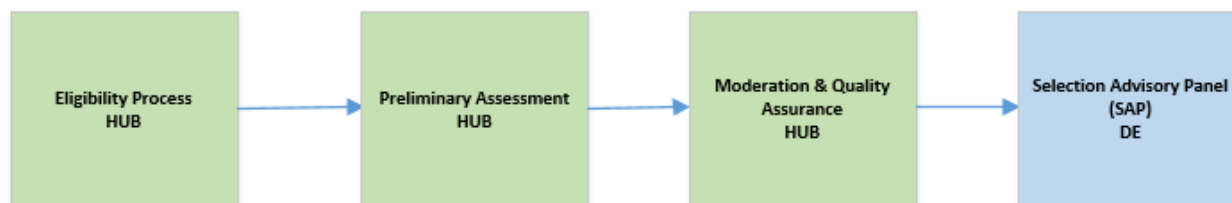
Selection Results

The application period opened on 19 August 2019 and closed at 11pm AEST on 12 September 2019. The Australian Government announced a total of \$93.7 million (GST exclusive) over four years for the Destination Australia Program.

A total of 69 applications were received, there were seven applicant requested withdrawals which resulted with 62 applications assessed. After assessment, 35 applications were successful in receiving funding of \$49.995m (GST exclusive). Successful applicants may have received less funding than requested.

Selection Process

A targeted competitive selection process was undertaken, allowing Australian tertiary education providers that met the eligibility criteria to apply. Targeted competitive funding rounds are open to a small number of potential grantees based on the specialised requirements of the grant activity under consideration.



Applications underwent eligibility and compliance checks against the requirements outlined in the Grant Opportunity Guidelines. The Community Grants Hub (the Hub) did a preliminary assessment of all eligible and compliant applications against the assessment criteria for the element for which they applied.

A Selection Advisory Panel (the Panel) from the Department of Education, independent of the Hub and with a mix of relevant policy, program and delivery expertise, then made funding recommendations to the Department of Education’s Delegate.

The Minister, Department of Education, made the final decision to approve the funding to the successful grant recipients.

General feedback

The successful applicants proposed activities were eligible, appropriate and considered effective for achieving the program objectives. They demonstrated their suitability for public funding, value for money and met all of the eligibility requirements in the Grant Opportunity Guidelines. The feedback provided below on behalf of the Department of Education is to help grant applicants understand what strong applications addressed and how to strengthen future applications.

The following is general feedback that is relevant to all applications. Strong applicants supported their application by addressing:

- The strategic priorities of the institution – providing specific details on how the scholarship program would contribute towards the strategic priorities of the institution.
- Eligibility – providing strong evidence to address student eligibility for the duration of the scholarship program.
- Sustainable growth of Australia’s high quality international and domestic education providers– providing strong evidence to describe how the award of Destination Australia would enable the institution to grow student numbers and build on existing quality delivery of education, research and training within the institution and community.
- Growth of student numbers – providing specific evidence to explain how the scholarship would enable growth in the institution including how to attract high-achieving new students.
- Linkages institutions have with regional communities – providing strong evidence to address specific details on how linkages the institution has with its regional community could be

leveraged to maximise the benefits of the scholarship program to the community more broadly.

- Capacity and Capability – providing strong evidence to describe the institutions track record in the type of support services offered to both international and domestic students.
- Support Services – providing specific evidence to demonstrate how scholarship recipients could access and utilise adequate support services throughout the duration of the scholarship.
- Promotion and marketing the scholarship program – providing strong evidence to demonstrate how the institution will promote and market the scholarships in line with the funding agreement.
- Supporting claims with relevant, reliable and current evidence – providing strong evidence to support claims in line with Program objectives.
- Ensuring all aspects of the assessment criteria were addressed, including using the character count available to provide sufficient detail when responding.
- Linking claims made back to the policy objectives and the project description/ services to be delivered.
- Clearly demonstrating the need for the activity in the specific geographic area being targeted.
- Providing evidence to demonstrate the institution has the relevant skills and expertise to ensure successful project delivery for the number of scholarships requested.

Guidance for future Destination Australia grant applications

The following guidance may assist applicants in completing applications for Destination Australia grant funding.

Read the supporting information before applying

- It is important to read all available information provided about Destination Australia grants when applying for funding, especially the Grant Opportunity documentation provided on the Hub's website.
- The Grant Opportunity documentation is specific to Destination Australia grant round and contains important information about the purpose of the program, eligibility and compliance requirements, timeframes, and how to apply.
- The Application Form includes helpful information and details on questions relating to mandatory information required by the Hub and Department of Education for the selection process.
- Future grant opportunities may be available for this program. You can find out about new grant opportunities on Grant Connect.
- Applicants cannot propose a grant activity that is ineligible for funding (for example, scholarship programs that begin after the grant activity year).