



Australian Government

**Community  
Grants Hub**  
Improving your grant experience



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## Destination Australia Program – Round 4

### Feedback for applicants

The Department of Education has provided the following General Feedback for applicants of the Destination Australia Program Round 4 grant opportunity.

#### Overview

The Destination Australia Program 2023 (Round 4) provides grants to Australian tertiary education providers in regional areas to offer scholarships to domestic and international students. The Destination Australia Program Round 4 includes funding to promote those scholarships and promote tertiary education in regional Australia more broadly.

The grant opportunity application period opened on 11 October 2022 and closed on 22 November 2022.

The grant opportunity received 56 applications. There was a strong interest in the program and successful applications were of a high standard. Applications were assessed according to the procedure detailed in the Grant Opportunity Guidelines and outlined in the selection process below.


This feedback is provided to assist grant applicants to understand what generally comprised a strong application and the content of quality responses to the assessment criteria for this grant opportunity.

Following the Delegate's decision, 27 applications were selected for funding, to a value of \$19,692,750 (GST excl) over 4 years.

#### Selection process

The Community Grants Hub undertook the screening for organisation eligibility and compliance against the requirements outlined in the Grant Opportunity Guidelines. This information was provided to the Department of Education for the final decision on whether an application did not meet the eligibility and/or compliance criteria.

The Community Grants Hub undertook the preliminary assessment of all eligible and compliant applications using a targeted competitive selection process. Following preliminary assessment, all assessed applications were referred to Department of Education for consideration by its Selection Advisory Panel (the Panel).



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The Panel, comprising departmental staff and a sector representative, assessed applications and provided advice to inform the department’s funding recommendations to the Delegate for decision.

Applications suitable for funding were identified based on the strength of their responses to the assessment criteria and demonstrated ability to meet the grant requirements outlined in the Grant Opportunity Guidelines.

Specifically, the Panel took into consideration:

- the number of regional campuses being supported by the scholarships
- the spread of scholarships across states and territories
- the spread of scholarships across higher education and vocational education and training providers
- the number of domestic and international scholarships sought
- the capacity of the applicant to administer the scholarships
- whether the proposed courses were aligned with the Australian Government’s National Skills Priority List and whether the identified skills are currently in shortage with future demand
- available grant funds for the grant opportunity
- if the applicant previously received Destination Australia grants, that had used all scholarships and been compliant with guidelines and their grant agreement in the administration of the program.

Each applicant was required to address the following selection criteria:

**Criterion 1 – Strategic priorities**

Describe how delivering Destination Australia scholarships will contribute to achieving your strategic priorities.

**Criterion 2 – Benefits to the region**

Describe how receiving Destination Australia scholarship funding will:

- facilitate growth in the number of enrolled students at your regional campus
- benefit your regional community.

**Criterion 3 – Supporting scholarship students**

Describe how you will support Destination Australia scholarship students to:

- achieve academic success and complete their course
- become part of your regional community.

**Criterion 4 – Administering and promoting Destination Australia scholarships**

Describe how you will administer the Destination Australia scholarships and how you will promote the scholarship opportunity to prospective students.

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Preferred applicants were identified based on the strength of their responses to the selection criterion, their demonstrated ability to meet the grant requirements outlined in the Grant Opportunity Guidelines and performance of the grant management for applicants who had previously received a Destination Australia grant.

## Selection results

Twenty seven organisations were selected to deliver the Destination Australia Program Round 4 grant.

The selected organisations provided strong responses to the selection criteria and demonstrated their ability to meet the eligibility requirements outlined in the Grant Opportunity Guidelines. Further detail about what constituted a strong response to each criterion is provided below.



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## Criterion 1: Strategic priorities

Describe how delivering Destination Australia scholarships will contribute to achieving your strategic priorities.

When addressing the criterion, strong applications will describe:

- what your strategic priorities are
- how scholarship students completing the targeted courses at your regional campus will contribute to achieving your strategic priorities
- the process and criteria you will use to select students to receive scholarships who meet the criteria in section **Error! Reference source not found.** of the Grant Opportunity Guidelines
- any additional characteristics you intend to require of scholarship students (for example, demonstrated financial need, high levels of academic achievement).

Strength	Example
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Strong applications were required to describe what their strategic priorities are</li></ul>	Strong responses demonstrated the linkages between institution's strategic priorities and how the awarding of a Destination Australia grant will enable the institution to achieve those priorities.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Strong applications were required to demonstrate/describe how scholarship students completing the targeted courses at their regional campus will contribute to achieving their strategic priorities</li></ul>	Strong responses demonstrated how the grant would enable students to study in the region rather than moving to city locations.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Strong applications were required to demonstrate/describe the process and criteria they will use to select students to receive scholarships who meet the criteria in section <b>Error! Reference source not found.</b> of the Grant Opportunity Guidelines</li></ul>	Strong responses described how the type of courses the institution proposed to offer scholarships in would be aligned with National Skills Priority List and the identified skills are currently in shortage with future demand. These details included field of study and qualification level upon graduation.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Strong applications were required to demonstrate/describe any additional characteristics they intend to require of scholarship students (for example, demonstrated financial need, high levels of academic achievement).</li></ul>	Strong responses described the institution's plan for prioritising scholarships to domestic students from underrepresented groups and how the provision of a scholarship makes moving to regional areas a more attractive proposition to domestic and international students.



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## Criterion 2: Benefits to the region

Describe how receiving Destination Australia scholarship funding will:

- facilitate growth in the number of enrolled students at your regional campus
- benefit your regional community.

When addressing the criterion, strong applications will describe:

- how you will leverage the award of Destination Australia scholarships to work towards increased enrolments at your regional campus
- your existing links with your regional community (for example, through local industry and community organisations) and how you will leverage these linkages to maximise the benefits of Destination Australia scholarships beyond your campus
- how you will measure your success against this criterion.

Strength	Example
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Strong applications were required to demonstrate/describe facilitate growth in the number of enrolled students at their regional campus</li></ul>	Strong responses demonstrated 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.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Strong applications were required to demonstrate/describe regional linkages which will benefit the scholarship program</li></ul>	Strong responses described how the linkages with local industry provides benefits to scholarship students as well as the nature and scope of existing linkages with the community and industry.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Strong applications were required to demonstrate/describe how they will leverage the award of Destination Australia scholarships to benefit your region</li></ul>	Strong responses described 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 in the region where the institution is located.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Strong applications were required to demonstrate/describe how they will measure their success against this criterion</li></ul>	Strong responses demonstrated examples of how the existing community and industry linkages will be leveraged to generate benefits to the regional community more broadly, such as employment opportunities for local communities or tailoring of education to meet local industry needs.



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### Criterion 3: Supporting scholarship students

Describe how you will support Destination Australia scholarship students to:

- achieve academic success and complete their course
- become part of your regional community.

When addressing the criterion, strong applications will describe:

- your proven track record in providing support services to both international and domestic students that meets or exceeds legislative requirements
- the support services you will make available to scholarship students, including any specifically designed for those students, and how they will support scholarship students to achieve academic success and course completion
- how you will promote those support services and encourage scholarship students to access them
- how you will help scholarship students engage with the broader regional community
- how you will measure your success against this criterion.

Strength	Example
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Strong applications were required to demonstrate/describe student support to achieve academic success and complete their course</li></ul>	Strong responses 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.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Strong applications were required to demonstrate/describe support on helping students become part of the regional community</li></ul>	Strong responses described quantifiable evidence of how the institution has provided support services to international and domestic students to be part of their regional community.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Strong applications were required to demonstrate/describe their proven track record in providing support services to both international and domestic students which meets or exceeds legislative requirements</li></ul>	Strong responses demonstrated the results of internal and external surveys and comparative studies between institutions, which included current and previous provision of support services.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Strong applications were required to demonstrate/describe the support services they will make available to scholarship students, including any specifically designed for those students, and how they will support scholarship students to achieve academic success and course completion</li></ul>	Strong responses demonstrated other examples of the institution's track record such as how it responded to student feedback by implementing improvements to services.



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<b>Strength</b>	<b>Example</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Strong applications were required to demonstrate/describe how they will promote those support services and encourage scholarship students to access them</li></ul>	Strong responses described clear access to the support services. For example, a counsellor or accommodation officer as part of the welcoming team which are also available on an ongoing basis.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Strong applications were required to demonstrate/describe how they will help scholarship students engage with the broader regional community</li></ul>	Strong responses described how Destination Australia Scholarship recipients would have access to support services provided by the regional community.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Strong applications were required to demonstrate/describe how they will measure their success against this criterion</li></ul>	Strong responses described how the success of the program will be measured by providing details of the metrics they will use including by the number of applications received, number of students completing their courses and community engagement.



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#### Criterion 4: Administering and promoting Destination Australia scholarships

Describe how you will administer the Destination Australia scholarships and how you will promote the scholarship opportunity to prospective students.

When addressing the criterion, strong applications will describe:

- your capacity and administrative processes for effectively managing scholarships, including how you will ensure scholarship students continue to meet the eligibility requirements, such as ongoing residence in a regional area, and ensuring students are paid scholarship funding in accordance with the guidelines
- your processes for ensuring that all reporting requirements at section **Error! Reference source not found.** of the Grant Opportunity Guidelines for this grant opportunity will be met in accordance with legislative requirements (such as privacy)
- the process you will use to promote the Destination Australia scholarship opportunity to domestic and international students using a range of communication methods most suitable to your region's needs
- how you will promote the benefits of studying, living and working in regional Australia to potential scholarship students, with specific reference to your regional campus, and how this is designed to influence students' decisions to study in a regional area
- how you will measure the effectiveness of your promotional activities.

Strength	Example
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Strong applications were required to demonstrate/describe their capacity and administrative processes for effectively managing scholarships, including how they will ensure scholarship students continue to meet the eligibility requirements, such as ongoing residence in a regional area, and ensuring students are paid scholarship funding in accordance with the guidelines</li></ul>	Strong responses demonstrated the institution's capability in administratively managing the scholarship students from selection to ongoing scholarship management.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Strong applications were required to demonstrate/describe their processes for ensuring all reporting requirements at section <b>Error! Reference source not found.</b> of the Grant Opportunity Guidelines for this grant opportunity will be met in accordance with legislative requirements</li></ul>	Strong responses described the monitoring mechanisms the institution have in place or would adopt to ensure the funds are appropriately used.





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Strength	Example
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Strong applications were required to demonstrate/describe the process they will use to promote the Destination Australia scholarship opportunity to domestic and international students using a range of communication methods most suitable to their region's needs</li></ul>	Strong responses described the type of students the institution proposes to attract, and the planned strategies to attract domestic and international students.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Strong applications were required to demonstrate/describe how they will promote the benefits of studying, living and working in regional Australia to potential scholarship students, with specific reference to their regional campus, and how this is designed to influence students' decisions to study in a regional area</li></ul>	Strong responses described how students will be required to provide regular evidence of residing in the regional or remote area.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Strong applications were required to demonstrate/describe how they will measure the effectiveness of their promotional activities</li></ul>	Strong responses described a proposed approach on how the institution plans to measure through surveys with their international students the effectiveness of their promotional activities.