# Destination Australia

## Questions and Answers

1. **What is the closing time and date for applications?**

   The application form must be submitted by **11.00pm AEST** on **Thursday, 12 September 2019**. It is recommended that you submit your application **well before the closing time and date**.

2. **If I am not able to submit my application by the due time and date, can I be granted an extension?**

   No, extensions will not be given.

   If an application is late or the Community Grants Hub is requested to approve a lodgement after the closing date, the late application policy available on the Community Grants Hub website will apply.

3. **What is the aim of the Destination Australia Program?**

   The aim of the Destination Australia Program 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.

4. **Who can apply for the Destination Australia grant opportunity?**

   To be eligible for this grant opportunity, you must be an Australian tertiary education provider with an active registration who meets the following criteria:

   If applying for scholarships for domestic students you must be:

   - A Registered Training Organisation (RTO) registered with the Australian Skills Quality Authority (ASQA), Victorian Registration and Qualifications Authority (VRQA), or the Western Australian Training Accreditation Council (WA TAC).

     You must have a registration status of Current or Current (Re-registration pending) at the time the grant opportunity opens.

   AND/OR

   - A higher education provider registered with the Tertiary Education Quality Standards Agency (TEQSA).

     You must have a registration status of Registered or Ongoing pending renewal at the time the grant opportunity opens.

   If applying for scholarships for international students, in addition to the eligibility listed above, you must be:

- A tertiary provider registered under the Commonwealth Register of Institutions and Courses for Overseas Students (CRICOS).

  You must have a registration status of Registered at the time the grant opportunity opens.

All applicants must also meet the eligibility requirements listed below:

Tertiary education providers must have a campus location in a regional area as defined by the *Australian Statistical Geography Standard Remoteness Structure* from the Australian Bureau of Statistics which is defined as:

- inner regional
- outer regional
- remote
- very remote.

Tertiary education providers must only offer and administer scholarships through the Destination Australia Program to students studying at a regional campus and living in a regional or remote area.

## 5. How do I confirm my legal entity type?

As part of entering into a grant agreement with the Commonwealth of Australia, an organisation may be asked to verify its legal entity status to make sure it has the legal capacity to enter into a legally binding agreement. This may involve a request for documentation, including proof of any name changes.

Information on the documentation which can confirm your legal entity status can be found at the Community Grants Hub - Information for applicants.

## 6. How do I verify if my campus is located in a regional area?

The term 'regional' and 'regional or remote' encompasses all areas outside Australia's Major cities. Using the *Australian Statistical Geography Standard Remoteness Structure*, these areas are classified as *Inner regional*, *Outer regional*, *Remote* or *Very remote*. For further information, please see the Australian Statistical Geography Standard Remoteness Structure on the Australian Bureau of Statistics website.

You can also search for your geography classification at the following websites:

- NationalMap You will need to click on *Add Data*, then *Statistical Boundaries,* then *Remoteness Area*, then *Add to the map,* before searching for your location.
- The Department of Health's Health Workforce Locator also provides an online tool to search for geography classifications.

## 7. Can I apply in a joint (consortia) arrangement?

No, applications from consortia are not permitted.

## 8. What are the eligible qualification levels that students must be studying to qualify for scholarships?

Tertiary education providers must award scholarships to students who are studying one of the following qualification levels on a full-time basis for the duration of the scholarship:

- Certificate IV
- Accredited Diploma
- Advanced Diploma or Associate Degree
- Bachelor Degree
- Bachelors Honours Degree
- Graduate Certificate or Graduate Diploma
- Masters or Doctoral degrees.

## 9. How many campus locations can I apply for?

Tertiary education providers can include up to ten (10) eligible campus locations in their application.

## 10. Do I need to be a registered tertiary education provider to apply?

Yes, you must have one of the following registration statuses at the time the grant opportunity opens:

If applying for scholarships for domestic students you must be:

- A Registered Training Organisation registered with the Australian Skills Quality Authority (ASQA), Victorian Registration and Qualifications Authority (VRQA), or the Western Australian Training Accreditation Council (WA TAC) with a registration status of Current or Current (Re-registration pending).

AND/OR

- A higher education provider registered with the Tertiary Education Quality Standards Agency (TEQSA) with a registration status of Registered or Ongoing pending renewal.

If applying for scholarships for international students, in addition to the eligibility listed above, you must be:

- A tertiary provider registered under the Commonwealth Register of Institutions and Courses for Overseas Students (CRICOS) with a registration status of Registered.

## 11. Who is not eligible to apply for a grant?

You are not eligible to apply if you do not meet the eligibility criteria described under section 4.1 of the Grant Opportunity Guidelines.

Students are not able to directly apply for scholarships through the Community Grants Hub.

## 12. How do students apply for a scholarship?

Once the outcomes of this grant round are known, students may apply for a scholarship directly with a successful tertiary education provider.

## 13. What can I use the Destination Australia grant for?

You can only spend the grant on eligible expenditure you have incurred between the start date and end or completion date of eligible grant activities.

Eligible expenditure items are:

- marketing, promotional, and administration costs - $1,500 per scholarship, per year
- scholarships - $15,000 per year to be allocated to eligible new students as selected by you.

Funding provided for promotional activities must only be used for *building Destination Australia Program understanding and awareness* and *promoting the benefits of student experience in regional Australia*.

When promoting the *benefits of student experience in regional Australia*, these promotional activities must only be distributed through the following distribution channels:

- television
- radio
- internet
- telephone services.

Activities to promote the *Destination Australia Program for the purposes of building program understanding and awareness* are not restricted to the above distribution channels.

## 14. What is a new student?

The Destination Australia Program is designed to encourage new students to regional tertiary education providers. For the purposes of the Destination Australia Program, new student encompasses all students who *commence* their studies at a regional tertiary education provider, including those students who commenced study at another provider and transferred.

## 15. What can I not use the Destination Australia grant for?

You cannot use the grant for the following activities:

- to support students studying more than one third of the units (or equivalent) of a higher education or VET course by online or distance learning
- purchase of land
- major capital expenditure
- the covering of retrospective costs
- costs incurred in the preparation of a grant application or related documentation

- subsidy of general ongoing administration of an organisation such as electricity, phone and rent

- major construction/capital works

- overseas travel

- activities for which other Commonwealth, state, territory or local government bodies have primary responsibility.

## 16. How much funding is available for this program?

The Australia Government has announced a total $93.7 million (GST exclusive) over four years for the Destination Australia Program.

Under the 2020 Grant Opportunity, there is approximately:

- $19.5 million in funding available during 2019-20

- $19.5 million in funding available during 2020-21

- $19.5 million in funding available during 2021-22

- $19.5 million in funding available during 2022-23.

Funding of $15,000 per scholarship, per year, and $1,500 in promotional and administration assistance per scholarship, per year, will be awarded to successful providers who will run their own processes for allocating and awarding scholarships to students.

## 17. How much funding can I apply for and for what period of time?

There is no minimum or maximum grant amount for a tertiary provider, but grants cannot exceed the amount of available funds.

The maximum grant period is four years.

Grants available in this grant opportunity are for scholarships commencing from Semester 1, January 2020 onwards.
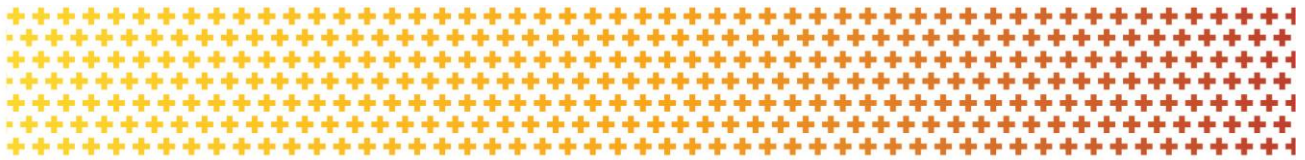
## 18. Can I apply for funding for multiple years?

Yes. Funding for this round of the Destination Australia Program is available over four years, from 2019-20 until 2022-23.

You can apply for funding to support each year of a student's qualification, should they remain eligible, for up to four years.

## 19. Are students eligible if they are studying by online or distance learning and living in a regional area?

Students studying more than one third of the units (or equivalent) of a higher education or VET course by online or distance learning are not eligible under the Destination Australia Program.

### 20.  What is the definition of online learning?

Online learning is study where the teacher and student primarily communicate through digital media, technology-based tools and IT networks and does not require the student to attend scheduled classes or maintain contact hours. For the purposes of Destination Australia, online learning does not include the provision of online lectures, tuition or other resources that supplement scheduled classes or contact hours.

### 21.  What is the definition of distance learning?

Distance learning is any learning that a student undertakes off campus and does not require the student to physically attend regular tuition for the course.

### 22.  If I receive funding under the New Colombo Plan, am I eligible to apply?

Yes. The Destination Australia Program will not limit providers' ability to apply for and receive other Australian Government funding, such as the New Colombo Plan.

Students who are in receipt of a Destination Australia Program scholarship are also eligible to receive funding from other Australia Government programs such as the New Colombo Plan however, providers will need to ensure student eligibility is maintained for the duration of their scholarship.

### 23.  Can scholarships be reallocated to another student if the existing student is no longer eligible?

If a scholarship student loses eligibility during the course of the scholarship period, no additional scholarship funding should be paid to the student. In this case, tertiary education providers can reallocate any future year funding associated with that student to a different student who meets the eligibility criteria.
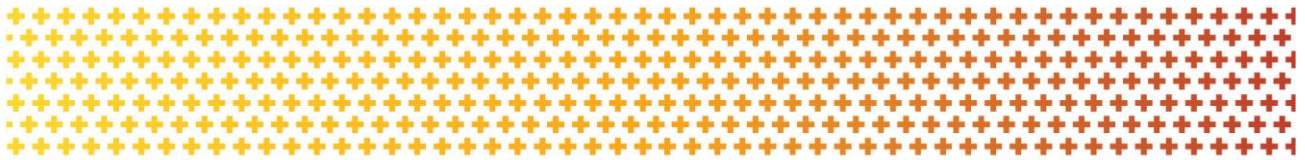
### 24.  Who will be approving Destination Australia grants?

The Minister for Education (the decision maker) decides which grants to approve taking into account the recommendations made by the Selection Advisory Panel and the availability of grant funds for the purposes of the grant program.

In making grant decisions, the decision maker may also take into account considerations such as eligibility and ensuring a reasonable allocation of scholarships between international and domestic students.

In addition, the decision maker may consider an allocation of grants to ensure a reasonable allocation between:

- states and territories
- higher education and vocational education and training providers
- number of scholarships sought per provider.

### 25. When will I know the outcome of my application?

You will be notified of the outcome of your application at the end of the selection process. For probity reasons, and to treat all applicants fairly and equally, it is not possible to give you information about the status of individual applications during the assessment process.

Timeframes are indicated in the Grant Opportunity Guidelines, although in some instances due to volume and complexity of applications, timeframes may be modified.

### 26. Can I appeal the decision in relation to the outcome of a selection process?

There is no appeal mechanism for decisions to approve or not approve a grant. The decision maker's decision is final in all matters, including the approval of the grant, funding amount to be awarded and terms and conditions of the grant.

### 27. What feedback will be available for this funding round?

A Feedback Summary will be published on the Community Grants Hub website to provide all organisations with easy access to information about the grant selection process and the main strengths and areas for improving applications.

Individual feedback will not be provided for this grant opportunity.

### 28. How can I submit the application form?

The form is an online application form that you must submit electronically. The Community Grants Hub will not provide application forms or accept application forms for this grant opportunity by fax, email or through Australia Post unless otherwise stated in the Grant Opportunity Documents.

### 29. Can someone from the Department of Education or the Community Grants Hub help me with my application?

To maintain the fairness and integrity of the application process, the Community Grants Hub and the Department of Education cannot directly assist with the writing of any application. However, to support services applying under this grant opportunity, the Community Grants Hub has published a guide to supporting your grant application.
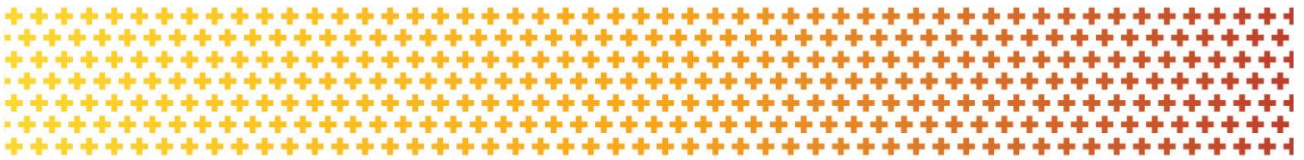
If you're having trouble using or submitting an application form on the Community Grants Hub website, please contact the Grants Hotline on 1800 020 283 or TTY 1800 555 677.

### 30. Who do I contact if I'm having trouble using or submitting an application form?

Please contact the Community Grants Hub immediately on 1800 020 283 or email support@communitygrants.gov.au.

### 31. What attachments do I need to include in my application?

No attachments are required to be included in your application.

**32. I have already submitted an application but wish to revise it, what should I do?**

While an application cannot be revised once it is submitted, you can complete a new application. Where more than one application is submitted, only the latest accepted application form will progress.

**33. Do word limits apply to selection criteria?**

Yes, there is a word limit of approximately 500 words (up to 3000 characters) per selection criterion.

**34. Where should I go for further information?**

Please email your enquiries to [support@communitygrants.gov.au](mailto:support@communitygrants.gov.au)