



AUSAID CONNECT 2015 PROGRAM INFORMATION

AUSTRALIA AWARDS SCHOLARSHIPS

Australia Awards Scholarships are funded by the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade. The highly valued scholarships aim to contribute to the long term development needs of Australia's partner countries. They provide opportunities for people from developing countries to undertake full time undergraduate or postgraduate study in Australia. Fields of study are targeted to address agreed priority human resource and development needs of recipient countries. Scholarship recipients are required to return to their country of citizenship for two years after they have completed their studies to contribute to the development of their country.

The University of Western Australia primarily provides postgraduate courses to AAS recipients, usually referred to as Australia Awards students. On average 50 students commence study each year in fields across all faculties.

The scholarship recipients that study at UWA tend to return to their home country with strong ties to Perth, an affinity to the University and a burning desire to utilise all they have learned.

AUSAID CONNECT

As with all international students who come to study at UWA, Australia Awards students face many challenges. They need to understand local geography, adapt to our cultural and social norms, adjust to a different climate and food and quickly come to terms with their role and responsibility in the UWA community. While the staff in the International Centre provide a comprehensive orientation program, it can still take some time for these students to settle in to their new environment.

The Ausaid Connect program was established to provide our Australia Awards students with the experience of meeting and spending time with a local family. Jointly run by the UWA Alumni Relations office and the International Sponsored Student Unit at UWA, it gives you, as a UWA alumni, the opportunity to make a positive difference in the life of a student adjusting to being so far from their home, by hosting them at a dinner in your home.

The program has been running since 2012. Following on from earlier successes, UWA is running the program again in 2015.

WHAT IS INVOLVED?

Alumni interested in being involved firstly need to fill out the program registration form and sign the authorisation. We will then review all applicants and match the students with alumni families based on information provided by both parties. As a part of this matching process we may contact you by telephone.

If you are matched with a student you will need to attend a function on **Friday, 6 March 2015** which is for all participating alumni, families and students to meet, start to get to know each other and arrange your hosting dinner.