

# 2026 New Colombo Plan Scholarship

Adelaide University – Information Session



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*Connect to Australia's future - study in the region*

We acknowledge and pay our respects to the Kaurna, Boandik and Barngala First Nations People and their Elders past and present, who are the Traditional Owners of the lands that are home to our campuses across South Australia.

We also acknowledge the other First Nations of lands across Australia with which we conduct, their Elders, ancestors, cultures and heritage.



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# What is the New Colombo Plan (NCP) Scholarship?

Opportunity for Australian undergraduate students to strengthen their Indo-Pacific capability and Asian literacy, including in Asian language learning, through immersive, long-term structured learning and internships in the region, in areas of Australia's strategic and economic interests.

Including in priority host locations, languages and sectors.



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# 2026 New Colombo Plan Overview

- 3 to 19 months in the Indo-Pacific for study and language training and internship
- For Australian undergraduate students
- Up to \$107,000 in funding available to scholars
- Applicants must be nominated by Adelaide University
- Study commences between 1 January 2026 and 31 December 2026



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# Why should I apply?

- Highly prestigious
- Combines overseas study with an internship
- Language acquisition
- In-country support from location Australian diplomatic missions and a case manager
- Become a member of the New Colombo Plan Alumni Network
- Career enhancement



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# Where can you go?

Bangladesh  
Bhutan  
Brunei Darussalam  
Cambodia  
**China**  
Cook Islands  
Federated States of  
Micronesia  
**Fiji**  
French Polynesia

Hong Kong SAR  
**India**  
**Indonesia**  
**Japan**  
Kiribati  
Laos  
**Malaysia**  
Maldives  
Marshall Islands  
Mongolia

Nauru  
Nepal  
New Caledonia  
Niue  
Palau  
Papua New Guinea  
**Philippines**  
**Republic of Korea**  
Samoa  
**Singapore**

Solomon Islands  
Sri Lanka  
**Taiwan**  
**Thailand**  
**Timor-Leste**  
Tonga  
Tuvalu  
Vanuatu  
**Vietnam**

*\*Speak to your home university about which exchange partners we work with in the above locations.*



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# Beck

2023 NCP Scholar



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# My experiences

- Malay Language training at SLC in Kuala Lumpur (3 months)
- Semester Exchange at International Medical University in Kuala Lumpur
- 6-month internship at National Neuroscience Institute of Singapore within the ASEAN Microbiome Nutrition Centre
- Malay Language training at SLC in Kuala Lumpur (3 months)



## Professional development:

- 2-week placement at Malaysia's Institute of Sport
- 2-week "Healthy Longevity" talent incubator program at National University of Singapore



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# What else NCP offers...

- An opportunity to live within and learn about beautiful countries and their melting pot of cultures for 19 months
- Many new friends from both Australia, host countries and others travelling from further afield
- An opportunity to really explore interests and determine what to do after graduation
- An opportunity to LEARN SO MANY SKILLS which can help to achieve subsequent opportunities and scholarships
- Teaches you to become an excellent networker and to build relationships with people from all different realms
- Shows you how truly capable you are



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# Tips for your applications

1. Have a friend or someone who knows your “story” read and make suggestions on your application – sometimes its easier for on outside view to truly tell your story
2. Find your referees early and provide them with ample information on the NCP and your proposed program (and pick someone who writes well!)
3. There is no “formula” for a perfect program – design something that excites you and let that passion shine



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# Tips for your applications #2

1. Be YOURSELF
2. Reach out for help – the university has so many people wanting you to succeed, and NCP alumni will always be glad to help. Speak to us, but also seek out scholars with similar backgrounds and interests to you and reach out!
3. Contact me on LinkedIn (Rebecca Kerstens) or via email [kerry009@mymail.unisa.edu.au](mailto:kerry009@mymail.unisa.edu.au)



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# Angus

## 2025 NCP Scholar



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# My NCP Experience - Japan

Angus Fotheringham – 2025 Scholar

# My Program Overview

Exchange at Kyoto  
University

Language training

Cultural immersion

Traveling Around  
Japan







# Benefits

**Funding** – \$3,000/month living allowance + travel funding.

*Covers living costs, flights, and settling in so you can focus on your experience.*

**Highly Flexible** – Flexible, customised program.

*Choose courses, internships, and travel that match your goals.*

**Professional & Cultural networking (My Favourite Part)**

*Meet other scholars, students and professionals from across the Indo-Pacific.*

*Go to NCP & Professional Events*

**Personal growth through cultural immersion**

*Develop adaptability, cross-cultural skills, and independence.*

# Application Tips

- **Review the selection criteria**  
*Check the NCP website and Advice to Applicants, then build your application around these points.*
- **Research your host destination**  
*Know exactly what you want to do there and why it matters to you — I chose Japan for its highly innovative technology sector.*
- **Draft and get help**  
*Refining your answers multiple times and seeking feedback — makes them concise, error-free, and confident.*
- **Use the STAR method**  
*Situation, Task, Action, Result — give clear, impactful examples drawn from your university and work experience.*



# Why You Should Apply

Life-changing personal and professional experience

Opportunity to represent Australia and study abroad

Chance to build lifelong friendships and networks

Develop cross-cultural communication and language skills



# 2026 Scholarship Allowances

Activity	Maximum amount of expenses payable
Travel allowance	\$3,000 (one-off payment)
Establishment allowance	\$3,000 (one-off payment)
Scholarship allowance	Up to \$3,000 as a monthly stipend
Study component (max 2 semesters)	Up to \$15,000 per semester
In-country language training	Up to \$10,000
Mental health allowance	Up to \$3,000 reimbursed to scholar to contribute to the cost of professional mental health services
Plus:	Health and travel insurance, a case manager, advice and assistance

*\*Refer to guidelines for details and conditions.*



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# Eligibility

Read the full 2026 NCP Scholarship Guidelines

An applicant must:

- ✓ Be an Australian citizen
- ✓ Not be a current citizen or permanent resident of their proposed host location(s)
- ✓ Admitted in an Australian undergraduate degree program for which you will receive full academic credit for the study component of their NCP scholarship program
- ✓ Have mandatory units to enrol and undertake in that home degree program after they return to Australia following the end of their NCP scholarship program



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# Eligibility (cont.)

- ✓ Be between 18 and 30 years of age (inclusive) for non-Indigenous applicants, or between 18 and 35 years of age (inclusive) for Indigenous applicants, on 1 January 2026
- ✓ GPA of 5.5 or above
- ✓ Not be an employee of the branch of DFAT or the contractor that administers the NCP
- ✓ Be nominated by your home university



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# Selection Criteria (1)

## **Alignment of application with the Government's geographic and sectoral priorities in the Indo-Pacific region (35%)**

- Describe how your scholarship program aligns with and will contribute to Australian Government priorities, demonstrating a well-researched, cohesive scholarship program that provides an immersive experience, and
- Describing the linkages (personal and institutional) that you will develop while undertaking your NCP Scholarship, building on your demonstrated interest in, and knowledge of, the Indo-Pacific.



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# Selection Criteria (2)

## **Focus on Indo-Pacific languages, especially priority languages (15%)**

- Describe how you will incorporate the study of an Indo-Pacific language, especially a priority Asian language, into your NCP Scholarship Program and the level of capability you aim to achieve, and
- Outline how you will use and maintain the language proficiency obtained during your NCP Scholarship in your future studies, work or community engagement.



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# Selection Criteria (3)

## **Personal attributes for successful completion of scholarship (30%)**

- Describe any challenges and risks you might face in your host location and how you would respond to them – for example academic, cultural, personal – demonstrating a well-researched host location, and
- Describe why you consider you having the attributes that will enable you to deal with these challenges and risks.



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# Selection Criteria (4)

## **Future impact of NCP experiences focussed with regards to maintaining engagement with the Indo-Pacific (20%)**

- Describe how you plan to use your NCP experience after you have completed your scholarship, demonstrating a long-term forward plan, and
- Describe how your scholarship experience will establish your Indo Pacific-links and your plan for maintaining those links.



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# 2026 NCP Scholarship Applications

- Expression of Interest applications to Adelaide University's Global Learning are now open
- Visit the Cost and Funding page to find the expression of interest form:  
<https://adelaideuni.edu.au/study/global-learning/global-learning-costs-and-funding/>



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# Expression of Interest

- What should you write about for your program of study
  - ✓ What country you want to go to
  - ✓ If you intend to do the language stream
  - ✓ How long for and when
  - ✓ What type of internship and with who
  - ✓ How does your NCP program align with your career and study goals

Remember:

- Your program of study does not need to be concrete when you submit your EOI, but should be pretty close to it. You will need to have your program plan finalised before submitting your application to DFAT.
- We want to hear your ideas about your program of study, and can offer advice or suggestions



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# Expression of Interest (cont.)

- **Selecting a host country**

- ✓ Diversity
- ✓ Interest
- ✓ Suitability

**Refer to priority host locations, languages and sectors outline in the guidelines.**

- **Selecting a host university**

- Exchange partner vs non-exchange partner
- Available courses
- Exchange Application Dates: December for Semester 2 2026



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**Priority Host Locations:** India, Indonesia, Vietnam, Timor-Leste

**Highly Favourable Host Locations:** China, Fiji, Japan, Republic of Korea, Malaysia, Singapore, Philippines, Taiwan, Thailand

**Priority Asian Languages:** Bahasa Indonesian, Malay, Chinese (Mandarin), Hindi, Japanese, Korean, Vietnamese

**Priority Sectors:** Economics and Business, Environment, Primary Industries and Natural Resources, Infrastructure, Climate and Energy, Law, Asian Studies, Culture and Human Development, Technology and Innovation.



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# How to Apply

1. 11.59pm (ACST) on 24 August 2025: Submit an online application for internal nomination. Address the four selection criteria and outline your proposed program. Not as many requirements as the external application
2. Internal selection committee selects nominees
3. **Late Aug:** Adelaide University nominees announced
4. **Late Aug/Early Sep:** Nominees formally invited to apply by the Australian Government.



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# How to Apply (cont.)

- 5. 11:30pm (AEST) 23 September 2025:** Final application deadline to the Australian Government.
- 6. Government selection:**
  - Oct:** Shortlisting
  - Oct–Nov:** Interviews
  - Dec:** Candidates informed of outcome
  - Dec:** Public announcement



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# Final Application Documents

The following are required if you are nominated by the Adelaide and are invited to apply by the Australian Government:

- Written responses to selection criteria
- Outline of proposed scholarship program including the mandatory study component, any proposed internships and language training
- Nominate a primary host location



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# Final Application Documents (cont.)

- Evidence of Australian citizenship (e.g. current Australian passport biopage or Australian citizenship certificate)
- A letter of current enrolment from Adelaide University, including the expected completion date for the course towards which the overseas study program will be credited
- A current, complete-to-date official academic transcript from the University of Adelaide or University of South Australia
- Evidence of affiliation with the proposed host institution if applicable – Global Learning can help with this if applying to an exchange partner university



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# Final Application Documents (cont.)

- A letter from the applicant's home university faculty, endorsed by the NCP International Liaison Officer for Scholarships, attesting the feasibility of the applicant's proposed study component
- A current CV outlining the applicant's work experience, community engagement activities (for example, volunteering, memberships, mentoring) and extra-curricular interests
- Two referee reports, with at least one report from an academic referee
- Photo identification



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# Resources

## **New Colombo Plan website\*:**

<https://www.dfat.gov.au/people-to-people/new-colombo-plan/new-colombo-plan-scholarship-program>

*\*2026 guidelines and advice to applicants now available!*

## **Global Learning's NCP Scholarship information pack:**

<http://adelaideuni.edu.au/content/dam/adelaideuniversity/documents/study/pdfs/AU-New-Colombo-Plan-Scholarship-2026.pdf>

**UoA students contact:** [study.overseas@adelaide.edu.au](mailto:study.overseas@adelaide.edu.au)

**UniSA students contact:** [international.relations@unisa.edu.au](mailto:international.relations@unisa.edu.au)



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# Resources (cont.)

## Current/Past Students

**Angus** – [angus.fotheringham@student.adelaide.edu.au](mailto:angus.fotheringham@student.adelaide.edu.au)

**Rebecca** – [kerry009@mymail.unisa.edu.au](mailto:kerry009@mymail.unisa.edu.au)

## UoA Careers Services website:

<https://www.adelaide.edu.au/student/careers/students/applications-and-interviews>

## UniSA Careers Services website:

<https://i.unisa.edu.au/students/student-support-services/career-services/students-graduates/self-help-career-resources/>

Tips for application writing and interviews are available on these websites!



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