



Australia Awards

CAFÉ Program

Connection, Association,
Friendship, Exchange

Overview

We are seeking Australian volunteers from a range of professional backgrounds - public sector, private sector, and NGOs - to participate in the Australia-Indonesia CAFÉ program.

The CAFÉ program aims to connect professional Indonesians, while they are studying here in Australia, with Australians from a similar professional background. Each Australian CAFÉ participant is paired with one Indonesian, with efforts made to link people with similar profiles. It could be seen as a peer-to-peer scheme, or a peer-to-mentor scheme, with a very light touch.

The Australia-Indonesia CAFÉ program

Each year, hundreds of Indonesians undertake post-graduate study in Australia on an Australia Awards Scholarship – funded by the Australian Government.

The scholarship awardees are generally mid-career professionals who are expected to make a significant contribution to Indonesia's future. They include teachers, lecturers, researchers, public servants, health professionals, lawyers, accountants, administrators and more. Some are here with their families, and some are not. Some are here for 2 years doing their Masters, and some are here for 4 years studying for a PhD. The CAFÉ program offers an opportunity for them to gain more from their Australian scholarship experience than what is covered in their formal university study.

Suggested activities

- Meet your Indonesian peer over a coffee
- Invite them (and their family, if applicable) to your home for dinner once or twice a year
- Take them to an Australian cultural or sporting event
- Show them around your workplace



Emba and his family with his CAFÉ partner, William and his family and friends. 2016

How CAFÉ operates

Potential Australian participants can register their interest here:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/7VXQWJG>

Australian and Indonesian participants will be matched, with consideration given to their profession, organisation, job responsibilities, age group, gender, family status, family composition, education, and personal interests.

Once participants are matched, the On-Award Team will send a joint introductory email. The email will include an overview of each participant, and will request that the Australian participant initiates contact with their Indonesian partner. However, the Indonesian partner are also encouraged to initiate the first contact.

The CAFÉ program will run for one academic year; generally, between February and November. Beyond that, any further contact is at the discretion of each pair of participants.

Participants may choose to participate in a new CAFÉ program the following year, and be matched with a new partner, or to continue their existing CAFÉ relationship.

Management

The On-Award Team for Australia Awards Indonesia, based in Canberra, will be the ongoing point of contact for any issues that arise. Any problems or complaints should be lodged with the On-Award Team. Participants can also inform the On-Award Team if they wish to opt out of the program at any time throughout the year. (While a reason for opting out would be appreciated, there is no obligation on the part of the participant to provide one. The On-Award Team will tactfully advise the other party.)



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Background

About Australia Awards

Australia Awards Scholarships are provided by the Australian Government for tertiary study opportunities at Australian institutions. Administered by the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade as part of the Australian Government's development cooperation program, they are provided to governments and citizens from selected developing countries, including Indonesia.

Goal:

Indonesia's development is enhanced by the contributions of internationally qualified professionals with a strong and positive relationship with Australia.

Several hundred Australia Awards Scholarships are awarded to Indonesians every year. Scholarships are for post-graduate study only – approximately 85% Masters and 15% PhDs.

More than half of the scholarship recipients tend to be civil servants, with the remainder being from civil society organisations, schools, universities, health sector organisations, research institutes, and the private sector.

Scholarship applications are assessed by a Joint Selection Team, comprising an equal number of Indonesian and Australian representatives.

A 2105 Tracer Study reveals that the scholarship experience in Australia has a profoundly positive impact on individuals and on their organisations in Indonesia.

“About 99% of alumni who responded to the tracer survey described their scholarship experience in positive terms. Almost 69% of alumni returned to their former employer after their studies, of whom 50% returned to a higher level position than the one they had left before going to Australia.

Alumni acquired skills and knowledge in Australia that were highly relevant to their work in Indonesia. About 94% of alumni in Indonesia said that the content of their course was highly or somewhat relevant to their current job.

Significant numbers of alumni have a greater level of influence to effect change in the workplace as a result of their studies. About 95% of alumni have contributed to improvements in their organisations in the past three years. The improvements that alumni reported most often were to programs, management systems, processes and procedures.”

Beyond the scholarship experience: enrichment

While Australia Awards Scholarships provide selected individuals with the opportunity to obtain an Australian university degree – and this alone is a major contributor to building human resource capacity in Indonesia – the experience the awardees gain while in Australia – the ‘on-award’ experience – is just as valuable.

Just like any cross-cultural learning experience, exposure to Australian systems, institutions, business practices and public services can be valuable, not necessarily in terms of emulating Australian practices, but in thinking through how systems work, and how they can work better. Links with Australians and Australian organisations can also foster goodwill and greater, more sustainable development cooperation.

Australia Awards Indonesia acknowledges that an enhanced or enriched on-award experience would likely deliver better overall outcomes and has developed an On-Award Enrichment Strategy to:

Provide Australia Awards Scholarship recipients from Indonesia with an enriched experience in Australia in an effort to foster lasting links with Australian people and organisations – strengthening the relationship between Australia and Indonesia, and furthering our mutual national, international, economic and social interests.

The CAFÉ program is one of the On Award Enrichment Strategy initiatives. Trialled in 2015 with 40 participants, the CAFÉ program was repeated in 2016 with more than 100 participants. Evaluation surveys completed by participants showed that their CAFÉ program experience was overwhelmingly positive from both a cultural and professional perspective.

Further Information

View the website: www.australiaawardsindonesia.org or contact the On-Award Team:

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