



**Australia Awards**

## **Guide for assessing and selecting courses**

Selecting a suitable course is an essential part of the applying for an Australia Awards Scholarship. The Interview Panel uses this as part of the considerations for who will be recommended for a scholarship.

Once a candidate has been selected to receive an offer for an Australia Awards Scholarship, changes to courses will not be approved, except in circumstances beyond a candidate's control - such as a course being canceled or not available in a particular semester. Requests to change courses for other reasons will not be supported or approved.

As an applicant for an Australia Awards Scholarship, you will already hold a Bachelor's degree that must be recognised by Australian universities. From discussions with your employer, you will also understand the skill requirements of your organisation and how higher qualifications will add value to your role and contribute to Mongolia's ongoing development. This will be captured in your Reintegration Plan, which is a key part of your application. You will, therefore, have ideas about the fields of study you could consider for a Master's course.

This guide contains general information to help you refine your thinking and select courses that build on your academic background, contribute to your organisation's needs, reflect your personal strengths and interests, and that will contribute to Mongolia's ongoing development.

You should select two similar courses at two different universities. This will maximise your chances of being placed into a university, if you are selected for an Australia Awards Scholarship.

### **Using CRICOS**

CRICOS is the Australian government's website for universities offering courses to international students.

Where you start your course search depends on how much thinking and planning you have already undertaken. This guide takes you through the process from the start.

### **Step 1: Identify possible courses of study**

If you are researching courses for the first time, it is a good idea to search in several universities. The following steps help you do this:

- from the CRICOS front page, select 'Course Search'

- use the information tabs to understand what each input field means. The more fields you complete, the more refined your search will be
- list the courses you are interested in investigating further and the website addresses of the universities offering them.

### **Step 2: Researching particular university courses**

From the web addresses, visit the websites of the individual universities. Although the structures of these university websites may vary, the important information you require is always available to help you make an informed decision.

You should be clear about the following, at least:

- the exact names of the courses you select
- the length of the courses, they can be no more than 104-weeks duration
- course content - what subject combinations make up the course?
- with compulsory subjects, units, or modules in the course, do you have the academic background in your first degree to successfully complete these? This is especially important for courses with significant Mathematics, Statistics, and Economics components or for Psychology courses.
- are there pre-requisites for the course you are investigating? If so, do you have the academic background or experience required to be accepted into the course? Psychology courses have both academic and professional pre-requisites – you must contact Australia Awards-Mongolia to better understand these specifics
- what are the English language minimum entry requirements for the courses?
- are the courses offered in each semester? In some universities, courses are offered in only one semester each year.

### **Step 3: Contact the university**

The university websites all have contact details if you need more information. Take advantage of these contact points to follow up matters you want to clarify.

### **Step 4: Contact the Australia Awards-Mongolia office**

For further advice and guidance if required, please make sure you contact the Australia Awards-Mongolia office as soon as possible.

The Australia Awards-Mongolia team offers seminars on using CRICOS and completing the OASIS application. If you want to join one of these seminars, please regularly check the Australia Awards-Mongolia Facebook page for regular updates to the seminar schedule.