



Australia Awards



# Year in Review 2023

Australia Awards  
– Mongolia



# Highlights of 2023

## **A high volume of Australia Awards activities—including the significant 30th anniversary celebration of Australian Government scholarships for Mongolians—fostered and further nurtured strong ties between Australia and Mongolia in 2023.**

Thirteen Australia Awards scholars (10 women, three men) were mobilised for the first semester of 2023, including some originally scheduled to commence study in previous years. A busy schedule of scholar engagement activities included a Scholars Forum, professional development workshops, Indigenous engagement events, and Gender Equality, Disability and Social Inclusion (GEDSI) training sessions.

Effective Scholarships promotional activities led to a larger pool of eligible and high-quality applicants, as well as increased numbers of applications from people with disability, provincial residents and male candidates. Fifteen quality applicants received Scholarships for study commencing in 2024.

Enabling Activities (English Language Training and Academic Preparation Program) were provided to prepare provisional scholars for living and studying in Australia.

Twenty Mongolian professionals completed a Short Course on *Energy Sector Development of Mongolia*. Mongolian recipients also participated in two Regional Short Courses, all focused on climate change-related topics—facilitating the development of regional networks for collaboration across the sector.

Three senior officials from Mongolia's energy sector visited Australia through an Australian Professional Opportunity.

Mongolia's Women's Leadership Program was delivered for its ninth cohort. The 20 participants experienced an enriching array of networking events, immersive field trips, lunch forums and consultations.

The country program successfully hosted the Regional Alumni Workshop in Ulaanbaatar in May, with the theme *Building back better: Climate resilience and green economic recovery*. Coinciding with the Workshop was *Thank you, Australia*—one of a series of events celebrating the 30th anniversary of Australian Government scholarships for Mongolians. A 30th Anniversary Closing Party took place in November.

The program worked with the Mongolia–Australia Society (Mozzies) to support several events, including a knowledge-sharing career expo, reading sessions for children and sporting activities.

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*Cover image:* Australia Awards scholars and alumni from Mongolia. From left to right: Nyambat Ganbold, Munkhzul Erdenedagva, Solongo Munkhtsengel, Bolor Jamiyandagva, Erdenetsetseg Dashdeleg, Bolormaa Ganbat, Tsend-Ayush Sambuu and Tsogtbaatar Gankhuyag.

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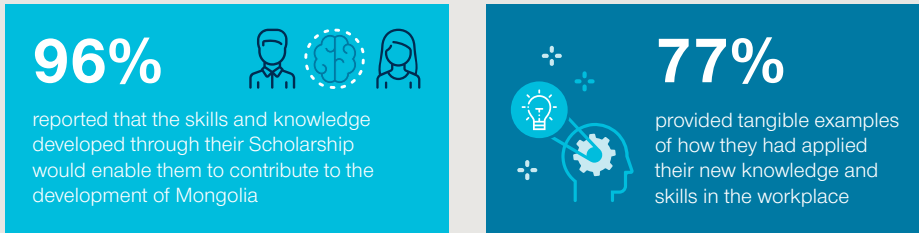
*Image:* Australia Awards alumna Bolormaa Ganbat (Master of Social Policy, the University of Melbourne, 2023).



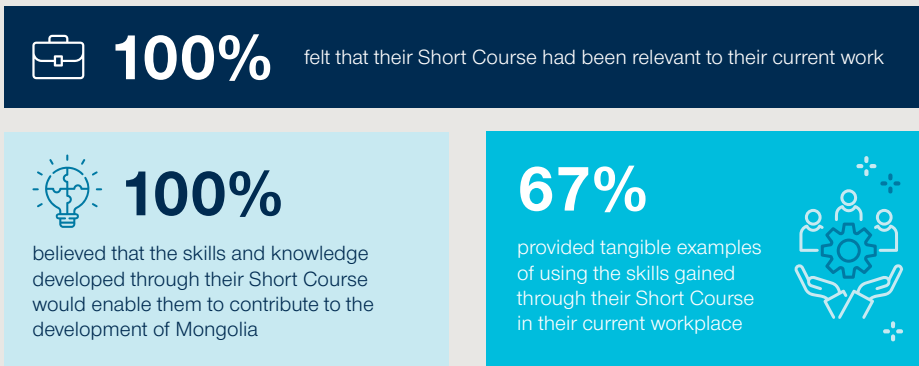
# Outcomes at a glance

**Outcome:** Alumni use their skills, knowledge and networks to contribute to sustainable development

Among Australia Awards Scholarships alumni surveyed in Mongolia:

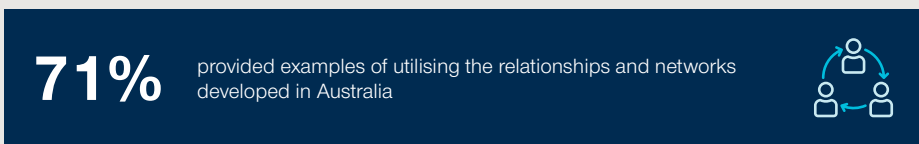


Among Australia Awards Short Course alumni surveyed in Mongolia:



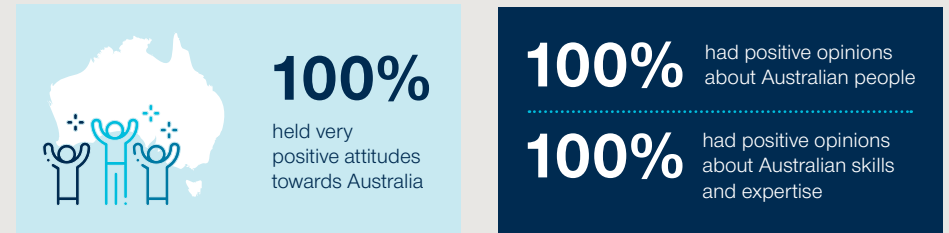
**Outcome:** Alumni contribute to cooperation between Australia and Mongolia

Among Australia Awards Scholarships alumni surveyed in Mongolia:



**Outcome:** Australia is viewed as a valued international partner

Among Australia Awards Scholarships alumni surveyed in Mongolia:



Among Australia Awards Short Course alumni surveyed in Mongolia:



Among Australia Awards Short Course alumni surveyed in Mongolia:



# Australia Awards Scholarships

**The first full year of post-pandemic Australia Awards Scholarships activity saw the highest number of Mongolian scholars in Australia in four years. It was a significant and full year for scholars from Mongolia, supported through a variety of engagement activities.**

During 2023, a total of 49 Australia Awards Scholarship recipients from Mongolia studied at master's degree-level at Australia's world-class universities, including one person with disability.

All seven Scholarship recipients who were expected to complete their courses in 2023 did so successfully and all returned home as Australia Awards alumni to contribute to Mongolia's development.

In a new initiative to further support scholars to succeed in Australia, the program briefed Student Contact Officers from Australian universities on the academic and social context of scholars from Mongolia.

Australia Awards – South Asia & Mongolia offered 31 opportunities for scholar enrichment throughout the year. A series of scholar enrichment activities had a focus on gender equality, including training sessions for scholars on 'Gender 101' and intersectionality.


Over the summer semester break, Australia Awards conducted six state-based Scholars Symposia. These enabled scholars to participate in professional development workshops with senior leaders, such as the Mongolian Ambassador.

Scholars were actively engaged in the delivery of the events. For example, Mongolian scholar Solongo Munkhtsengel facilitated a panel discussion at the Symposium in Sydney.

In support of the Australian Government's First Nations diplomacy initiative, Australia Awards delivered ten Indigenous engagement events for scholars across Australia in 2023.

As a new initiative, prospective applicants for study commencing in 2024 were invited to attend an online course advice session with the Program's Academic Adviser.

Targeted Scholarship promotions for study commencing in 2024 led to increased applications from people with disability, provincial residents and male candidates. After assessment and selection, an impressive cohort of 15 future leaders (13 women, two men) received Scholarships to study in Australia commencing in 2024, including two people with disability.



“Personally, this Scholarship has given me the opportunity to reevaluate my work, career and life.”

– Tsogtbaatar Gankhuyag  
Master of International Business  
The University of Melbourne, 2022

# Short-term training

**With a special focus on leadership, energy and climate change, 2023 was a busy and exciting year for short-term training provided by Australia Awards.**



*Image: Participants in the Australia Awards Women's Leadership Program during their visit to Australia.*

The 20 Australia Awards alumni participating in the ninth cohort of the Women's Leadership Program completed their eight-month leadership and professional development program in June 2023, having improved their leadership and decision-making skills and increased their understanding of gender equality.

In June, 10 selected participants from the ninth Women's Leadership Program cohort travelled to Brisbane, Australia, for a two-week intensive leadership training program. The participants were able to connect with Australian counterparts, learn about best practices, build networks with mentors and experts, and enjoy enriching cultural experiences.

The tenth cohort of the Women's Leadership Program was launched in October 2023, with a new group of 20 Australia Awards alumni participating.

Twenty-nine Mongolian professionals are now utilising new skills and knowledge as Australia Awards alumni after completing Short Courses in 2023.

One Short Course was designed and delivered specifically for Mongolian participants:

- Twenty participants completed the Short Course on *Energy Sector Development of Mongolia*, enabling them to build networks with energy sector representatives in Australia and to learn about implementing energy system integration and reform.

Mongolian professionals also participated in two Regional Short Courses in 2023, both of which were focused on responding to climate change:

- Nine participants completed an online Short Course on *Water and Climate Change*, which focused on best practice in water resource management and water, sanitation and hygiene for achieving water security outcomes.
- Four participants commenced a Short Course on *Accessing Climate Finance* in December 2023.

Through an Australian Professional Opportunity, Australia Awards supported three Mongolian officials from the energy sector to visit Australia in January. They visited solar power projects, wind farms, a power plant, and centres of innovation and research to see examples of best practice in the energy sector.

# Alumni engagement

## Australia Awards supported Mongolian alumni in 2023 with professional development and networking opportunities to assist them to continue as champions for sustainable development.

Alumni played a central role in celebrations of the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Australian Government scholarships for Mongolians, highlighting their contribution to development.

The Regional Alumni Workshop was hosted in Mongolia in 2023, allowing Mongolian alumni to network with fellow alumni (see separate story). Held to coincide with the Workshop, a networking event—*Thank you, Australia*—brought together 280 people to celebrate the impact of Australia Awards over the past 30 years.

A flagship event for the year was the 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Closing Party in November to highlight the impact of the more than 740 Mongolians who have received transformational Australia Awards Scholarships. Alumni had the opportunity to engage with representatives from the Government of Mongolia, the Australian Embassy, the Mongolia–Australia Chamber of Commerce and other bilateral programs.

Australia Awards supported alumni events hosted by the Mongolia–Australia Society (Mozzies), including a career expo, regular children’s reading and craft sessions, and a basketball tournament.

Mongolian alumni had opportunities to participate in regional alumni engagement activities, facilitating new networks for collaboration and the exchange of ideas and knowledge across borders.

Mongolian alumni joined forces with existing Australia Awards Women in Leadership Networks in the region, creating value and new connections through a new Regional Women in Leadership Network that allowed Mongolians to participate in online consultations and information sessions with alumni from South Asia.

Alumni from Mongolia joined more than 100 fellow alumni from South Asia in two storytelling workshops, supporting their ability to communicate persuasively.

The program provided three grants through the Australia Awards Alumni Grants scheme to support projects focused on education, health and safety, and liveable communities.

One Mongolian alumna participated in the first regional Australia Awards grants scheme, receiving a Women in Leadership Regional Grant to implement a transboundary project on women’s health with fellow alumnae from Nepal.

*Image: Australia Awards alumnus Zolbayar Ochirbat (Master of Development Studies, the University of Melbourne, 2023).*



# Case studies



## Scholars gather in Canberra to develop enduring connections at the Scholars Forum

**Eight Australia Awards scholars from Mongolia joined 47 other scholars from South Asia in Canberra for the 2023 Scholars Forum.**

The two-day event in April had the theme of *Networks for Influence and Impact*.

On the opening day, Mongolian scholars met with His Excellency Mr Davaasuren Damdinsuren, Mongolia's Ambassador to Australia. They then enjoyed the opportunity to tour Australian Parliament House and experience the First Australians exhibition at the National Museum of Australia. Following this, the delegates attended a welcome function where they connected with representatives from the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) and the development sector.

During the second day of the Forum, scholars were welcomed on behalf of DFAT by Gary Cowan, the then First Assistant Secretary of the North and South Asia Division, who highlighted the role that Australia Awards plays in deepening relations between

Australia and the countries of South Asia and Mongolia. Elizabeth Wilde, First Assistant Secretary of DFAT's Development Policy Division, noted the benefits for scholars of developing connections while in Australia to increase their impact on return to their home countries.

The event continued with panel discussions involving representatives from DFAT, other government agencies, the development sector and educational institutions sharing their tips on establishing enduring connections.

Scholars were actively engaged in the Forum, providing opening and closing remarks, participating in every panel, and engaging in discussions and interactive exercises. Mongolian scholar Erdenetsetseg Dashdeleg sat on one panel, as did alumna Tsend-Ayush Sharavjamts, now First Secretary at the Mongolian Embassy in Canberra.

Mongolian attendee Tsogtbaatar Gankhuyag said, "The forum helped scholars to enhance their ability to build effective networks and establish lifelong connections that strengthen their impact."

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*Image:* Australia Awards recipients from Mongolia at the Scholars Forum. From left to right: scholar Erdenetsetseg Dashdeleg and alumna Tsend-Ayush Sharavjamts, First Secretary at the Mongolian Embassy, Canberra.

# Case studies

## Alumni celebrate 30-year milestone and collaborate on climate action at the Regional Alumni Workshop

**Forty-six Australia Awards alumni from South Asia and Mongolia—including nine from Mongolia—gathered in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia, on 29–31 May for the 2023 Regional Alumni Workshop.**

Under the theme of *Building back better: Climate resilience and green economic recovery*, the three-day Workshop saw alumni come together to share their experiences in responding to climate change and explore opportunities for collaboration.

More than 170 alumni applied to participate. Forty-two of these applicants were selected to attend on a competitive basis, with another four alumni selected as keynote speakers.

Her Excellency Ms Katie Smith, Australian Ambassador to Mongolia, delivered a welcome address highlighting the role that alumni play and reflecting on the importance of the Workshop's theme. Mr Enkhbold Nyamaa MP, the inaugural President of the Mongolia–Australia Society (Mozzies), welcomed the alumni on behalf of Mongolia, and thanked Australia for its commitment to providing Scholarships to Mongolia.

The first two days of the Workshop consisted of keynote addresses, panel discussions, alumni presentations and breakout sessions on subjects such as climate finance, climate justice, sustainable agriculture and renewable energy.

On the evening of 30 May, the alumni attended a reception hosted by the Australian Embassy to mark the 30-year anniversary of Australian Government scholarships for Mongolia.

The final day of the Workshop featured site visits to sustainable businesses in Mongolia that aligned with the theme of the event.

“The networking events were touching and helped to build stronger relationships between the participants. This has established a concrete foundation for further collaboration on regional climate actions and experience sharing,” said Mongolian alumna Oyundelger Enkhtuvshin.

The participants' collaboration will continue via their ongoing membership of the Champions for the Environment and Climate Action Community of Practice, relaunched at the end of the Workshop.

*Top image:* Australian Ambassador to Mongolia H.E. Ms Katie Smith with Dr Tsogtbaatar Damdin MP, President of the Mongolia–Australia Society (Mozzies), at the reception to mark the Regional Alumni Workshop in Mongolia.

*Bottom image:* Australia Awards alumnae Delgerekh Sainjargal and Usukhbayar Sainjargal at the reception during the Regional Alumni Workshop to mark the 30th anniversary of Australia Awards in Mongolia.





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Australia Awards – Mongolia forms part of the Australia Awards – South Asia & Mongolia program and is managed by Palladium on behalf of the Australian Government.

Images in this publication are of Australia Awards recipients, scholars and alumni participating in program activities.

To learn more about Australia Awards – Mongolia, visit: [www.australiaawardsmongolia.org](http://www.australiaawardsmongolia.org)