



## Australian scholarships and support for international students

As one of the largest and most successful providers of international education in the world, Australia hosted more than 230,000 international higher education students on student visas in 2012. There were 16,463 international higher degree research enrolments (either Masters by research or more commonly PhD courses) on student visas, including 4,523 commencements (new enrolments) in 2012<sup>1</sup>.

These international postgraduate research students are a vital part of Australia's higher education system, and they comprised almost 30 per cent of all postgraduate research students studying in Australia in 2012<sup>2</sup>. Both the Australian Government and Australian universities invest heavily in scholarships to attract and support international research students, as do the governments in other countries to support their research students in Australia.

In 2012, the Australian Government provided almost \$355 million in scholarships and fellowships for internationally mobile students (shown in Table 1).

The Department of Education offers scholarships to domestic and international students through the Australia Awards Endeavour Scholarships and Fellowships<sup>3</sup>. In 2012, the Department provided \$41.7 million in funding and awarded 776 Endeavour Scholarships and Fellowships to internationally mobile research students through the Prime Minister's Australia Asia Postgraduate Scholarship, Prime Minister's Australia Asia Undergraduate Scholarship, Postgraduate Scholarship (PhD), Postgraduate Scholarship (Masters), VET Scholarship, Research Fellowship, Australia Cheung Kong Research Fellowship, Research Fellowship for Indigenous Australians and Executive Fellowship. Additionally, the Department also awarded 330 International Postgraduate Research Scholarship (IPRS) places to universities worth a further \$20 million<sup>4</sup>.

Scholarships and Fellowships	Number	Total value
Endeavour Scholarships and Fellowships (648 incoming+128 outgoing)	776	\$41.7 million
Scholarships and Fellowships (AusAID and ACIAR)	4,124	\$292.5 million
International Postgraduate Research Scholarships (IPRS)	330	\$20 million
<b>Total</b>	<b>5,230</b>	<b>\$354.2 million</b>

Type of students	Total value
Postgraduate research students	\$267.5 million
Other students	\$24.3 million
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$291.8 million</b>

In 2012, AusAID and Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research (ACIAR) provided \$292.5 million in funding for 4,124 Scholarships and Fellowships under the Australia Awards<sup>5</sup>. Indonesia, Vietnam and Papua New Guinea were the largest three recipient countries of Australia Awards, with 55 per cent of incoming recipients from the Asia region.

Australian universities also provided more than a quarter of a billion dollars in financial support to international students in 2012 (shown in Table 2). An Australian Universities International Directors' Forum (AUIDF) benchmarking study in 2013 found that the thirty-one Australian universities responding to a question about scholarships provided \$267.5 million in scholarships and stipends to international postgraduate research students<sup>6</sup>. The AUIDF survey found that these universities provided 1,899 full scholarships, 154 partial scholarships and 1,819 stipends to commencing international higher education research students in 2012 (unpublished AUIDF data) equating to around three in four commencing international higher education research students.

An AEI analysis of the 2012 International Student Survey found that 85 per cent of international research student respondents received scholarships or stipends from their home country, their Australian university or the Australian Government<sup>7</sup>. In total, the Australian Government and Australian international education providers invested more than half a billion dollars to attract and support international postgraduate research students in 2012.

<sup>1</sup> <https://aei.gov.au/research/international-student-data/pages/default.aspx> The YTD August 2013 pivot tables have been used for this research snapshot.

<sup>2</sup> <http://www.innovation.gov.au/highereducation/HigherEducationStatistics/StatisticsPublications/Pages/Students12FullYear.aspx>

<sup>3</sup> <http://www.industry.gov.au/InternationalEducation/Endeavour/Pages/Endeavour.aspx>

<sup>4</sup> <http://www.industry.gov.au/Research/ResearchBlockGrants/Pages/InternationalPostgraduateResearchScholarships.aspx>

<sup>5</sup> <http://www.australiaawards.gov.au/content/about.html>

<sup>6</sup> <http://www.spre.com.au/download/AIEC2013AUIDFResearchPaper.pdf>

<sup>7</sup> <https://aei.gov.au/research/Publications/Documents/Accommodation%20report.pdf>