

Guide to researching courses

Selecting a suitable course is an essential part of the applying for an Australia Awards Scholarship. The interview selection panel uses this as part of its consideration about who will be recommended for scholarships.

Once a candidate has been selected, changes to courses are not 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 are not supported or approved.

As an applicant for an Australia Awards Scholarship, you will already hold at least a Bachelor's degree with a GPA of at least 3.0. From discussions with your employer, you will also understand the skill requirements of your organisation and how higher qualifications will add value to it and contribute to Mongolia's development. This will be captured in your draft Reintegration Plan.

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 development.

You should select two similar courses at two different universities. This will maximize 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 course to international students.

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

Step 1: Identify possible courses of study

REMEMBER: Check the Australia Awards Mongolia website for the list of universities in Australia from which you can select courses. Only the universities in this list offer courses for Mongolian applicants.

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 longer than 104 weeks.
- 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 them?
This is especially important for courses with significant Mathematics, Statistics and Economics components.
- 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?
- What are the English language 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

Contact the Program office for advice and guidance if required.

The Program team offers seminars on using CRICOS and completing application forms. If you want to join one of these seminars, you must register on the Program website.