



Australia Awards

Year in Review 2025

Australia Awards
– Mongolia



Highlights of 2025

In 2025, Australia Awards continued to support Mongolia's development priorities by equipping emerging leaders with the skills, networks and leadership experience to drive meaningful change.

It was a year of growth for Australia Awards, demonstrating Australia's commitment to building human capability in Mongolia, with increases in:

- scholars commencing their master's degree-level studies (17, compared to 15 in 2024)
- Mongolian participants completing Short Courses (31, compared to 24 in 2024)
- Australian Professional Opportunity (APO) participants (15, compared to three in 2024)
- participants in alumni engagement activities in Mongolia (266, compared to 154 in 2024).

In total, 130 Australia Awards scholars, fellows, and Short Course, Women's Leadership Program and APO participants from Mongolia undertook education, training and professional development during 2025.

Thirteen of these scholars completed their degrees at Australia's world-class universities and returned home as alumni, committed to contributing to Mongolia's development.

A comprehensive schedule of enrichment activities, including four flagship Scholars Symposiums, enhanced Mongolian scholars' professional capabilities and facilitated networking with senior Australian leaders. Indigenous engagement was an important theme throughout the year's activities, giving

Mongolian scholars the chance to learn about the culture, history and achievements of Australia's First Nations people.

Australia Awards delivered the Women's Leadership Program for its 11th cohort of 20 participants, building their capacity to be the next generation of Mongolian leaders.

As targeted short-term training opportunities to strengthen sector-specific capability and regional collaboration, Australia Awards also supported 31 Mongolians to complete four Short Courses and 15 Mongolians to undertake three APOs.

For alumni, Australia Awards provided professional development and networking opportunities in Mongolia and regionally. A highlight was the 2025 Regional Alumni Workshop in Sri Lanka, which had the theme 'From inclusion to equity: Development for all'. Six Mongolians joined other alumni from South Asia at the workshop, which launched the Equity for All alumni network. This fourth regional alumni network enabled participants to continue collaborating on equity-focused initiatives for people with disability and from marginalised communities.

Cover image: Australia Awards scholars and alumni from Mongolia. From left to right: Enkhbayar Jambaldorj, Nyamzul Batsukh, Tsolmon Purevdorj, Duurenjargal Chinbat and Molor-Erdene Munkhdalai.

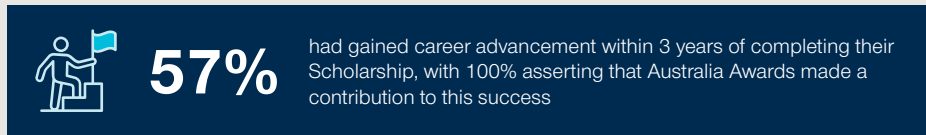
Image: Australia Awards recipients from Mongolia. From left to right: Oyunchimeg Erdenee, Nyamtsetseg Gantulga and Gantuya Tumurdorj.



Outcomes at a glance

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

Among Australia Awards Scholarships alumni in Mongolia surveyed:



Among Australia Awards Short Course alumni in Mongolia surveyed:



Outcome: Alumni contribute to cooperation between Australia and Mongolia

Among Australia Awards Scholarships alumni in Mongolia surveyed:

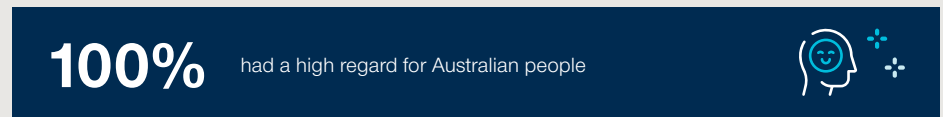


Outcome: Australia is viewed as a valued international partner

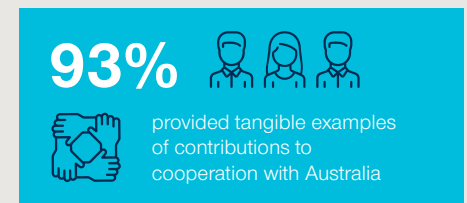
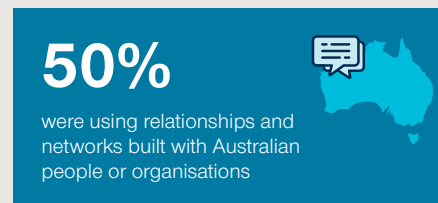
Among Australia Awards Scholarships alumni in Mongolia surveyed:



Among Australia Awards Short Course alumni in Mongolia surveyed:



Among Australia Awards Short Course alumni in Mongolia surveyed:



“The Australia Awards Scholarship continues to be a transformative experience, broadening my perspective academically, culturally and personally. Through my studies in artificial intelligence, I am developing expertise and building a global network to advance innovation and strengthen public safety back home.”

Biligt Davaasuren

Master of Artificial Intelligence
Monash University
commenced 2025



Australia Awards Scholarships

In 2025, Australia Awards Scholarship recipients from Mongolia achieved strong academic and professional outcomes. During the year, 13 scholars (9 women, 4 men) completed their degrees; all have returned home as alumni and are applying their learning in support of Mongolia’s development priorities.

At the other end of their Scholarship journey, 17 scholars from Mongolia commenced master’s-level study at Australian universities in 2025. This brought the total number of Mongolian scholars studying in Australia in 2025 to 37. This cohort included 28 women and four people with disability, reflecting Australia’s commitment to equal opportunity for all people, regardless of gender or disability status.

To complement scholars’ studies and strengthen their leadership capability, Australia Awards – South Asia & Mongolia offered 23 scholar enrichment opportunities throughout the year, including the flagship Scholars Symposiums (see page 08). Scholars from Mongolia participated in these opportunities 59 times, engaging in professional development activities such as grants, internships and online communication training.

Consistent with Australia’s policy priorities, enrichment activities strongly emphasised gender equality, Indigenous engagement and equity for people with disability. Key activities included:

- an International Women’s Day online seminar with Indigenous women’s advocate Vicky Welgraven AM

- a World Environment Day seminar with Professor Anne Poelina, highlighting the connection between Indigenous knowledge and environmental management
- *Disability Sector Connect*, a study tour in Adelaide focused on innovation and best practice in disability advocacy and inclusion.

Myagmarsuren Surenragchaa, a Mongolian scholar with disability, said, “I was so satisfied with the *Disability Sector Connect* program. I successfully obtained information on how institutions work in the disability sector in Australia.”

As part of a new initiative, Mongolian scholar Nyamtsetseg Gantulga was appointed a Scholar Ambassador in Queensland. In this role, Nyamtsetseg promotes scholar enrichment activities, and acts as a voice for scholars from South Asia and Mongolia.

Representing Australia’s continued investment in long-term development outcomes, 20 emerging leaders from Mongolia received Scholarships to commence study in Australia in 2026, an 18% increase on the previous year. This cohort included three people from target communities outside of Ulaanbaatar.

Scholars engage with Indigenous Australians

In 2025, scholars from Mongolia participated in Indigenous engagement activities across Australia and online, alongside other Australia Awards – South Asia & Mongolia scholars.

The flagship activity was a four-day First Nations study tour in Ikara-Flinders Ranges National Park, South Australia. Through various sessions, scholars learnt about the relationship that the Adnyamathanha people, the Traditional Owners of the area, have with the environment.

In Melbourne, local guides led scholars along the Aboriginal Heritage Walk at Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria. The guides shared stories of the land and its people, and pointed out native plants used for food, medicine and tools.

Scholar Duurenjargal Chinbat said, “Words can hardly capture the spiritual richness of these places. Exploring the unique plants and vibrant culture of Aboriginal people alongside my fellow peers was a truly enriching and unforgettable experience.”

In Sydney, scholars travelled to Bundeena Royal National Park, on the traditional lands of the Dharawal people, where they heard cultural stories from Richard Campbell, an Elder of the Yuin Nation. Attendees also had hands-on opportunities to learn boomerang throwing and traditional fire-making techniques.

Scholar Solongo Erdenebat said, “Learning about their nature-based lifestyle, traditional

knowledge, and use of native plants for daily living and healing was truly eye-opening. This experience has deepened my appreciation for the rich cultural heritage and wisdom of Indigenous communities.”

Scholars also joined Ronnie Jordan, a Pitta Pitta Wangkamahdla woman, and Coen, a Pitta Pitta Wangkamahdla Muruwari Ngemba man, for an online Aboriginal weaving workshop. Using materials received in advance, scholars followed step-by-step instructions to learn coil weaving and rope making, while Ronnie explained how weaving connects the weaver, their ancestors and the land.

Reflecting on the experience, scholar Nyamsuren Baatar said, “One of my personal goals while studying in Australia is to learn more about Aboriginal culture, so this workshop was especially meaningful and inspiring for me.”

Each of these scholar experiences helped participants gain deeper understanding and appreciation of Indigenous Australians’ culture, history and achievements.

Image: Mongolian Australia Awards alumna Bayarmaa Tumurkhuyag (Master of Public Policy, the University of Sydney, 2025) has her face painted by Richard Campbell, an Elder of the Yuin Nation, during her time as a scholar.



Short-term training

In 2025, Australia Awards delivered short-term training opportunities to 93 Mongolians (72 women, 20 men, 1 non-binary person) in priority sectors, including climate change, Indigenous knowledge, energy, mining and gender equality. These opportunities strengthened participants' skills, knowledge and networks to contribute to Mongolia's development.



Image: Munkhzul Munkhsukh (left), Mongolian participant in the Short Course on Indigenous Environmental Knowledge, with Jacquie Sandy, a proud Kabi Kabi woman.

Through the Women's Leadership Program (WLP), Australia Awards continued its long-term commitment to supporting the next generation of Mongolian leaders. In June, 20 participants completed the 11th iteration of the WLP, having participated in formal training, networking events, workshops, field visits and community projects.

Thirteen selected WLP participants attended a further two-week intensive leadership program at the University of Queensland. The program, tailored to each participant's needs, aimed to enhance collaboration, impact and leadership effectiveness by connecting participants with relevant leaders and organisations in Australia.

The 12th iteration of the WLP commenced in October.

Additionally, a total of 31 Mongolians completed Short Courses designed to build sector-specific capability and foster collaboration, all of which involved learning, networking and site visits, as follows.

Twenty professionals completed a Short Course on *Developing Carbon-Conscious Mining in Mongolia*, delivered in Ulaanbaatar. Participants deepened their understanding of essential climate change concepts and the actions required to support more sustainable mining practices.

A further 11 Mongolians completed three Regional Short Courses, enabling

engagement with counterparts across the region working in similar fields:

- Six participants in total completed two climate-focused Regional Short Courses, supporting increased capability in responding to climate-related challenges (see page 07).
- Five participants completed a Regional Short Course on *Indigenous Environmental Knowledge*, which strengthened understanding of Indigenous perspectives on environmental management.

Australia Awards also supported 15 Mongolians to build their knowledge through three Australian Professional Opportunities:

- Eight members of the Energy Reform Working Group visited Australia to study Australia's electricity market.
- Five participants from the Ministry of Finance visited Australia to examine Australian best practices in mining royalty and international tax frameworks.
- Two representatives from the National Center Against Violence attended the 5th World Conference of Women's Shelters in Sydney, presenting and leading a workshop on technology-facilitated gender-based violence.

Alumni engagement

Australia Awards alumni engagement activities in 2025 focused on supporting professional development, building linkages, community engagement and increasing knowledge of priority development topics, including gender equality, disability equity and environmental sustainability.

Australia Awards worked closely with the Mongolia–Australia Society ('Mozzies') to deliver alumni engagement initiatives. More than 260 participants collectively benefited from alumni engagement activities in Mongolia, including those delivered in collaboration with Mozzies. These activities included:

- a networking reception with Her Excellency the Honourable Ms Sam Mostyn AC, Australia's Governor-General, during her visit to Mongolia
- a Welcome Back Ceremony for recently returned Scholarship alumni
- the launch of the Australia Alumni Inclusive Chapter to support inclusive initiatives by Australian alumni in Mongolia
- the Mozzies Sports Challenge 2025, comprising alumni volleyball and basketball competitions.

Alumni from Mongolia built linkages with counterparts from South Asia and heard from Australian leaders through regional engagement opportunities, headlined by the Regional Alumni Workshop (see page 08).

Four regional thematic alumni networks (the Regional Women in Leadership Network, Male Allies for Gender Equality alumni network, Champions for the Environment and Climate Action, and Equity for All alumni network) also provided opportunities for alumni across South Asia and Mongolia to engage on gender equality, disability equity and environmental sustainability.

A total of 22 regional alumni events registered more than 100 Mongolian participants. Activities included:

- an alumni-led event for World Mental Health Day on the subject of 'Mental Health for Sustainable Development', featuring Mongolian alumna Munkhzul Erdenedagva as a panellist
- a Regional Women in Leadership Network seminar with Australia's Sex Discrimination Commissioner, Dr Anna Cody
- training on applying online tools for digital inclusion, organised by the Equity for All alumni network.

"My experience as an Australia Awards scholar shaped how I see sustainable development as something deeply human, grounded in mental health, wellbeing and compassionate leadership."

Munkhzul Erdenedagva
Master of International Development Practice
Monash University, 2024



Strengthening climate leadership and resilience

Australia Awards is equipping emerging leaders from Mongolia with the skills and networks needed to respond to the challenges of a changing climate. Action on climate change is central to Australia's international development priorities, and Australia is committed to improving the capacity of partner governments to manage the impacts of the climate crisis.



Image: Mongolian participants in climate-related Regional Short Courses after receiving their certificates of completion, with Andrew Berryman, Deputy Head of Mission, Australia Embassy in Mongolia (centre) and other representatives of the Australian Embassy, National Emergency Management Agency of Mongolia and Australia Awards.

This commitment to climate action was reflected in the delivery of two climate-focused Regional Short Courses in 2025. Three Mongolians completed a Regional Short Course on *Integrating Climate Change Adaptation and Disaster Risk Reduction*. Participants explored how stronger policy coherence between disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation could support sustainable development.

Three Mongolians also undertook a Regional Short Course on *Accessing Climate Finance*, which built participants' capability to navigate the complex landscape of climate-related finance, international agreements, green banking and sustainable investing.

These two Regional Short Courses each included two weeks of learning in Australia, enabling participants to network with Australian experts, including at the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, the Department of the Treasury, Energy Queensland, the National Adaptation Policy Office and the Clean Investor Group. Participants also visited SolarShare, Australia's largest community-owned solar farm.

Australia Awards also sought to strengthen scholars' ability to respond to climate change more broadly. A highlight was Climate Literacy training facilitated by Edith Cowan University over three sessions.

Mongolian scholars were among a group of 30 from South Asia and Mongolia who explored practical strategies for reducing emissions, influencing policy, and driving positive change within organisations and the wider community.

The Champions for the Environment and Climate Action alumni network convened two online events on climate finance attended by Mongolian alumni:

- a seminar with Mongolia's Dr Oyun Sanjaasuren, the Director of Partnerships and Resource Mobilization at the Green Climate Fund
- a workshop where alumni shared their experiences of accessing climate finance, which featured a presentation from Mongolian alumna Chuluunkhuu Baatar and was facilitated by Mongolian alumna Oyundelger Enkhtuvshin.

Reflecting on the workshop, Mongolian participant Tuvshinbagana Munkhjargal said, "The panel reinforced that climate finance is most impactful when aligned with local contexts and grounded in strong public-private collaboration. Mongolia's emerging carbon market and green finance ecosystem show that even small economies can lead in innovative climate solutions."

Case studies

Scholars strengthen leadership skills at Scholar Symposiums

From October to December, 23 Mongolian Australia Awards scholars participated in four Scholars Symposiums across Australia. These events were designed to help scholars develop the skills to be changemakers after completing their Scholarships.

Delivering opening remarks in Brisbane on behalf of the scholars, Nyamtsetseg Gantulga described her Scholarship as “truly life-changing—like planting a seed that has grown through challenges and learning, shaping both my academic and personal growth”.

A highlight of each symposium was a panel of experts speaking about various leadership topics, including the importance of values for leaders, tips for networking and advice on advocating for change. This was followed by leadership or communications training, to help scholars apply what they had heard.

On the second day of the symposiums, scholars examined their Reintegration Plans and whether they needed updating. Scholar Bilguun Chuluuntsetseg said, “Reflecting on my Reintegration Plan was very meaningful, reminding me of what truly matters.”

Each symposium concluded with scholars engaging with First Nations Australians. These activities included art lessons from Indigenous teachers and learning to throw a

boomerang. Bilguun Chuluuntsetseg said, “The Indigenous painting activity helped me reflect on my past and imagine my future.”

For many attendees, the most valuable aspect of the events was the chance to network with other scholars from across the region. “A highlight of the event was the opportunity to build genuine connections and exchange ideas with fellow scholars who share similar goals and aspirations,” said Nyamtsetseg Gantulga. Scholar Solongo Erdenebat said, “Participating in the Scholars Symposium helped me become more confident in my leadership and networking skills.”

Summing up the views of many, scholar Biligt Davaasuren said, “I’m leaving the Symposium with a clearer sense of my leadership identity, a stronger regional network across South Asia and Mongolia, and fresh motivation to contribute more intentionally when I return home.”



Alumni unite for equity and development

Six Mongolians were among the 51 Australia Awards alumni from South Asia and Mongolia who attended the 2025 Regional Alumni Workshop in Sri Lanka on 7–9 April.

The workshop’s theme was ‘From inclusion to equity: Development for all’. Through alumni presentations, panel discussions and group exercises, attendees discussed advocacy for the rights of people with disability and people from traditionally marginalised communities. Thirteen participants were people with disability, including one from Mongolia.

Mongolian alumni played a central role in delivering the workshop: Davaasuren Myagmar and Battulga Ganbaatar each delivered a presentation showcasing their development work, while Badmaa Tsogt and Bayanmunkh Ariunbold were panellists.

Opening the event, HE Mr Paul Stephens, Australia’s then High Commissioner to Sri Lanka, said, “The workshop theme recognises that it is not enough to seek inclusion for people from marginalised communities and people with disability ... rather, we must tackle the unequal power systems and structures that hinder economic growth and human development.”

The workshop featured three keynote presentations, each followed by a

discussion panel featuring alumni. These presentations and panels covered topics such as advocacy by and for people with disability (with Badmaa Tsogt as a panellist), making education accessible to all (with Bayanmunkh Ariunbold as a panellist), and why development practitioners working with people with disability and from minority communities should consider intersectionality.

Participants also examined common challenges—dividing into groups to brainstorm approaches to each challenge, then presenting their ideas. In summing up her experience, Mongolian alumna Davaasuren Myagmar said she was “proud to represent Mongolia, share our experiences, learn from others across the region and build stronger connections for a more inclusive and equitable future”.

The workshop marked ten years since the inaugural Regional Alumni Workshop, at which the Women in Leadership Network was launched. The 2025 workshop saw the launch of the Equity for All alumni network, which will enable alumni to share knowledge and learn together through expert-led discussions, interactive workshops and peer-sharing sessions on key issues relating to disability and marginalised communities.

Image: Mongolian participants in the Brisbane Scholars Symposium. From left to right: Oyuntugs Tegsheebaatar, Nyamgerel Dashdolgor and Zulzaya Nyamkhuu.

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**