



Australian Government



Australia Awards

DEVELOPMENT AWARDS

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

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### **Australian Government scholarships for Africa increase ten-fold**

One thousand African professionals from 51 eligible countries are set to benefit from the next round of Australian Government scholarships which open for applications on 1 September 2012.

Over the past three years, the number of Australian development scholarships available for African professionals has increased ten-fold. One quarter of all Australian development scholarships are now directed to Africa.

Australia Awards in Africa (AAA) promotes development in Africa through scholarships and fellowships in areas where Australia is recognised as having expertise, including Agriculture and Food Security, Health, Mining and Natural Resource Management, Public Policy and Water and Sanitation.

The scholarships are managed by the Australian Agency for International Development (AusAID) and are designed to promote knowledge, education links and enduring ties between Australia and the global community. They aim at assisting African countries progress towards the Millennium Development Goals.

“Through our scholarships, Australia is committed to sharing its expertise to develop the capacity and leadership skills of Africans so they can effectively contribute to development in their home countries. The Australian government believes the Awards will have long-term benefits to the individuals, institutions, communities and their countries,” says Jamie Isbister, Minister-Counsellor, AusAID.

The scholarships are for Masters degrees, PhDs in Agriculture, and short courses providing training in 17 specialised fields. Australian Leadership Award Scholarships are offered to outstanding Masters-level applicants.

Qualifying applicants enjoy a range of benefits including the full cost of tuition, training materials, accommodation, living expenses, health insurance for basic medical and hospital care in Australia, and travel.

Australia Awards promote equal participation by women and men. Women are strongly encouraged to apply. The initiative also aims to ensure that people with disability are given a fair and equal opportunity to compete for and obtain

scholarships. The Australian Government has put mechanisms in place to support applicants and Awardees requiring specific assistance.

Details of Australia Awards in Africa are available on the website: [www.adsafrica.com.au](http://www.adsafrica.com.au)

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