

MEDIA RELEASE



Australian High Commission, Pretoria

8 September 2015

Applications open for prestigious Australia Awards scholarship program in South Africa

Australia Awards are a cornerstone of the Australian Government's development partnership with South Africa. Through scholarships for Masters-level degrees and specialised post-graduate short-courses, Australia Awards provide enhanced leadership, knowledge and technical skills to government departments, tertiary institutions and other organisations that are driving economic growth and sustainable development in South Africa.

"We now have over 200 alumni in South Africa, many of whom are in senior leadership positions and positively shaping their country's future", said Adam McCarthy, the Australian High Commissioner to South Africa.

Australia Awards in South Africa focus on areas that are essential to supporting sustainable economic growth and align with South African Government policy priorities including those outlined in the National Development Plan: extractives, agricultural productivity and key areas of public policy such as health and vocational education.

"Australia has developed one of the most efficient and innovative agricultural sectors in the world despite, or perhaps because of, challenging ecological conditions that are comparable to conditions in many African countries", said Mr McCarthy. 'Australia is also renowned for being one of the world's leading extractives and energy producers. As such, Australia is uniquely placed to provide high quality Masters-level and specialised post-graduate training to South African professionals in these areas'.

While the Awards have a strong focus on supporting public sector employees, the program is also open to private sector and civil society applicants, recognising the important role that these sectors play, together with the public sector, in supporting sustainable growth and job and livelihood creation.

The Australian Government recognises that significant benefits flow to whole communities when women can fully participate in economic, social and political life. As such, Australia Awards promote equal participation by both women and men, and ensures that people with disabilities are given a fair and equal opportunity to compete for and undertake the Awards.

Applications for Masters degree scholarships close on 30 November 2015, while applications for Short Courses close on 18 December 2015. More information is available on the website: www.australiaawardsafrica.org.

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