



Australian Government



NEW COLOMBO PLAN

Connect to Australia's future - study in the region

Opportunities for
Business Engagement



Bangladesh Bhutan Brunei
Burma Cambodia China Cook Islands
Federated States of Micronesia Fiji
India Indonesia Hong Kong Japan
Kiribati Laos Malaysia Maldives
Marshall Islands Mongolia Nauru
Nepal Niue Pakistan Palau
Papua New Guinea Philippines Singapore
Samoa Solomon Islands South Korea
Sri Lanka Taiwan Thailand Timor-Leste
Tonga Tuvalu Vanuatu Vietnam

From the Minister

The study abroad initiative of the Australian Government, the New Colombo Plan, is providing a new generation of Australians with practical experience living, studying and gaining workplace skills in the Indo-Pacific region.

These experiences can be transformative, shaping new futures for our students and new opportunities for Australia.

The Australian Government recognises the benefits of a labour force equipped to do business in our region and work placements are a hallmark of the New Colombo Plan.

Internships, mentorships and practicums enable New Colombo Plan students to test their skills in real life situations, build cross-cultural competencies and develop professional networks.

Students return to Australia with the practical skills and maturity to make an early contribution to Australia's engagement with our neighbours and to our national prosperity.

I have been delighted by the enthusiastic embrace of the New Colombo Plan by the business community, which has provided overseas opportunities for young Australians.

Already around half of New Colombo Plan students have complemented their formal studies with a work placement and more than 90 per cent report greater regional literacy and work-readiness on completion of their award.

As the program continues to expand in the years ahead, continued private-sector support and engagement, together with support from Australia's universities, will be critical to its success.



We are driving further engagement with the private-sector and the New Colombo Plan, with the following initiatives:

The New Colombo Plan Internship and Mentorship Network allows organisations to register online their interest in offering work placements to New Colombo Plan students studying overseas.

The Mobility Partners Program is supporting Australian universities to develop innovative partnerships with the private-sector to create new opportunities for New Colombo Plan mobility students.

The New Colombo Plan Business Champions initiative is supporting business leaders to promote the value of regional study and workplace experiences to students' careers and Australia's future prosperity.

These programs support the efforts of universities, business and government to deliver new opportunities for Australian students and to build the future productivity and prosperity of our nation.

New Colombo Plan – At a glance



The New Colombo Plan is **driving new connections** between Australia and our neighbours by supporting undergraduates to study and intern in up to 38 host locations across the Indo-Pacific.



In 2015 the **top locations** by student numbers are Indonesia, China, India and Singapore, with other locations growing quickly.



In 2014 and 2015, the **NCP has funded more than 4,600 students** and will continue to grow in 2016.



More than half of NCP students have undertaken a work placement to support their formal studies – and more than ninety per cent of students say their NCP experience has made them **more regionally-literate and work ready**.



The NCP is open to undergraduate students from across **all academic disciplines**, with business, languages, commerce, economics, education, engineering and law among the most popular.



More than 100 organisations are providing internship and mentorship opportunities to NCP students, which are flexible to accommodate the circumstances of each workplace.

What is the New Colombo Plan?

The New Colombo Plan is a signature initiative of the Australian Government which aims to lift knowledge of the Indo-Pacific in Australia by supporting Australian undergraduates to study and undertake professional experiences in the region.

The New Colombo Plan is intended to be transformational, deepening Australia's relationships in the region, as well as ensuring a more regionally-aware Australian workforce for the future.

A large body of Australian alumni with experiences at universities and work places in the Indo-Pacific will deepen our engagement with our neighbours and present considerable opportunities for stronger business, trade, investment, research, education and cultural collaboration.

The ongoing support of the business community in Australia and the region is crucial to the program's ongoing success and the realisation of its potential as a transformative foreign policy initiative.

The New Colombo Plan Internship and Mentorship Network, Mobility Partners Program and Business Champions initiative provide flexible opportunities for businesses in Australia and our region to support the New Colombo Plan and its objectives of driving greater understanding and engagement between Australia and our neighbours.



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How to get involved

New Colombo Plan Internship and Mentorship Network

The New Colombo Plan Internship and Mentorship Network is an online portal designed to connect universities, students and private-sector organisations in Australia and the region to progress course-related work experiences under the New Colombo Plan.

As a registered Network member, private-sector organisations can access a diverse talent pool and support students in obtaining professional experience in the region; and universities and New Colombo Plan students can access the opportunities made available by registered organisations.

Mobility Partners Program

The New Colombo Plan Mobility Partners Program encourages universities to develop and foster innovative partnerships with business communities in Australia and across the region to enhance New Colombo Plan student experiences.

For example, a private sector organisation may wish to finance the cost of an additional study period to enable students to have a longer period in-country, or they may wish to match Government funding to enable increased student participation. In-kind and financial sponsorship must go beyond the provision of internships, mentorships and briefings.

Private-sector organisations that provide sponsorship will be recognised as a New Colombo Plan Mobility Partner.

Business Champions

New Colombo Plan Business Champions will help to promote the value of overseas study to students' career prospects and foster business engagement in the program.

The New Colombo Plan will build the number of business champions over time to assist with our communications activities aimed at employers in Australia and the region, undergraduate and high school students and the wider community.

→ What to do next

Log on and register your interest



dfat.gov.au/new-colombo-plan/business



Mike Smith

Chief Executive Officer, ANZ

"With the fastest growing region on our doorstep, Australian organisations need to quickly develop a workforce capable of taking full advantage of the Asian century. The New Colombo Plan will be vital in developing a pipeline of future leaders with the skills and connections needed to successfully do business in Asia."

Mike Smith

Chief Executive Officer, ANZ

Hear from some of our students and private-sector partners

Living and working in the region gave me the ability to adapt and adjust to a completely new culture while developing expertise in one of the most exciting areas of 'green' technology.



Denver Linklater

Swinburne University of Technology

As an Australian company with an ambitious growth strategy in Asia, we see great benefit in programs like the New Colombo Plan that help build connections between Australians starting out their careers and companies operating globally. At Telstra, to deliver on our company strategy we need young workers with the right technical skills combined with a global mindset. This program not only helps individuals build this outlook and a network of contacts outside of Australia, but at the same time the participants we've had work at Telstra have made a meaningful contribution to our priorities today.



Lynne Barry

Human Resources Director
Telstra International Group

As my first opportunity to establish a mentoring relationship, and intern at a top-tier international law firm, these experiences have immeasurably contributed to my professional growth. I feel I can now confidently pursue my ambitions with greater clarity, aiming to establish a legal career in the Indo-Pacific.



Emma Moore
Monash University

Mitsui seeks employees that are culturally aware and open to different cultural experiences. As our business model is constantly evolving we value employees who learn quickly and are able to adjust to the changing needs of our business. The New Colombo Plan provides the workforce of the future with opportunities to develop cross-cultural, interpersonal skills and the ability to adapt to different working environments. These skills are important for all forward thinking companies today.



Wendy Holdenson
Director and Executive Vice President
Mitsui & Co.

Living and working in another part of the world, experiencing new cultures, developing new relationships, all helps to empower curiosity, strengthen resilience and develop confidence. As a professional working in a global law firm with multinational clients, these are good core skills to have. The New Colombo Plan promotes collaboration, globalisation and multiculturalism for both private-sector organisations and students, and adds to the important process of enhancing relations and business and economic opportunities across the Indo-Pacific region.



Jason Ricketts
Managing Partner
Herbert Smith Freehills

My internships gave me first-hand experience of the Japanese working culture and environment and an increased drive and motivation to become a direct contributor in my future career to the Australia-Japan partnership.



Patrick Gan
University of Western Sydney



Caroline Yun, University of New South Wales with **Hideki Wachi**, Country Manager Japan & Korea, Telstra

Private-sector partners

The following organisations are among a growing number using the NCP Internship and Mentorship Network to identify outstanding talent and contribute to Australia's engagement with the Indo-Pacific.

3M, A*STAR, Aga Khan Foundation, Agensi Pekerjaan Sheffield Executive Sdn Bhd, ANZ, ASHA Community Health and Development Society, Asia Society India Centre, Association of Indonesian Women for Justice, Austrade, Australian and Taiwan Women Entrepreneurs Network, Australian Chamber of Commerce in Korea, Australian National Centre for Ocean Resources and Security, Australian Rules Football Association of India, Australian-New Zealand Chamber of Commerce Philippines (ANZCHAM), AZISAFE, Bank of Tokyo-Mitsubishi UFJ, Ltd, BASF, Best Western Elyon Colombo, Bharat Forge Limited, BHP Billiton, Brown Coffee Co., Ltd., Cambodia Development Resource Institute, Cambodia Investors Corporation, Cambodia-ASEAN International Institute, Center for Disaster Preparedness, Central Japan Railway Company, Centre for Equity and Inclusion, Chung-Ang University, Coca-Cola Amatil Limited, Commonwealth Bank of Australia, Consumer Unity & Trust Society, Corrs Chambers Westgarth, CPA Australia, Deloitte, Eugrow Holdings, EY, Friends of Asia, Garis Architects, GE Australia and New Zealand, GHD Engineering, GHD Pty Ltd, Herbert Smith Freehills, IDP Education Beijing Office, Indochine Engineering, Institute for Women's Empowerment, International Centre for Research on Women, International Planned Parenthood Federation, South Asia Region, JR Central, J-Seed Ventures, Junior Chamber International Malaysia, King & Wood Mallesons, KOOH Sports Pty Ltd, Macquarie Group Limited, Malaysia Australia Business Council, Mangoes Resort / The Terraces Resort, MARS Symbioscience, Minor International, Mitsubishi Australia, Mitsui & Co., Ltd., Moulathan Consulting (MLT Consulting), Nanyang Technopreneurship Centre, National Australia Bank Limited, National Institute of Public Health, Navjyoti India Foundation, Observer Research Foundation, Palawan Council for Sustainable Development, Philippines Disaster Recovery Foundation (PDRF), Phoenix Inspivision, PT Prime Consultancy, PwC Australia, QBE Insurance, RED Communications, Riken Brain Science Institute, Rio Tinto, Rishikul Vidyapeeth School, Rumah Sakit Sanglah Hospital, Salt Media, Saw Swee Hock School of Public Health, Sisters In Islam, SMEC, Sumitomo Mitsui Banking Corporation, Sungkyunkwan University, Taiwan Brain Trust, Tamana Association, Tata Consultancy Services Limited, Techlyon, Telstra Corporation Limited, The Asia Foundation - Philippines, The Association of Foundations, The Australian Chamber of Commerce in Hong Kong & Macau, The Women's Foundation, Thomas Philip Advocates and Solicitors, TNS Myanmar, Uniqlo, Vanuatu Direct, Vanuatu Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Vishnu Law Group, Visy Packaging (Thailand) Limited, Westpac Banking Corporation, Woodside Energy Ltd, Yates and Partners Company Limited (Y+ Studio), Zaid Ibrahim & Co, Zhicheng Public Interest Lawyers



Australian Government

Contact the New Colombo Plan Secretariat



ncp.business@dfat.gov.au

Visit the New Colombo Plan website



dfat.gov.au/new-colombo-plan/business

Visit the NCP Internship and Mentorship Network



ncpbusiness.dfat.gov.au

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