



## **Westpac Scholars Asian Exchange FAQs**

### **In what year can I go on exchange?**

You need to have completed at least one year of your undergraduate degree the year before you go on exchange. Honours students are also eligible.

### **Where can I choose to go on exchange?**

Scholars can choose from a range of 3 countries: China (Beijing and Shanghai), Singapore and Japan. We'll re-evaluate the eligibility of Hong Kong for the 2021 scholarship round.

### **Do I need to be an Australian citizen or permanent citizen to apply?**

Yes

### **What support will Westpac provide me with while overseas?**

Alongside your fellow scholars, Westpac will be able to provide recommendations to make the most out of your experience, including language schools, volunteering opportunities and tourist attractions.

### **Must I do an internship?**

We understand that, with the change of visa laws, it can sometimes be difficult to undertake an internship in Asia. As such, if you're unable to do an internship we encourage you to get involved in the local community through volunteering and language studies. Demonstrating that you've looked into your options to create a well-rounded experience for yourselves will strengthen your application.

### **What does the Scholarship include?**

- \$9,500 cash
- A two day Summit in Sydney in April (this is a compulsory part of the Scholarship program)
- A one-week leadership residential in Shanghai, including accommodation. You'll need to cover your flights and visas using your scholarship funds. This is also a compulsory part of the Scholarship program.
- Lifetime membership to the W100 Alumni Network

### **What's the breakdown of the Scholarship funds?**

The Scholarship is valued at \$12,000. This comprises \$9,500 cash, and \$2,500 for the Shanghai leadership residential.

### **How will I receive the Scholarship money?**

The funds will be administered by your host university following the conclusion of the Scholarship selection process.

### **Am I able to hold two scholarships?**

Not if they're concurrent. For example, if you've received an NCP mobility grant and have spent this on a previous trip, that's fine. But you can't put an NCP mobility grant towards the same exchange as your Westpac scholarship.

### **Do I have to have to be enrolled in an existing exchange program to be eligible for the scholarship?**

All applicants must commence an exchange program that's organised by your university in Semester 2, 2020 at one of the three listed countries.

### **Why isn't Hong Kong eligible in 2020?**

Due to recent political turmoil and the associated safety of our scholars, Hong Kong is not an option for 2020. As an alternative, Japan has been offered, with Hong Kong being reconsidered for the 2021 scholarship round.

### **What do we get to do during the Shanghai Leadership Development program?**

The Leadership Development Program (LDP) runs over 5 days. It helps develop you as an Asia-capable leader by giving you deep and current insights into the social and political context of Asia from globally-recognised guest speakers, the opportunity to lead discussion and develop your confidence, explore Shanghai and expand your networks across multiple sectors. You'll also get to know your fellow Asian-Exchange Scholars, sparking a strong network of like-minded individuals to help support you through your exchange.

### **Will Westpac Scholars Trust help us get visas for the Leadership Development Program?**

All Scholars are responsible for arranging their own visas for the Leadership Development Program, however we'll provide a letter of support if required.

### **What is the 'ideal' Westpac Asian Exchange candidate?**

There is no 'ideal candidate': our scholars come from all disciplines and backgrounds, are highly motivated with a strong generosity of spirit, and are ambitious to create positive change by contributing to the future of Australia's relationship in Asia. We're not as interested in hearing about whether you've topped your class in all your subjects: we're more interested in you as a person, what you're passionate about, and why this opportunity is right for you, now.

### **What are previous scholars doing now?**

Scholars are making a growing impact across government, business and non-for-profit sectors while others are still furthering their studies.

### **I am considering work in Government. Will visiting certain countries affect my ability to hold a security clearance?**

We're unable to comment on any impact your exchange may have on your security clearance.

### **How many other scholars will be in the same city as me?**

This depends on factors such as the popularity of destinations, however there is usually a strong support network of scholars in each of the destinations.

**What is the average duration of the exchange experience?**

The average Semester starts in September and ends around December. Many Universities, particularly in Mainland China, work through Christmas. We encourage scholars to supplement their time at university with an internship, language training, or volunteering.

**Does it matter how I spend the scholarship money?**

Scholars can use funds to support your exchange as you see fit: generally this means helping pay for accommodation, flights, and supporting you through any volunteering activities or further travel in Asia.