

Westpac Scholars

Asian Exchange Scholarship – FAQs

In what university 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?

You can attend any university in the regions of mainland China, Hong Kong, Singapore, Japan, South Korea and Taiwan, provided that there is an exchange agreement in place with your Australian university.

Due to the impacts of COVID-19, these destinations may change over time. If there are changes, we will update the website, applicants and successful scholars. We encourage you to be flexible with your choice of destination and to liaise with your university on travel updates.

If you have any questions, please email westpacscholars@westpac.com.au.

When can I go on exchange?

You should intend to commence your exchange in July/August 2021 for the start of semester at your host university in Asia. Unfortunately, scholars cannot commence their exchange for the March/April semester in 2021.

Given the uncertainty of the impacts of COVID-19 and international travel, we encourage you to be flexible because you may need to defer your exchange one year later to July/August 2022. In this case, successful scholars will be able to defer their scholarship.

The July/August start date allows scholars to complete their Leadership Development program together as a cohort before they commence their exchange.

If you have any questions, please email westpacscholars@westpac.com.au.

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 2021 (this is a compulsory part of the Scholarship program)
- A one-week leadership residential, 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 \$12,250. This comprises \$9,500 cash, and \$2,750 for the 5-day-leadership residential in Asia.

How will I receive the scholarship money?

The funds will be administered by your Australian 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 at one of the six listed destinations.

What do we get to do during the 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 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. You can read the profiles of our Scholars and alumni here: <https://scholars.westpacgroup.com.au/scholars/>

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 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.

How I can ask further questions?

If you have any questions, please email westpacscholars@westpac.com.au