

1 Presentation for Stakeholder Forum

1.1 Overview of Africa ADS

1. For the 2009 intake, AusAID made provision for 98 scholarships to 12 countries. The list below gives the country, number of scholarships allocated, the categories of scholarships allowed, and the Priority sectors.
 - a. **Botswana**; 6; Public; Health – specially HIV-AIDS.
 - b. **Kenya**; 12; Public; Health (including child and maternal health, HIV / AIDS and public sector management aspects of the sector); and Environment (including water and sanitation)
 - c. **Lesotho**; 8; Public; Agriculture, Health (including, HIV / AIDS, public health and counselling), Governance (Including economics, public sector management/ policy and trade), Community development/ development studies.
 - d. **Malawi**; 7; Public; Health (including child and maternal health, HIV / AIDS and public sector management aspects of the sector).
 - e. **Mozambique**; 16; Open; Agriculture/Food Security, Natural Resource Management, Water and Sanitation, Trade, Public Sector Administration, Health (including HIV), Education.
 - f. **Namibia**; 2; Public; Health (including child and maternal health, HIV / AIDS and public sector management aspects of the sector).
 - g. **Rwanda**; 1; Public; Health (including child and maternal health, HIV / AIDS and public sector management aspects of the sector).
 - h. **South Africa**; 10; Public; Science and Technology, ICT, Construction, Engineering, Project Management, Public Sector Management, Planning, Tourism
 - i. **Swaziland**; 2; Public; Health (including child and maternal health and HIV / AIDS).
 - j. **Tanzania**; 12; Public; Public health (Including child & maternal health, HIV/AIDS and public sector management aspects of the sector), Environment (Including water & sanitation)
 - k. **Uganda**; 12; Open and Public; Health (including child & maternal health, HIV/AIDS and public sector management aspects of the sector), Education, International Trade and Relations, Governance and Public Policy.
 - l. **Zambia**; 10; Public; Health (including child and maternal health, HIV / AIDS and public sector management aspects of the sector); Environment (including water and sanitation); Education, Agriculture, Governance.
2. Numbers have not yet been finalised for the 2010 intake. However, it is probable that there will be an increase in the numbers of scholarships being offered for each of the current countries. In addition, there is the possibility that five new western African countries will be added: Ghana, Nigeria, Sierra Leone, Liberia, and the Gambia. These five countries, along with three current countries (Swaziland, Rwanda, Namibia) will likely have access to a 'regional pool' of 55 scholarships. This expansion will mean 171 scholarships this year, compared to 98 for the 2009 intake.
3. Since 2004, 436 scholarships have been awarded in Africa: 2004 = 83; 2005 = 83; 2006 = 85; 2007 = 87; 2008 = 98.
4. Priority Sectors are agreed each year between AusAID and the partner government.
5. In 2008, the first round of 10 Fellows were mobilised from Africa. From South Africa, five fellows were chosen for the Fellowship, which aimed to strengthen capacity, systems, practices and policies in agencies responsible for the infrastructure development in South Africa. It was delivered by RMIT. Five further Fellowships were offered, 1 x Mozambique, 1 x Malawi, 1 x Zambia, 1 x Tanzania and 1 for Kenya. This Fellowship program was offered by the University of Sydney and was focused on the extractive industry on fiscal policy, revenue management and regulatory frameworks.

6. For 2009, again, fellowship numbers have not been finalised. However, early indications are that there will be 11 fellowships for South Africa, with 18 allocated to the Extractive Industry Governance sector, which may be available to a wider range of countries.
7. The Africa ADS **application / selection process** has five major stages, as follows.
 - a. **Advertising and Submission of Expressions of Interest (EOIs).** ADS Scholarships are advertised either in the national press (for South Africa, Uganda and Mozambique), or through the relevant Nominating Authority, which requests government departments / organisations to nominate candidates. Adverts and notifications will include details of the EOIs and supporting documents which must be submitted by prospective candidates. For Mozambique and South Africa, these EOIs are submitted to GRM International, the managing contractor, at the address supplied in the relevant country webpages and in the advert. For all other countries, EOIs are submitted to the Nominating Authority.
 - b. **Paper Selection.** For Mozambique and South Africa, the paper selection stage examines the EOIs received and compares them to the eligibility criteria (see Annex 1 – ADS Applicant Eligibility Checklist below). Applications are categorised as Compliant or Non-Compliant. The Compliant applications are considered by a Selection Panel, and a shortlist of approximately three candidates per scholarship is drawn up. For other countries, the Nominating Authority is responsible for carrying out their own selection processes, and producing a shortlist of candidates for interview. For Mozambique, Compliant applicants are required to sit an English language exam, the IELTS.
 - c. **Selection Interviews.** The shortlisted candidates attend an interview by the Selection Panel. The Selection Interview uses a weighted scoring system. The weighting can be adjusted to take account of specific requirements. An example of the weighting system is as follows: Qualifications, up to 15%; Relevance of proposed studies to current and future work, 30%; professional achievements in proposed area of study and potential to influence reform upon return, 30%; knowledge of field of study; knowledge of current affairs; and motivation for studying in Australia, 15%; communication skills / ability to communicate effectively, 15%. After these interviews, a final list of Priority and Reserve candidates is drawn up and candidates are advised of the outcome. Priority candidates are those selected for immediate processing of a scholarship. Reserve candidates are held in case any Priority candidates cannot take up their scholarship.
 - d. **ADS / University Application Process.** Once candidates are informed that they are Priority or Reserve candidates, they begin researching their universities and courses and filling in their ADS Application forms. Awardees are responsible for carrying out their own research; the GRM-ADS office / AusAID does not provide guidance other than prospectuses (where available), counselling on how to fill in the form and what supporting documents to provide, and a list of useful websites (universities, comparison websites etc). Courses must fit within the priority sectors identified for the country. Changes to course must usually be cleared by both AusAID and the Nominating Authority. Although changes to courses and institutions do happen, sometimes even at a late stage of processing, they are discouraged. For Mozambique, Priority and Reserve candidates may be required to sit additional English language training if their IELTS scores do not meet Australian University standards.
 - e. **Visa Application Process.** The visa application process begins at the same time as the ADS / University application process. Priority and Reserve candidates will receive a briefing from a GRM-ADS staff member on filling in the visa form, as well as an explanation of the supporting documents required.

8. Pre-Departure Briefings:

- a. The round of Pre-Departure Briefings are usually held in November in most but not all countries. Southern African countries such as Namibia, Botswana, Lesotho and Swaziland usually attend a PDB in South Africa, while Zambia and Malawi often share one PDB. Eastern African countries (Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania) have one PDB each, with Rwanda joining the Kenya PDB.
 - b. PDBs are presented by the ADS Programme Manager, with support from an AusAID Post staff member and Alumni involvement where possible. The aim is to have an Alumni available for the whole day, but if that is not possible, then Alumni who are attending the Alumni workshops (which are usually concurrent with the PDBs) are drafted in for Q&A sessions. PDBs typically take a full day.
 - c. Sessions begin with ice-breakers, which also give everyone an opportunity to meet and introduce themselves to everyone. This is useful because students will not necessarily be aware of who is studying similar courses or going to the same universities. Once this intro section is complete, students are asked to form into groups and identify their “Big 5” topics that they most want information about. The briefing then begins with the most frequently requested topic and works down the list. The briefing is supported by a video that highlights various key topics.
 - d. PDB topics include: (i) the cycle of AusAID scholarship activities; (ii) preparation hints (what to take, what not to take, luggage etc); (iii) settling in and cultural adjustment; (iv) accommodation; (v) living in Australia – food, transport, communications; (vi) various aspects of family entry; (vii) scholarship entitlements – establishment allowance, stipend, health cover; (viii) academic programme / studying; (ix) working in Australia; (x) contractual obligations of students and institutions.
9. Factoids – Institutions: Of the approximately 60 universities / institutions, the 2009 intake chose 20 as their first choice. The most popular first choice of university with the 2009 intake was UQ, with 23. Next came Sydney with 19; Melbourne with 11; Newcastle with 9; and ANU and UNSW tying with 7; 29 students chose other Universities.
10. Factoids – Courses: The most popular first choice of course was Public Health, with 25 of the 2009 intake choosing it; Education came next with 13, and some variety of Environmental studies next with 9. After that, IT and Public Admin tied with four each. “Other” courses were varied, ranging from agriculture to criminology, water resources to tourism, engineering to media studies. In all, approximately 53 different courses were chosen (depending on how you differentiate ‘courses’!).

Annex 1 – ADS Applicant Eligibility Checklist

Criteria	Applicant Use		ADS Office Use Only	
	Yes	No	Yes	No
1. You are a citizen of an eligible country.				
2. You are resident in the eligible country of which you are a citizen at the time of application.				
3. You are an employee of a government department, parastatal, or other governmental organisation.				
4. You are not: (a) married to; (b) a defacto of; or (c) engaged to be married to, a person who holds or is eligible to hold Australian or New Zealand citizenship or permanent resident status.				
5. You will you be no more than 45 years of age at the time the award will begin (i.e. in January or June 2010).				
6. You hold a minimum academic result of 65% in a 4 year Bachelors degree or Honours (e.g. BA (Honours))				
7. You have at least 2 years postgraduate work experience (or more – preferably five).				
8. You do not hold a Masters degree already, or a higher degree (e.g. MPhil, PhD).				
9. You are not currently studying towards a Masters Degree or higher degree.				
10. You do not already hold another scholarship that would give overlapping benefits, e.g. from another donor etc.				
11. You are not seeking support from ADS for a course in Australia that has already begun.				
12. You are not transferring from another Australian training scholarship to an ADS scholarship during the same course of study.				
13. You have not held an Australian Government-funded scholarship in the preceding 2 years at the time of application.				
14. You are able to take up the scholarship in the calendar year for which the scholarship is offered.				
15. Your preferred course fits one of the priority sectors identified for your country.				