



Date: 12 March 2010

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Subject: Addendum 3 to the **Australian Scholarships for Africa Program RFT – Capability Statement** of 13 February 2010.

Tenderers are advised of the following:

Questions raised by interested tenderers at the pre-tender briefings held on 25 February 2010 and 2 March 2010.

1. **Question (Q):** Will this be the same Technical Assessment Panel (TAP) for Africa Scholarships as the Australia Africa Partnerships Facility (AAPF)?
Answer (A): No.
2. **Q:** Will there be a further briefing for the short listed organisations in Step 1?
A: No.
3. **Q:** Will an organisation know of its ranking after the short listing?
A: Yes. Each organisation will be told where it was ranked for Step 1 of the tender process.
4. **Q:** Where will the TAP meetings be held?
A: AusAID expects that the TAP meetings will be held in Canberra, Australia.
5. **Q:** Which departments will be part of the Secretariat for the Australia Awards?
A: The Departments of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT), Prime Minister & Cabinet (PM&C), Education, Employment & Work Relations (DEEWR) and AusAID will be members of the Secretariat for the Australia Awards.
6. **Q:** Can a short course provider be part of a consortium or partnership with the Managing Contractor (MC) and still provide short courses for Africa?
A: No. A conflict of interest would exist.
7. **Q:** Will scholarships be provided in the area of public policy?
A: Yes.

8. **Q:** What is the status of the Africa Framework?
A: The Australian Government has agreed to the broad parameters of the enhanced engagement with Africa, including increased development assistance. The focus of this assistance will be on supporting accelerated progress towards the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) – particularly in food security, water and sanitation, and maternal and child health – and building Africa’s human resource capacity.
9. **Q:** What will be the involvement of Posts in the Scholarship Program?
A: The Program will be managed at Post. Pretoria Post will have the primary responsibility for working with the MC. Nairobi Post will increase in significance as AusAID scales up. Each Post will be a conduit for liaising with partner governments in its particular region.
10. **Q:** Are any of the reviews of the Program publically available?
A: The design reflects a review of the existing Program.
11. **Q:** When will the Multi-Use List (MUL) be available?
A: The MUL will be advertised in March 2010 and available for use by July 2010. It is expected that it will be updated annually.
12. **Q:** Is application for the MUL restricted to Australian providers?
A: Only Australian Registered Training Organisations or approved Australian higher education providers¹ will be able to apply for inclusion on the MUL.
13. **Q:** Has the Department of Immigration and Citizenship (DIAC) been consulted regarding the need for visas for students?
A: Yes.
14. **Q:** Will a list of attendees at the Industry Briefings be circulated?
A: No.
15. **Q:** When are Letters of Association required?
A: A Letter of Association will be required for partners or consortium members where they will have a management role in the Program.
16. **Q:** Is there a list of countries available where there are security issues?
A: No. Advice for security in overseas countries is available on the DFAT website at www.smartraveller.gov.au

¹ Approved Australian higher education providers are listed in Table A, B and C of the *Higher Education Support Act 2003*

17. **Q:** Will the MC contribute to determining the priority areas for the Professional Development Awards (PDA) and the Short Course Awards (SCA) under the Program?
A: This is not expected to be a role for the MC. Australian Government representatives in Africa will consult regularly with partner African governments to determine their priorities. These priorities, together with priorities set by the Senior Reference Group (SRG), will determine the PDAs and SCAs that are offered.
18. **Q:** What will be the MC's role regarding receipt of candidates' applications?
A: Public sector candidates will submit their applications through their nominating authority who will pass on all applications to the MC. To strengthen transparency and ensure all applications are passed through to the MC, there will be a mechanism (tear-off slip or an email) to inform the MC directly of their application. Private sector and civil society applicants will submit their applications direct to the MC.
19. **Q:** Can more than one related activity be included on a single Past Experience Form?
A: No. Each Past Experience Form should contain information for only one activity.
20. **Q:** What will be the role of the nominating authorities?
A: Nominating authorities will provide advice on priority sectors for awards on offer; will assist in the dissemination of information to potential candidates and will assist with initial compliance testing and shortlisting (i.e. identifying priority candidates amongst applications received).
21. **Q:** Is there a role for the MC in developing contacts in nominating authorities?
A: The MC will need to develop effective working relationships with nominating authorities under the guidance and leadership of AusAID.
22. **Q:** Will costs associated with setting up offices be included in the reimbursables?
A: Yes.
23. **Q:** Would the MC have a role in organising the logistics for the SCAs?
A: This will depend on the subcontracting arrangement that the MC has with the SCA provider. The MC will be responsible for their own subcontracting arrangements. However, the MC may need to provide some support in Africa given it will have infrastructure in Africa (e.g. facilitate visas, arrange travel etc).

24. **Q:** Can the Program respond to short course training needs that are outside the priority areas?
A: Yes. Provided these needs are of sufficient priority to partner government's development needs and the requests can be met from within the available budget, the Program is flexible enough to consider requests within the context of priorities set by the SRG.
25. **Q:** What if a course is not available through the Multi-Use List?
A: The MC is not bound to use the MUL and can source providers from outside the MUL, provided its procurement process is consistent with the Commonwealth Procurement Guidelines (CPGs).
26. **Q:** Which countries is the Program reaching this year and into the future, and what will be the sectoral focus?
A: Once the Program is scaled up in 2012-13, potentially all African countries could be involved. Local circumstances will be taken into consideration. The Program is currently expanding and the following countries will be included in the 2010 intake of long term awards: Botswana, Ghana, Kenya, Lesotho, Liberia, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, Nigeria, Rwanda, Sierra Leone, South Africa, Swaziland, Tanzania, The Gambia, Uganda and Zambia. The sectors in the design document are the result of consultations over a number of years and have been regularly identified as needs to which Australia can add value. The core focus will be those sectors included in the design, but AusAID will have ongoing discussions with partner governments to determine priority needs that can be responded to.
27. **Q:** What is the link between the Program Support Group (PSG) in the Australia Africa Partnerships Facility (AAPF) and the Scholarships Program?
A: The PSG is a tool to support AusAID's implementation of the AAPF (e.g. for monitoring and evaluation [M&E] purposes), but will not be available for the MC to use for their work in the Scholarships Program.
28. **Q:** In view of donor harmonisation would it be possible to link training under this Program with other similar donor training activities?
A: It would be difficult to link with training organisations that are not registered in Australia under this Program, given the emphasis on Australian accreditation. Selection of training providers will need to follow the CPGs. It will not be a role of the MC to facilitate partnerships between Australian and African providers or to assist African providers to seek Australian accreditation.
29. **Q:** Would the MC be expected to facilitate the accreditation of Australian courses locally in Africa?
A: No.

30. **Q:** Are the main drivers of these awards development focused or are they political awards?
A: The Program has a developmental focus while providing foreign policy benefits. The focus on effective selection processes, strong M&E, Reintegration Plans, support for alumni and course counselling are all examples of the development focus of the Program.
31. **Q:** Can an organisation be included on more than one bid?
A: Yes.
32. **Q:** How can a small company link up with other companies?
A: AusAID does not release the names of tenderers interested in submitting a tender. The names of organisations that have contracted with AusAID in the past can be found by using the link below to AusTender, where the public notification of each of AusAID's contractors is listed
:<https://www.tenders.gov.au/?event=public.CNSON.search> Use the search function – perhaps using the Advanced search and putting in “AusAID” as the agency.
33. **Q:** Will organisations need to resubmit financial information for the Scholarships Program if they have already submitted their financial information as part of their Capability Statement for Step 1 of the AAPF?
A: Refer to Clause 6, Option 2 of Part 1 of the RFT Capability Statement. If the information is the same as submitted in the AAPF tender it does not need to be re-submitted but the organisation should indicate that their information was submitted as part of their AAPF tender and that the prior information should be taken into account.
34. **Q:** What is the role of the MC in engaging with the partner government and considering their needs?
A: The Australian Government will lead on discussions with partner governments regarding priorities. Given the scale of the Program, AusAID's ability to look at specific capacity gaps at departmental level will be limited. Therefore AusAID may ask the MC to do some analytical work on a sectoral basis to help inform Program priorities. AusAID and the MC will need to take a team approach in engaging with partner governments to ensure communication is effective in achieving consistent messages.

35. **Q:** What is the role of the MC in marketing and promotion of the Program?
A: Marketing and promotion has, and to some extent will continue to be, country-specific. In some countries, AusAID, with support from the MC, will undertake marketing and promotion together with the partner government. In other countries, it will be the partner government alone that is responsible for promotion and marketing. The MC will have a greater role in promoting the Program for the private sector and civil society.
36. **Q:** Is there a bias as to which countries receive a greater percentage of scholarships?
A: In considering which countries to include in the Program, the SRG will take a range of factors into account including looking at the need and potential impact of scholarships in various countries. There will not be pre-set allocations but rather competitive selection in seeking quality candidates.
37. **Q:** Will the MC be required to have internal capacity to provide English Language Training (ELT)/ International English Language Testing Scheme (IELTS) capacity under the new Program?
A: No. This can be either subcontracted or an ELT provider included as a partner in the tender.
38. **Q:** Will the MC be required to fund the SCA costs and in-Africa Long Term Award (LTA) costs before invoicing AusAID?
A: No. AusAID expects that an Imprest Account will be required due to the scale of the Program.
39. **Q:** Could the MC have a role in facilitating contacts between African and Australian organisations in establishing PDAs and could this be a conflict of interest?
A: This could be a potential conflict of interest. While it is expected that African and Australian organisations will make their own links, the alumni could also have a role in facilitating such links.
40. **Q:** What are three areas that the MC will be required to deliver under phase 2 of the Program that will be different from phase 1?
A:
(i.) a strengthened focus on reintegration and building alumni;
(ii.) strengthening pre-award approaches to disability, gender and course advisory functions; and
(iii.) sufficient resourcing to support relationships with a large number of partner governments, delivery organisations and partner networks.

41. **Q:** Can you explain the use of the word “international” against the six mandatory positions in the Design Document?
A: The use of the word “international” by the design team is meant to indicate the high professional standard required. Nationality is not a factor to be taken into account when filling these roles; rather, AusAID is looking for the right mix of skills and experience needed for the roles and the team to ensure effective performance.
42. **Q:** What are the lessons learnt from the current Program?
A: Firstly, there has been a gap in supporting the reintegration of returned students which needs more emphasis and monitoring to ensure that the initial investment is not wasted. Secondly, there is a need to recognise the type of resourcing required to support relationships with scholars, partner governments, course providers and other stakeholders. Lessons from the Program have been integrated into the new Program design.
43. **Q:** Why is there a low percentage of PhDs in the Program?
A: It has been assessed that the Program is more cost effective by providing a greater number of Masters degrees and short courses.
44. **Q:** Given the emphasis on partnerships in the Program, this seems inconsistent with a competitive process?
A: The Australian Government needs to ensure transparency in selection processes and to focus on selecting best quality candidates. The best way to achieve this across multiple countries is to use a competitive selection process.
45. **Q:** How can the MC facilitate successful Reintegration Plans?
A: The MC will target candidates and raise the need for Reintegration Plans early in the process to ensure the support of the nominee’s employer.
46. **Q:** What percentage of the AUD400 million is expected for the MC’s fee?
A: The budget provided the broad parameters within which tenderers are asked to cost their financial bid.
47. **Q:** Is AusAID a micro or macro manager?
A: Due to the large scale of the Program, a joint approach with the MC will be necessary. As such, maintaining a constructive relationship with the MC will be essential. AusAID will set the strategic direction of the Program but will be necessarily involved in selection processes and leading in engagements with partner governments and partner networks.
48. **Q:** What would AusAID expect a high level response to the Request for Tender (RFT) look like?
A: A strategic and professional approach to the tender.

49. **Q:** How has the Program been running and which areas will AusAID focus on in the future?
A: Over the last four years there has been a focus on Masters courses provided to Eastern and Southern Africa with an emphasis on selection and mobilisation. The key differences moving forward will include a greater focus on reintegration and alumni networks balanced with pre-award processes. A greater focus on building and maintaining relationships will be necessary in scaling up from working with nine countries to a continent-wide approach.
50. **Q:** How will AusAID be responsive to partner government priorities?
A: The Program will be flexible each year in determining priority areas of study and the institutions to be targeted in consultation with partner governments.
51. **Q:** How will this Program link with the AAPF?
A: AusAID will be drawing on both programs in supporting the development of Africa's human resource capacity. The AAPF will enable Australia to respond flexibly to requests for organisational capacity-building (such as exchanges between Australian and African organisations, grant funding and short-term placements of Australian specialists/volunteers to mentor African officials) in areas identified as priorities by African countries such as agriculture, mining governance and public policy. The focus of the Scholarships Program will be building the capacity of individuals.
52. **Q:** Does AusAID have a monitoring tool or would the MC be required to produce one?
A: The Reintegration Plan will be a key monitoring tool in the design. It is currently being introduced and the MC will be required to assist in its implementation. Each type of award will have a modified version of the Reintegration Plan. The overall M&E framework is outlined in the design.
53. **Q:** Does AusAID have a role in ensuring partner governments have an agreement with students to ensure they return to their workplace?
A: This is a decision for each partner government. AusAID encourages partner governments to put arrangements in place, such as bonding, to ensure the return of students to their workplace. AusAID signs its own contracts with students stipulating their need to return and the MC will need to consider introducing a similar model for the SCAs.

54. **Q:** Will AusAID provide further support to students in implementing projects that support the MDGs to ensure a greater impact from their studies?
A: The long term awards include research projects and a small grants scheme may be available to assist returned students with their projects. PhDs will be aligned with ongoing AusAID programs to ensure that the outcome of the research contributes to and creates links with the larger programs.
55. **Q:** Which costs in the Program will go through the MC?
A: All Program costs except the in-Australia costs of the Long Term Awards will be funded through the MC.
56. **Q:** Will the MC be required to send invoices to Pretoria or Canberra?
A: Invoicing procedures will be explained in the Step 2 Request for Tender.
57. **Q:** Can small organisations tender with a larger organisation?
A: Yes, AusAID will accept tenders from consortia but intends to contract with a single legal entity.
58. **Q:** Can a South African organisation partner with an Australian organisation?
A: Yes. This is an international open tender process and the tenderers can be of any nationality.
59. **Q:** Does AusAID require that there be a gender balance in the organisations bidding?
A: This is not a requirement of the RFT.
60. **Q:** Is AusAID willing to divide the Program and award more than one organisation a contract?
A: No. AusAID will award a single contract with one legal entity.

All other information as set out in the RFT dated 13 February 2010, Addendum No. 1 dated 19 February 2010 and Addendum No. 2 dated 10 March 2010 remains unchanged.