

Australia Awards Scholarships

Tips for preparing your application

The Supporting Statement is the most important part of your application on OASIS. Take time to think about, write, review, and edit all four questions.

This document provides advice on preparing strong responses to each question. Your Supporting Statement will be assessed on three criteria:

- i. **academic competency** – that you have the academic and professional background necessary to successfully undertake your chosen course, and that you have a clear rationale for having chosen this course;
- ii. **leadership** – that you have the potential to become someone who can lead and implement change;
- iii. **development outcomes** – how do you plan to use the skills and knowledge gained through your studies to contribute to important development challenges in your sector of work.

The Supporting Statement addresses these three criteria so before you start your application, spend time thinking about how you can demonstrate your capacities.

Before you start typing your responses, make sure you understand what the question is asking you.

Supporting Statement

Question 1

Why did you choose your proposed course and institution?

A strong response will demonstrate that you have done thorough research in selecting both course and institution. What are some of the key features that led you to selecting this particular course? Are there units of study that really appeal to you? Are there lecturers that you have heard of?

Don't forget to note why you have chosen the university. Your argument should go beyond rankings and focus on academic considerations and what services the university can offer.

Question 2

How will the proposed study contribute to your career?

Consider and identify what skills and knowledge you wish to gain from your proposed course, and how you will use these to achieve your short-term and long-term career goals. How, then, do your career goals contribute to development challenges in your sector?

Question 3:

How have you contributed to solving a challenge and to implementing change or reform? (Be specific and include what aspect(s) of your leadership knowledge skills and practice you consider to be well established and effective; which people or organisations you worked with to solve the problem; and what creative methods were used?)

This question is asking you about your leadership ability. You don't have to have been in an official leadership role to exercise leadership, so take some time to identify a strong example. It may be from your professional experience, community involvement or as a student. You should exemplify the **skills** you used (for example, communication, negotiation, mentoring, taking the lead), **who** you worked with and **how** you solved the challenge. Most importantly, you should highlight **your** role in the example you describe. Did you receive any recognition? Did you learn any valuable lessons that you have since been able to apply?

Question 4:

Please a) give up to three practical examples of how you intend to use the knowledge, skills, and connections you will gain from your scholarship. Possible tasks can be personal or professional. b) list any possible constraints you think may prevent you from achieving these tasks.

Be realistic in the examples you give – something that is achievable within your current or expected future role. A good response to this question will also offer examples that are relevant to development outcomes in your sector. Link back to your studies - what specific skills and knowledge might you use?

Don't forget that this question has two parts so be sure to address potential constraints. The question assumes that you have successfully completed your studies so challenges that relate to studying in Australia are not relevant. This is your opportunity to highlight the contribution you can make if selected for an Australia Award.

Remember that you can save your draft application on OASIS so it is a good idea to start your application early. Think about what you wish to gain from your studies. Spend time doing research into courses and universities. Think about ways in which you may best contribute to key development challenges in your workplace and sector.

Final Tip

One final tip, there is a character limit for each question in the Supporting Statement. Make sure you do not exceed this limit as the evaluator reading your application will not be able to read what you have written. So, make every word count in submitting the best application you possibly can.

Good luck!