The Westpac Bicentennial Foundation is a scholarship fund with an exclusive focus on the education and advancement of Australians. A one-off contribution of $100 million will fund 100 scholarships and awards every year, forever.

Scholars from across our five scholarship categories will be people with ideas and passion, from all walks of life who have the potential to shape Australia’s future.

The Foundation was launched as a gift to future generations of Australians to commemorate Westpac’s 200th anniversary in 2017. Our aim is to ensure that those with the drive to shape Australia are given the chance to do so.
Why an Asian Exchange?

Growing at an unprecedented rate, Asia is now one of the most strategically important players on the world stage. This presents a unique and exciting opportunity for Australia as we are well placed to contribute to, and benefit from, opportunities on our doorstep.

To ensure we thrive and prosper in the years ahead, we believe it is vital that young Australians, our future leaders, build their knowledge and understanding of Asia. An exchange program offers a fantastic opportunity to enhance understanding of different cultures and forge deep and lasting connections, as well as building skills and capabilities.

Asia is becoming an increasingly popular study abroad destination and is an ideal place to embrace the new and unfamiliar, test comfort zones, and experience first-hand one of the most exciting regions in the world.

“There is no substitute for in-country experience. The knowledge, learning, and skills to be gained will help build cultural sensitivity and understanding, and will allow you to foster rich and meaningful relationships. Having local knowledge and long-term relationships based on trust and mutual understanding will be paramount to success”.

Natalie Cope
Partnerships and Development Manager, Asialink
Westpac Bicentennial Foundation Asian Exchange Ambassador.


“My exchange to China was a truly unforgettable experience, providing me with not only a unique insight into the culture, history and business environment, but also life-long friends”.

Benjamin McMahon
The University of Melbourne
Introducing the Asian Exchange Scholarship

The Asian Exchange Scholarship supports students who are passionate about Asia and want to actively contribute to Australia’s success in Asia. It presents young Australians with the exciting opportunity to spend a semester studying at a leading Asian university.

Valued at $10,000 per student, the scholarships will help students to build their knowledge, understanding and skills to help strengthen Australia’s commercial and cultural ties with Asia.

Successful candidates will become valued members of the Westpac Scholars Alumni program, which aims to connect an empowered network of people with the drive to unlock bold ideas to build a better future for all Australians. Through this program, scholars will gain access to lifelong networking, learning and development opportunities.
Build your own adventure

Uniquely, the Asian Exchange Scholarship offers the freedom to ‘build your own adventure’, which provides students with the flexibility to individualise their exchange program to suit their interests and enhance their Asian experience.

Students are encouraged to tailor their program through a range of additional opportunities beyond the classroom. For example, students may choose a local internship, volunteering or work experience to enrich their Asian cultural adventure and chosen field of study.

The possibilities are endless. Speak to your university’s exchange program co-ordinator to build the adventure that is best for you.

“I can put into practice the skills I am learning in the classroom”
Cameron Hunter, The University of Sydney

“I want to experience how diverse the country really is”
Sebastian Tattam, The University of Sydney

“An internship opportunity will show me how to excel in an Asian work environment”
Campbell Wright, The University of Melbourne

Inaugural Asian Exchange Scholarship recipients 2015.
Who are we looking for?

In addition to demonstrating outstanding academic potential, successful Asian Exchange scholars are people with passion and ideas, who have the drive to make a difference. Scholarships are open to students from all walks of life who have:

1. **Passion for Asia**
   - A clear understanding of Asia’s role in Australia’s future prosperity.
   - A desire to learn about a specific Asian culture, language, tradition or business through a combination of academic study and cultural immersion.

2. **Focus on personal growth and development**
   - Seeks new and challenging experiences.
   - Ambition to build a future career connected to the Asia region.

3. **Commitment**
   - To be an active Westpac Scholar Alumni member and to advocate for the value of shared understanding between Australia and Asia.

4. **Diverse skills and experience**
   - Bringing a variety of skills, beliefs, backgrounds and experiences.

5. **Academic excellence**
   - Applicants must have and maintain a credit average at the time of application and maintain this throughout the selection process.
Frequently Asked Questions

Who can apply?
To be eligible for the Asian Exchange Scholarship, applicants must be:

- an Australian citizen or permanent resident
- enrolled in 2nd year or beyond at a participating university
- intending to do a semester-long exchange.

What degrees are eligible?
- We welcome applications from any student regardless of degree or faculty of study.

Where can I study in Asia?
Our Asian partner universities are:

- Beijing: Tsinghua University and Peking University
- Hong Kong: University of Hong Kong and Chinese University of Hong Kong
- Shanghai: Fudan University and Shanghai Jiao Tong University
- Singapore: National University of Singapore and Nanyang Technological University

How do I apply?
Applications are now open.

You can access your university’s Asian Exchange Scholarship webpage via www.westpac.com.au/200years