



**Australia Awards**  
Women's Leadership Initiative

# Australia Awards Women's Leadership Initiative



**The Women's Leadership Initiative offers Australia Awards emerging leaders from Pacific countries skills development and mentoring to build leadership capability and boost gender equality.**

The *Women's Leadership Initiative* is a five-year, \$5.4 million initiative of the Australian Government promoting women's leadership and building a future generation of women leaders in the Pacific region. It delivers a range of learning, networking and

development opportunities to Australia Awards scholars from the Pacific studying at Australian universities and institutions. This helps scholars build their skills, networks and readiness to take on leadership roles in their workplaces, communities and countries.

## What does it offer?

**The *Women's Leadership Initiative* is delivered in three tiers, allowing scholars to engage at a level that suits their individual interests and availability.**

### Women's Leadership Initiative: Program Structure and Activities





“It was an eye opening event, and it was great to see Pacific Island women come together to share their expertise on oceans and climate change. It was also great to hear from the man’s point of view on how we can work together to achieve great outcomes and positive results for the benefits of today and future generations.”

Participant at Brisbane learning and networking event, Brisbane 2018

**Learning and networking events (Tier 1)** are open to all current female and male Australia Awards scholars from the Pacific. Through face-to-face and web-based learning, participants will explore key issues and challenges in our region, including barriers to gender equality and their role as leaders in tackling those issues. Learning and networking events provide a unique opportunity for scholars to get up close and personal with prominent leaders and policymakers from the Pacific and Australia, and to network with other Pacific scholars.

Learning and networking events are held around Australia throughout the year. Upcoming events are advertised through the *Women’s Leadership Initiative* website, through Student Contact Officers, and via direct email to scholars.

**Leadership and mentoring program (Tier 2)** is an 18-month program offered to up to 35 women scholars each year. Activities are tailored for a smaller number of participants with a demonstrated capacity for exercising developmental leadership. Participants undertake residential intensives and coaching to develop their confidence and leadership capabilities, fostering a sense of collective identity and purpose. Participants are supported to work on a ‘real life’ leadership issues or changes they wish to make in their workplaces, communities and countries. This enables them to practice and apply their leadership skills and tools. Each participant is matched with an influential Australian woman mentor, building lasting personal connections and networks.

“My work placement . . . connected my learning to the real Australian work culture. This has given me insights and networks [that I will] take with me and helped solidify people to people links between Australia and Papua New Guinea. This experience will help me to use my skills, knowledge and networks to drive change and innovation.”

Workplace internship participant, 2018

The leadership and mentoring program commences in February each year and runs for a period of 18 months. Applications open in September for following year’s program. All Pacific women on Australia Awards who will be enrolled at an Australian university/tertiary institution for the first semester of the program’s starting year are eligible to apply. Applicants must be available to commence the program in Australia in the February and available to travel again in the last week of the September of that program’s first year.

**Workplace internships and professional development opportunities (Tier 3)** in Australia or the Pacific are offered to a select number of leadership and mentoring program participants (Tier 2) each year. Through tailored internships and other activities, participants build leadership and professional skills and forge lasting networks to support them into the future. These activities also strengthen linkages between Australia and the Pacific, through mutual respect, knowledge and understanding.

Workplace internships and professional development opportunities are open to all women participating in the leadership and mentoring program (Tier 2, above). Opportunities may be identified and commenced at any time of year, depending on the nature of the placement, the needs / requirements of the host organisation, and the availability of the participant.

### Interested? Want to know more?

For further information on the Australia Awards Women’s Leadership Initiative, and how to get involved, visit: <https://womensleadershipinitiative.org.au> or email: [info@australiaawardsleadership.org](mailto:info@australiaawardsleadership.org)