

The ACC AustCham (Australia-China) Young Leaders Scholarship Program

Information Booklet

A joint initiative of



The Australia China Council,
part of the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade



The China Australia Chamber of Commerce Beijing

For more information please go to

www.austcham.org

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Program Background

The ACC AustCham (Australia-China) Young Leaders program is a joint initiative of the China-Australia Chamber of Commerce Beijing (AustCham) and the Australia China Council (ACC). The scholarship was developed in response to Australia's growing economic, cultural and political relationship with China and is open to students who have demonstrated a commitment to strengthening Australia-China bilateral relations through academic and extra-curricular activities.

The aim of the program is to provide graduates with a career development experience whilst servicing the graduate needs of Australian companies in Mainland China. Our long term goal is to create a generation of business leaders fluent in the language, culture and economic significance of China. Through this process, we hope to further strengthen both countries bilateral links.

2010 is the first year the ACC and AustCham have worked together to bring Australian students this amazing opportunity. In our first year we hope to bring 15 talented graduates through the scholarship program.

About the Australia China Council

The Council was established by an Order of the Executive Council in 1978 for the purpose of promoting understanding and fostering "people-to-people" relations between Australia and China. The Chairperson of the ACC is appointed by the Executive Council on the recommendation of the Minister for Foreign Affairs, who also appoints the members of the ACC. Council funding is in the form of an annual budget allocation administered by the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade.

About AustCham

Founded in Beijing in 1996, The China-Australia Chamber of Commerce's (AustCham Beijing) overriding goal is to Advance Australian Business in China. AustCham Beijing plays a critical role in cultivating Australia-China business relationships and meeting the growing needs of our expanding membership base. The Chamber maintains a good working relationship with the Australian Embassy and with various other Australian government departments in China. AustCham is a non-profit organisation which operates independently from the government. It is funded entirely by our membership and Chamber activities.

Candidate profile

Candidates are students who have a deep desire to pursue a career in the world's fastest growing economy. The program has been structured to give students with this desire an opportunity to take on positions that will expand their lingual, cultural and economic understanding of the China-Australia relationship.

Strong candidates will be willing to live in a foreign country that has extreme political, economic and cultural differences to their own. They will be willing to adapt and thrive in a highly competitive marketplace whilst learning one of the world's most complex (yet rich) languages. Top candidates will have a strong academic background with elements dedicated to Chinese studies. Strong candidates will have already engaged in China focused work experience, began learning, or are already competent, in the language.

Candidates are willing to dedicate some of their spare time to attend industry events with some of Australia's senior business and government leaders. They will be expected to engage with senior business leaders on a regular basis and maintain high levels of professionalism at all times. Candidates will constantly strive to expand their understanding of their environment through engagement at AustCham events and Working Groups. A strong applicant will be willing to embrace the chambers mentorship program and intern development events that are a key part of the individual's personal development. Most importantly, candidates must demonstrate the potential to become future leaders that are capable of strengthening the Australia-China bilateral relationship.

Minimum Eligibility

- Must be an Australian Citizen
- Must have completed their Bachelors Degree by commencement of work placement
- Must be able to demonstrate academic and working interest in the Chinese economy and culture
- Must be willing to work in China for a minimum of 9 months with the possibility of staying on longer
- Candidates must have a minimum of a High credit (70+) average or can demonstrate exceptional commitment to China-Australia Bilateral relations through work experience, language study or Chinese university study.

Application Process

Step 1:

Ensure you meet the minimum eligibility requirements

Step 2:

Select your 1st, 2nd and 3rd preference working sectors. Positions will be made available in all 6 sectors with 15 positions made available in total. Positions within each sector will be allocated based on supply and demand from student applications.

- **China Commerce** - China commerce includes all Australian and Chinese companies working in finance, accounting and economic sectors.
- **China Legal** - China Legal represents all Australian and Chinese companies operating in the legal services sector in China
- **China Engineering, Construction, Architecture and Design** - Includes Architectural, Engineering, Construction and Design companies with an Australia-China focus.
- **China Minerals and Energy** - Includes established resources companies, energy distribution and power generation, clean technology and renewable energy
- **China Consulting** - Consulting services specifically focused on the Chinese market
- **China Humanities & Marketing** - Includes Public/Corporate/Government Affairs, Advertising, Corporate Social Responsibility and journalism.
- **China IT and Technology**

Step 3:

Provide the following documentation

- Up to date CV (3pg max)
- Cover Letter (1pg max)
Your Cover letter should include your top 3 sector preferences of the 6 available
- 2 written references with contact details
- Academic Transcript of all subjects completed to date.

#All documentation should be submitted in PDF format were possible.

All documents must be clearly titled with your name and document type

Step 4:

Complete application questionnaire.

Applicants must complete all 4 questions and submit them together with all other requested documentation. The word limit is a guide and students should not go above this by more than 10%. Please keep your responses concise, to the point and free of grammatical or spelling errors.

Instructions:

Please answer all questions:

1. Outline a recent development (in China) within your preferred working sector and highlight how this development would impact your working environment (400 word limit)
2. What are your three most substantial achievements and why do you perceive them so? (600 word limit)
3. In your opinion, what is the most likely cause of future tension within Australia's bilateral relationship with China? (400 word limit).
4. What is your career vision and why is it important to you? (400 word limit)

Step 5:

Submit Application

The following documents should be submitted in a single email addressed clearly to the AustCham Graduate Manager. Please ensure all documentation is attached properly and use the checklist below if you are unsure.

Document Checklist:

- Up to date CV (3pg max)
- Cover Letter (1pg max)
Your Cover letter should include your top 3 sector preferences
- 2 written references with contact details
- Academic Transcript of all subjects completed to date.
- Completed questionnaire

Email applications to:

My Matthew Costello
Graduate manager
aiesec@ustcham.org

Selection Process

Step 1: Basic document review

Your documents will be reviewed by an AustCham staff member to ensure they meet the minimum eligibility requirements. If there are concerns over your eligibility, you will be contact by a member of the AustCham staff.

Step 2: Thorough review of application

Your questionnaire responses and documentation will be reviewed and assessed against a range of scholarship guidelines. These guidelines are designed to assess all facets of your education, extra-curricular and work experience.

Step 3: Telephone interview

A telephone interview will be conducted to assess your communication skills, your ability to answer challenging questions on your feet and your ability to articulate your motivation for taking part in the program. If you have Mandarin skills, you will also be assessed by a Chinese member of staff to ascertain your skill level.

Step 4: Final review and offers sent

The final review will see your application and telephone interview reviewed by the General Manager of the Chamber and members of the AustCham Board of Directors.

Once you have been accepted into the program, we will begin discussions with our partner companies to match you to a company within your preferred sector. In certain instances the Board of Directors may request for you to attend a face to face interview with an AustCham representative within your home City. These interviews will represent the final stage of the Scholarship application process.

Once you have been selected

Congratulations! The first step is for AustCham Beijing to secure you a place within a company in your preferred sector. If positions in your first preference are unavailable placements will be arranged in your second or, in worst case, third preference sector. The company may wish to undergo further interviews and proficiency tests to assess your corporate suitability.

Once you are matched, both the company and AustCham will work with your to organize you start date, flights, visa, accommodation and other logistical matters.

Scholarship recipients will receive:

- A return flight to China
- Job placement with an Australian company or AustCham member company
- Language training
- A stipend
- A mentor
- Invitations to attend AustCham's graduate development events
- Sponsorship to attend AustCham industry events and seminars
- Airport pickup, accommodation support, visa guidance and orientation

Company Role

All companies that partner with the program will be required to provide a placement within their Chinese operations for a minimum period of 9 months. Companies will be required to provide job descriptions and roles that add value to the company and the scholarship recipient. All positions will be based in Beijing unless the company has a strong case for placement elsewhere.

All companies are encouraged to hire candidates under the premise that they will be a long term investment for the organisation. However, the company is not obligated to hire the candidate in a full time capacity after the initial internship period.

Key dates and timeframes

- Placements will be for a minimum of 9 months.
- Candidates who will graduate at the end of 2010 can expect to be placed in a company between December 2010 - March 2010.
- Candidates who graduate mid year or who completed their studies at the end of 2009 are eligible for placement any time after July 2010 or as soon as an appropriate company match can be made.
- Candidates should allow 1 month for the assessment of their application. Further time may be necessary to match the individual to a company.
- **All applications must be submitted by the 1st of September 2010**

Key websites and contact information

AustCham Graduate manager

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AustCham Website

www.austcham.org
<http://austcham.org/page/resources/graduate-and-intern-opportunities/acc-austcham-scholarship-program/>

Australia China Council Website

<http://www.dfat.gov.au/acc/>