



## ADDENDUM 2

to the Grant Opportunity Notice GO7823 – New Colombo Plan (NCP) 2026 Scholarship Program released on 12 August 2025.

DFAT provides the following information to assist prospective grant applicants.

### Questions and Answers:

Ref	Question	Answer
1	Can you confirm NCP can only support around 300 mobility projects this year for 40+ universities?	DFAT does not have an assumed number of Mobility projects it will fund in the 2026 round. DFAT anticipates offering 300 to 350 NCP scholarships for the round. There is an indicative allocation of \$8.2 million for NCP Mobility program in the 2026 round as published in the Guidelines. The final budget allocation will depend on the demand for Scholarship and Semester programs.
2	If my application relates to studies in a non-priority sector such as health, but it is for a priority host location – will it likely get approved?	Please refer to the relevant program Guidelines for selection criteria. It is important to note that health-related programs are considered as part of the <i>Law, Asian Studies, Culture, and Human Development</i> priority sector, which is set out in the Advice to Applicants across all 3 programs.  DFAT encourages applicants to read the regional strategic documents and other information relevant to host locations, including (but not limited to) <i>Invested: Australia's Southeast Asia Economic Strategy to 2024</i> and <i>A New Roadmap for Australia's Economic Engagement with India</i> , available on DFAT's website.



3	What does the language target mean in the NCP Guidelines? Does it refer to the number of students who have to undertake language studies?	<p>The language target (set at 15 percent for 2026) is applied at the <u>project level</u> for NCP Semester and NCP Mobility projects, and to the number of scholars under the NCP Scholarship Program. The language target does not relate to the <u>amount</u> of language studied at the student level under Semester and Mobility projects.</p> <p>As an example, if there are 100 NCP Mobility projects funded as part of the 2026 round, it is hoped that 15 would meet the language target.</p> <p>The target is not a quota but is designed to send a signal to the education sector and to students of the importance placed by Government on Asian language learning.</p>
4	If a location is listed as a priority host location but does not have a corresponding priority Asian language, can I still apply without including a language study component?	<p>NCP programs do not have a compulsory language learning element, although it is strongly encouraged.</p> <p>Applicants should note that, consistent with the advice to applicants, all NCP Scholarship and NCP Semester applications will need to satisfactorily answer the language criterion of the selection criteria. This includes addressing how such a program will lead to exposure of a language other than English.</p>
5	Can students apply for locations outside the priority host locations?	Yes. DFAT welcomes high-quality applications for all eligible host locations in the Indo-Pacific.
6	Is Macau an eligible host location?	Programs proposed for Macau should have China listed as their host location.
7	Often scholars will discover internship opportunities while on program. What kind of variations are acceptable for internships, and how much flexibility do you have in approving variations?	DFAT acknowledges that some of the best opportunities are discovered while scholars are on program at their host location. All Australian Government grants must comply with the <i>Commonwealth Grants Rules and Principles 2024</i> , which means any changes that may alter the competitiveness of the grant such as change of host location and program extensions can only be approved in compelling/exceptional circumstances. DFAT encourages scholars to undertake research on internship opportunities at host locations as part of their application and to indicate their intention to undertake an internship in their application, including the proposed length of time and evidence of research undertaken.
8	Scholarship eligibility criteria now require scholars to “have mandatory units to	Under its budget appropriation, the NCP can only provide funding to undergraduate students.



	<p>enrol and undertake in that home degree program after they return to Australia following the end of their NCP scholarship program”.</p> <p>What is the reason behind this added restriction? We have many high-achieving students who look to do an exchange/study abroad semester in their final year/semester, and this will make some of them ineligible.</p> <p>This change will mean we will primarily have to start recruiting students in the first year and early second year.</p>	<p>To clarify the policy intent of Clause 4.1.e, DFAT is satisfied that a student is entitled to apply for an NCP Scholarship provided they will maintain the status of being an enrolled student at their home university while undertaking their compulsory study component/s at their host university (this would include scenarios involving dual degrees where the final part of the degree is completed at the host university, but the student maintains their enrolment status at their home university).</p> <p>Provided the scholar maintains their enrolment and has not completed their degree requirements of their home university, they may undertake non-study components (i.e. language, internships). However, they cannot continue any component of a scholarship after they have completed their home university’s degree requirements.</p> <p>Scholarship programs should include the sequencing and proposed duration, location and type (language, sector, host organisation etc) of each individual component, ensuring that all take place whilst the student is still enrolled at the home university and before graduating.</p>
9	<p>In the NCP Scholarship Guidelines section 2.6, it states “where a scholar is currently employed and will return to the same employer after the conclusion of their scholarship program, the scholar must obtain written approval from their employer prior to commencing their program demonstrating agreement to the scholar undertaking their program, including providing leave”. Why has this been included?</p>	<p>This is not a new requirement. This is to ensure that an applicant who is currently employed and intends to return to their employer at the end of their program, should they be successful, has written agreement from their employer to undertake the program and then return to their employment. DFAT has had scholars prevented from undertaking their scholarship by their employer shortly before planned deployment. DFAT is keen to ensure that scholars understand they are not able to take leave of absence from their scholarship to undertake periods of work.</p>
10	<p>The requirement that scholarship applications have a passport or citizenship certificate is a barrier for entry, as it takes time and is costly. Can a driver license be supplied instead?</p>	<p>A driver license is not proof of citizenship. In instances where a passport or a citizenship certificate is not available at the point of application, an applicant may provide a statutory declaration attesting to their Australian citizenship. Travel under an NCP Scholarship must be on an Australian passport.</p>
11	<p>In the Scholarship Program’s Advice to Applicants, it mentions that the student’s home university need to complete the</p>	<p>The template letter will be shared with International Liaison Officers by the NCP</p>



	"the correct NCP 2026 Feasibility Letter template". Where would we find this template?	managing contractor after the nomination period closes.
12	Does my proposed scholarships program meet the language target?	<p>To meet the language target, the scholar's program must include (at least) one of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>a) at least 50 per cent of study unit/s (either one or two semesters of study units) are language units, or</li><li>b) at least 50 per cent of study units are delivered in a local language, or</li><li>c) the program includes at least 10 weeks full time block language study before, after or between, or</li><li>d) 10 weeks full-time equivalent language course is undertaken at any time during the scholarship.</li></ul>

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**Clarification or further information:**

1	The information in this Addendum reflects discussion at the 2025 International Liaison Officer Forum on 13 August 2025 – including a presentation and Question and Answer session on Phase 2 of the NCP and the 2026 Grant Opportunity Guidelines. This addendum also incorporates responses to questions received to 18 August 2025 by the NCP Secretariat mailbox seeking clarity on program Guidelines.
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**Attachments to this Addendum**

1. Presentation slides on 'New Colombo Plan Phase 2' delivered by DFAT's NCP Secretariat on 13 August 2025, during the 2025 International Liaison Officer Forum.

All other information as set out in the Grant Opportunity Guidelines dated 12 August 2025 remains unchanged.

---End of Addendum No. 2---