

Economics Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Industry, Innovation, Climate Change, Science, Research and Tertiary Education Portfolio
Additional Estimates Hearing 2012-13
13 February 2013

AGENCY/DEPARTMENT: DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRY, INNOVATION, CLIMATE CHANGE, SCIENCE, RESEARCH AND TERTIARY EDUCATION.

TOPIC: Asia Bounds Grant Program

REFERENCE: Written Question – Senator Edwards

QUESTION No.: AI-184

I refer to the \$37m helping support Australian students study in Asia (grants being given of \$2000 - \$5000).

1. How many students have been involved with the program so far?
2. How many students were anticipated to be involved with the program and over what time frame?
3. Has there been an increase in students choosing to study in Asia as opposed to other continents?
4. What is the money intended to be used for? Is an amount given as a result of merit and/or in proportion to living expenses in that country and/or for any other reasons?
5. Does the student have to pass his or her studies with a certain level of results? What happens if a student fails a subject and/or returns home early?
6. How does the government intend to measure results? What are the follow up procedures after a student has completed his or her study?
7. What other measurable achievements other than the amount of students using the grants is the Government using to determine the success of the funding?

ANSWER

1. None as yet. Funding for AsiaBound Grants will be available from 1 July 2013.
2. The AsiaBound Grants Program provides for around 10,600 student places over 3 years, starting 1 July 2013.
3. The first round of the AsiaBound Grants program opened for applications on 8 April 2013 and the first students should be traveling in the second half of 2013. A survey of Australian university students found that 32% of students who studied overseas were choosing to study in Asia in 2010. In 2011, the proportion of students choosing to study in Asia had grown to 33%.
4. The grants are designed to offset some of the costs to students participating in a short-term or semester-based study experience. The grants are allocated through education providers, following consideration of their project proposals and include \$2,000 per student for short-term mobility and \$5,000 per student for semester-based study projects.
5. There is no requirement for a student to pass their course to a certain level and as long as the student undertakes the travel for the purpose of the study the grant is deemed to have been spent for its intended purpose.

6. Institutions will be required to complete an evaluation report at the completion of the project which will be used to measure the success of the AsiaBound Grants Program.
7. Institutions are required to complete a project application which includes addressing selection criteria that support the aims of the AsiaBound grants program. They will also be required to submit completion and evaluation reports once the project is finished. These documents will be used to support the Government's reporting processes, risk management strategies and guide the future direction of the AsiaBound Grants Program.