

## MEDIA RELEASE



### **Australia's New Colombo Plan comes to Bangladesh and the Indo-Pacific region**

More than 3,000 students from 37 Australian universities will live, study and work in the Indo-Pacific region under the Australian Government's New Colombo Plan.

Australian Foreign Minister the Hon Julie Bishop MP and Education Minister the Hon Christopher Pyne MP today announced around 3,150 undergraduate students would be supported by the New Colombo Plan mobility round for 2015.

"New Colombo Plan mobility grants will support these students to study in 32 locations across the Indo-Pacific from India in the west, to Mongolia in the north and the Cook Islands in the east," Ms Bishop said.

Australia warmly welcomes Bangladesh's participation in the New Colombo Plan.

In Bangladesh, the New Colombo Plan will support collaboration between BRAC University and Sydney's Macquarie University, and between Pathshala South Asian Media Academy and Griffith University's Queensland College of Art.

Ms Bishop said "the expansion of the New Colombo Plan in 2015 reflects the strong support of partner governments for the Plan's aims of lifting knowledge of the region in Australia and for the Plan to become a 'rite of passage' for Australian undergraduate students."

"The continued strong interest of students in gaining first-hand experience of business in the region will ensure they are well placed to make a valuable contribution to the regional engagement of our business community and to driving economic growth in Australia and our region in the years ahead."

Mr Pyne said New Colombo Plan mobility grants are awarded to Australian universities to support their students to undertake semester or short-term study in the region.

"These grants will support students to study at a university overseas for anywhere from a few weeks to a full semester," Mr Pyne said.

"The grants cover study, practicums, clinical placements, internships and mentorships, and short-term research across a broad array of disciplines.

"The flexibility of this approach ensures that the Programme can support a wide range of students to experience the benefits of studying and living in the region.

The Australian Government has committed \$100 million in new funding over five years to implement the New Colombo Plan. The New Colombo Plan pilot year of 2014 is supporting 40 scholars and more than 1300 mobility students to live, study and undertake a work placement in the four pilot locations of Hong Kong, Indonesia, Japan and Singapore.

For more information on the NCP visit [www.dfat.gov.au/new-colombo-plan](http://www.dfat.gov.au/new-colombo-plan)

### **Australian High Commission, Dhaka, 26 November 2014**

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