



**Australia-India Council**



# **INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS GRANTS PROGRAM AUSTRALIA-INDIA COUNCIL 2020 GUIDELINES**

January 2020

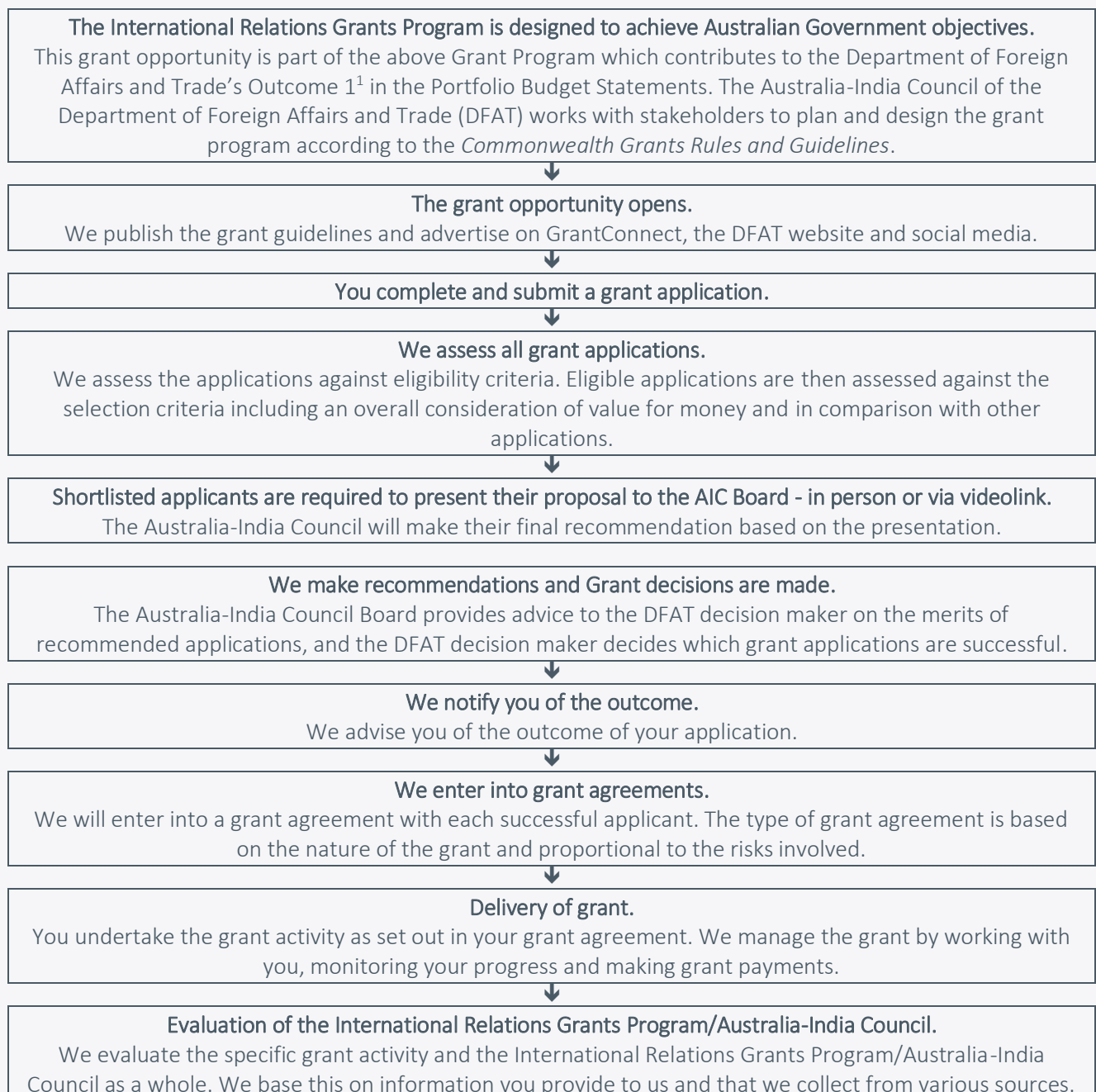
Opening date:	09:00 Wednesday 5 February 2020 (Canberra time, UTC +11)
Closing date and time:	14:00 Thursday 26 March 2020 (Canberra time, UTC +11)
Commonwealth policy entity:	Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade
Co-Sponsoring Entities	Not applicable
Enquiries:	<p>If you have any questions, please contact the Australia-India Council Secretariat at <a href="mailto:ausindia.council@dfat.gov.au">ausindia.council@dfat.gov.au</a>, or call +61 2 6261 3833.</p> <p>Questions should be sent no later than 14:00 on Thursday 19 March 2020 (Canberra time, UTC +11)</p>
Type of grant opportunity:	Open competitive

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# 1. INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS GRANTS PROGRAM: AUSTRALIA-INDIA COUNCIL 2020 PROCESS FLOWCHART



<sup>1</sup> The advancement of Australia's international strategic, security and economic interests including through bilateral, regional and multilateral engagement on Australian Government foreign, trade and international development priorities.

## 2. ABOUT THE GRANT PROGRAM

The International Relations Grants Program (the Program) is an ongoing program, subject to annual budget appropriation.

The objectives of the Program are to promote bilateral policy priorities, people-to-people links, and a contemporary and positive image of Australia.

The expected outcomes of the Program are:

strengthened bilateral relationships in areas of mutual interest with particular countries and regions;  
international networks, collaboration and connections between institutions and communities to build understanding, trust and influence;

enhanced Australian international reputation and reach through the promotion of our economic, creative and cultural, sporting, innovation and science, and education assets;

increased understanding of Australians of the cultures and opportunities in each of these countries.

Grant opportunities available under the International Relations Grants Program are:

Australia-ASEAN Council

Australia-China Council

Australia-India Council

Australia-Indonesia Institute

Australia-Japan Foundation

Australia-Korea Foundation

Australian Cultural Diplomacy Grants Program

Council for Australian-Arab Relations

Council on Australia-Latin America Relations.

Further information on the International Relations Grants Program, including descriptions of previous grant-funded projects, is available at [www.dfat.gov.au/councils](http://www.dfat.gov.au/councils).

The Program will be undertaken according to the *Commonwealth Grants Rules and Guidelines (CGRGs)* <https://www.finance.gov.au/government/commonwealth-grants/commonwealth-grants-rules-guidelines>.

The Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade reserves the right to cease selection processes for Grant Opportunities under the International Relations Grants Program.

## 2.1 ABOUT THE AUSTRALIA-INDIA COUNCIL GRANTS 2020

These guidelines contain information for the Australia-India Council 2020 grants. These grants are part of the International Relations Grants Program.

This document sets out:

the purpose of the grant ;

the eligibility and assessment criteria;

how grant applications are monitored and evaluated;

responsibilities and expectations in relation to the grant.

You must read this document before filling out an application.

## 2.2 AUSTRALIA-INDIA COUNCIL GRANTS OBJECTIVES

The Australia-India Council seeks to advance Australia's foreign and trade policy interests by building awareness and understanding between the peoples and institutions of Australia and India. The objectives of the Australia-India Council 2020 Grant Program are to:

- raise awareness of Australia in India, and of India in Australia, in a way that encourages further growth in relations between the two countries, including in the trade and investment relationship;
- promote exchange and collaboration between Australian and Indian organisations in fields of relevance to the bilateral economic partnership;
- deliver high quality programs that demonstrate Australia's economic credentials and technical excellence to influential audiences in India;
- seek community involvement in, and private sector support for Australian engagement with India including by encouraging corporate investment in collaborations that advance Australia-India relations;
- promote examples of successful bilateral relationship.

The Australia-India Council is looking for high quality applications that foster ground-breaking collaboration that catalyses positive bilateral engagement and improves perceptions in both directions. In 2020, priority will be given to projects that:

- support the recommendations of the [India Economic Strategy](#): an ambitious plan to transform Australia's economic partnership with India out to 2035;
- address an identified gap or need; and
- are co-funded by industry or that work to produce commercial collaborations; or demonstrate a path to continuing in future years without government funding.

Key priority sectors of the 2020 AIC grant program and as identified in the India Economic Strategy are:

- |                |                      |               |
|----------------|----------------------|---------------|
| • Education    | • Energy             | • Sport       |
| • Agribusiness | • Health             | • Science and |
| • Resources    | • Financial Services | Innovation    |
| • Tourism      | • Infrastructure     |               |

Key project deliverables for successful applicants will be to:

- further the aims of the Australia-India Council including publicising the impact of the project;
- report project outcomes and expenditure:

- produce a one to two-page policy paper to inform government on key considerations relevant to the grant topic, including key learnings, future challenges, opportunities or needs, and recommendations.

### 3. GRANT AMOUNT

The AIC grant process is very competitive and not all projects that satisfy the guidelines can be funded. In 2020, between \$600,000 and \$700,000 in total is expected to be available for AIC grants, subject to appropriation. Grants will be provided to a number of small and medium projects (up to a maximum of \$150,000 each) that demonstrate a clear capacity to maximise impact by fostering ground-breaking collaborations that catalyse positive bilateral engagement.

Project costs should be proportionate to the scope of the grant activity, its complexity, proposed outcomes, and strategic advantage, as well as administration and sensible risk management expectations.

Co-contributions from your organisation and other parties must be included and will be regarded positively.

## 4. GRANT ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

We can only consider your application if it satisfies all the eligibility criteria.

### 4.1 WHO IS ELIGIBLE TO APPLY FOR A GRANT?

To be eligible you must be:

one of the following entity types:

- an Australian entity with an Australian Business Number (ABN) or Australian Company Number (ACN), or Indigenous Corporation Number (ICN)
- a consortium with a lead organisation<sup>2</sup>
- a registered charity or not-for-profit organisation
- an Australian local government body
- an Australian State/Territory government body
- a corporate Commonwealth entity
- an Australian statutory authority
- an Australian citizen or permanent resident; and

willing to provide or develop child protection guidelines for your project if it involves people under the age of 18 years.

Applications from consortia are acceptable, provided you have a lead applicant who is the main contact and driver of the project, and is eligible per the list above. See 8.6 for more information about consortia.

Individuals who intend the grant to be administered by a university should apply on behalf of the university, i.e. your university is the applicant. Only one application per university or institution will be eligible for approval.

### 4.2 WHO IS NOT ELIGIBLE TO APPLY FOR A GRANT?

You are not eligible to apply if you are:

not an Australian citizen, a permanent resident of Australia or an Australian organisation or;

a previous applicant who has failed to provide a full and proper acquittal of an earlier IRGP grant

you may provide an interim report with the agreement of the relevant Secretariat where existing grant funding will be expended prior to the commencement of the new grant requested.

<sup>2</sup> The Australian Government recognises that some organisations may seek to form consortia in order to apply for a grant under the Program. Consortia are eligible to apply and the relevant conditions applicable to consortia are at 8.6 'Grant Applications from Consortia'

## 5. ELIGIBLE GRANT ACTIVITIES

### 5.1 WHAT THE GRANT MONEY CAN BE USED FOR

You can use the grant to pay for costs detailed in your budget and grant agreement, including: economy flights, modest accommodation costs, meals and travel allowances, other transport; communication and translation; venue hire and catering; advertising and promotion, graphic design, photography and printed material; production costs, including freight and artists' wages.

For activities delivered in Australia, applicants are encouraged to consider the use of an Indigenous supplier if they intend to subcontract any of the services above. A directory of registered Indigenous businesses is available at [www.supplynation.org.au](http://www.supplynation.org.au).

You can only spend grant funds on eligible grant activities as defined in the grant details in your grant agreement. Projects will need to start between 1 July 2020 and 30 June 2021.

### 5.2 WHAT THE GRANT MONEY CANNOT BE USED FOR

You cannot normally use the grant for the following:

- capital expenditure, including purchase of real estate or vehicles;
- purchase of equipment (e.g. musical instruments, computers, videos, software licences, photographic or printing equipment);
- the covering of retrospective costs or recurrent funding of activities;
- activities which are already commercially viable in their own right;
- activities which will provide commercial advantage to the applicant (e.g. promotion of the applicant's own business);
- costs incurred in the preparation of a grant application or related documentation;
- subsidy of general ongoing administration of an organisation such as electricity, phone, rent, salaries for research assistants or administrative staff, honorariums or administrative charges levied by the applicant's organisation;
- activities for which other Commonwealth, State, Territory or Local Government bodies have primary responsibility (e.g. academic research, assistance to business, development assistance projects);
- scholarships to individual students;
- completed projects.

We do not generally fund travel and accommodation for attendance at conferences or meetings, participation in fieldwork, or sporting or other events, unless such activities are considered by the Board to be of direct relevance to its objectives. To be considered, a substantial program should exist in the sidelines or around the conference and there should also be a strong argument for the selection of the applicant(s)

## 6. THE GRANT SELECTION PROCESS

First we will assess your application against the eligibility criteria. Only eligible applications will move to the next stage. Eligible applications will be considered through an open competitive grant process.

We will then assess your application against the criteria set out below and against other applications. Your application will be considered on its merits, based on:

- how well it meets the criteria;

- how it compares to other applications;

- whether it provides value for money;

- whether it ensures a reasonable spread of projects across priority sectors, as identified in the India Economic Strategy..

Shortlisted applicants will be required to present their proposal to the AIC board in person or via video link. Should you be shortlisted we will contact you to make arrangements.

## 7. THE ASSESSMENT CRITERIA

You will need to address all of the following assessment criteria in your application. We will judge your application based on how well you meet the criteria. The amount of detail and supporting evidence you provide in your application should be relative to the project size, complexity and grant amount requested. The application form has limits on the number of words permitted some fields. In assessing your application we will review:

1. How the grant activity will contribute to the objectives of the Australia-India Council and the priority sectors outlined in the India Economic Strategy;
2. The project's ability to shift perceptions, build collaborations and be sustained over time;
3. The extent to which the project establishes innovative and dynamic linkages; overcomes an identified problem; or leverages a major event to build deeper relations between Australia and India;
4. How the project aims to identify and deliver Australia's knowledge and expertise to fill a market gap in India, in one or more of the ten sectors identified in the India Economic Strategy;
5. How you intend to deliver dynamic digital media and/or reach a wide and influential audience in line with the [Australia-India Council's 'A Dynamic Mix' communication platform](#);
6. How well the project demonstrates its capacity to meet the key performance indicators built into the grant application and acquittal forms.

All assessment criteria are given equal weighting and the applications will be assessed by the extent to which your application meets the criteria.

When preparing the application, applicants should bear in mind that the assessment committee may not be familiar with the applicant, the organisation or the field of activity. As the committee's recommendation will be primarily based on the information provided in the application form, the information provided in the application should be clear, accurate, comprehensive and focused.

## 8. THE GRANT APPLICATION PROCESS

### 8.1 OVERVIEW OF APPLICATION PROCESS

You must read these grant guidelines, the [Australia-India Council Strategic Plan](#), the application form, the draft grant agreement and the [standard grant documentation](#) before you submit an application.

You are responsible for ensuring that your application is complete and accurate. Giving false or misleading information will exclude your application from further consideration.

To be considered for a grant you must address all of the eligibility and assessment criteria and provide two short, signed independent references. Please complete each section of the application form and make sure you provide the information we have requested.

Please keep a copy of your application and any supporting papers.

We will acknowledge that we have received your grant application, through an automated email from the online grants management system, *SmartyGrants*, within one working day.

If you are shortlisted you will be required to present your proposal to the board in person or via video link. If you reach this stage, we will contact you to make arrangements.

### 8.2 APPLICATION PROCESS TIMING

Submit your application/s to the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (via *SmartyGrants*) by the closing date below. The Australian Government will only accept a late application in exceptional circumstances where permission has been granted by the Secretariat in advance of the closing time and date.

The expected start date for the granting activities is within the 2020-21 financial year and the expected end date is as specified in your application.

## 8.3 PLANNED TIMELINE FOR THIS GRANT OPPORTUNITY

Activity	Timing
Applications open	09:00 Wednesday 5 February 2020 (Canberra time, UTC +11)
Applications close	14:00 Thursday 26 March 2020 (Canberra time, UTC +11)
Assessment of applications	9-12 weeks
Shortlisted applicants notified	June 2020
Shortlisted applicants to present proposal to the Board via video link or in person in one of the capital cities	July 2020
Approval of outcomes of selection process	July 2020
Negotiations and award of grant agreements	July 2020
Notification to unsuccessful applicants	July 2020
Project activity to commence	Before June 30 2021
Project end date	Specified in application and reflected in grant agreement

## 8.4 COMPLETING THE GRANT APPLICATION

You must submit your grant application in English using the application template which can be downloaded at <https://dfat.smartygrants.com.au/AIC2020>. The application form contains a help function.

The online application form must be submitted electronically via Smartygrants. If you have any technical difficulties please contact the SmartyGrants Help Desk ([service@smartygrants.com.au](mailto:service@smartygrants.com.au), +61 3 9320 6888 between 09:00 and 17:00, Monday to Friday, Canberra time).

The Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade will not provide application forms or accept applications for this grant opportunity by fax or mail or email.

You must make sure that your application is complete and accurate and submitted in accordance with these Guidelines and the application form.

You cannot change your application after the closing date and time without prior approval by the Secretariat.

If you find a mistake in your application after it has been submitted or if there are changes to contact details or other information pertinent to the completion of the project, you should contact the Secretariat straight away. The Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade may ask you for more information, as long as it does not change the substance of your application. The Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade is not obliged to accept any additional information, or request applicants correct applications after the closing time.

## 8.5 ATTACHMENTS TO THE APPLICATION

The following documents must be submitted with your application:

two short, signed independent references

letter of support from nominated partners (if relevant)

organisation capability statement or individual's curriculum vitae (optional)

a letter of support from your Research Office if you apply on behalf of a university.

all supporting documentation should be attached to the application form. There are instructions in the application form to help you. Only attach the documents you have been asked to include.

The most competitive applications will be those with letters of support from the relevant Research Office. The letter of support will need to highlight the alignment of the proposed project to the Australia-India Council grant objectives, the relevance of the project to the University's strategic goals relating to India and demonstrating why the project could not be appropriately funded by the Australia Research Council or alternative Commonwealth funding body.

## 8.6 APPLICATIONS FROM CONSORTIA

Some organisations may apply as a consortium to deliver grant activities. A consortium is two or more organisations who are working together to combine their capabilities when developing and delivering a grant activity.

If you are submitting a grant application on behalf of a consortium, a member organisation or a newly created organisation must be appointed as the 'lead organisation'. Only the lead organisation will enter into a grant agreement with the Commonwealth and will be responsible for the grant. The lead organisation must complete the application form and identify all other members of the proposed consortium in the application. The application must include a letter of support from each organisation involved in the grant. Each letter of support should include:

an overview of how the consortium will work together to complete the grant activity

an outline of the relevant experience and/or expertise of the consortium members

the roles/responsibilities of consortium members and the resources they will contribute (if any)

details of a nominated management level contact officer

details of the lead organisation.

## 8.7 QUESTIONS DURING THE APPLICATION PROCESS

If you have any questions during the application period, please contact the Australia-India Council Secretariat at [ausindia.council@dfat.gov.au](mailto:ausindia.council@dfat.gov.au). or phone +61 2 6261 3833,. Questions should be sent no later than 14:00 on Thursday 19 March 2020.

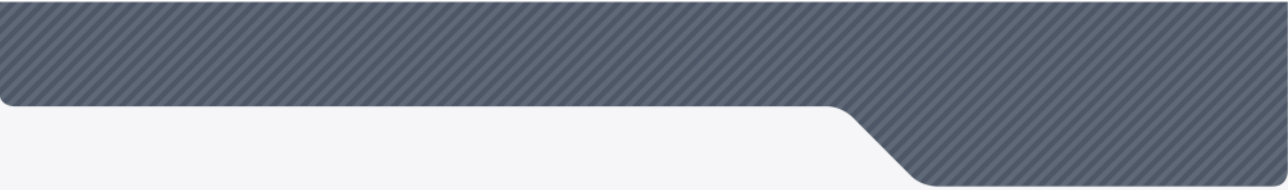
Please review the frequently asked questions at the end of the document before contacting the AIC secretariat.

Applicants may speak with the Australia-India Council Secretariat in their first language by telephoning the Translating and Interpreting Service on 131 450 (local call anywhere in Australia) and asking to be connected with the Secretariat.

Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander applicants may wish to access assistance in submitting an application where English is not their first language. In these cases, applicants may contact an Indigenous language centre for assistance.

## 8.8 FURTHER GRANT OPPORTUNITIES

The Australia-India Council aims to allocate all grant funding during the annual grants round and is typically over-subscribed with suitable applications each year. If there are not enough suitable applications to meet the Program's objectives, the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade may consider applications received throughout the 2020/21 financial year, subject to available funding through direct selection or restricted



processes. All potential grants will still be considered against the outcomes of the Program (and/or criteria in these guidelines) and value for money.

## 9. ASSESSMENT OF GRANT APPLICATIONS

### 9.1 WHO WILL ASSESS APPLICATIONS?

The Board of the Australia-India Council will assess applications. Board members are listed on the Australia-India Council [website](#). Board members are treated as Commonwealth officials due to their role in the assessment process in accordance with Part 1, section 2.8 of the CGRGs and the *Public Governance, Performance and Accountability Act 2013*.

While an application may meet the assessment criteria, a grant is not guaranteed.

The Australia-India Council Secretariat, within the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, will provide information and advice to the Board to assist its determination of policy and its assessment of grant applications.

The Board may seek additional input from relevant Australian missions overseas about you or your application. They may also seek additional information from other Commonwealth agencies, even if the sources are not nominated by you as referees. The Board may also consider information about you or your application that is available through the normal course of business.

Shortlisted applicants will be required to pitch their proposal to the board in person or via video link.

If the selection process identifies unintentional errors in your application, you may be contacted to correct or provide an explanation.

### 9.2 WHO WILL APPROVE GRANTS?

The assessment committee will make recommendations to the Assistant Secretary, India and Indian Ocean Branch (or their delegate) within the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade. The delegate will make the final decision to approve a grant.

The delegate's decision is final in all matters, including:

- the approval of the grant

- the grant funding amount to be awarded.

The delegate will not approve funding if they reasonably consider the Program funding available is insufficient to meet project deliverables, and/or the application does not represent value for money.

The Australia-India Council reserves the right to offer less funding than that sought by the applicant.

There is no appeal mechanism for decisions to approve or not approve a grant.

## 10. NOTIFICATION OF APPLICATION OUTCOMES

You will be advised of the outcome of your application in writing, following a decision by the delegate. If you are successful, you will also be advised about any specific conditions attached to the grant.

If you are unsuccessful, you may submit a new application for the same project (or a similar project) in any future grant opportunity rounds. You may wish to include new or more information to address any weaknesses that may have prevented your previous application from being successful.

### 10.1 FEEDBACK ON YOUR APPLICATION

If you are unsuccessful, you may ask for feedback from the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade within one month of being advised of the outcome. The Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade will give verbal feedback within one month of making a request for feedback.

## 11. SUCCESSFUL GRANT APPLICATIONS

### 11.1 THE GRANT AGREEMENT

If you are successful, you must enter into a legally binding grant agreement with the Commonwealth represented by the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade. Standard terms and conditions for the grant agreement will apply and cannot be changed. Any additional conditions attached to the grant will be identified in the grant offer or during the grant agreement negotiations.

You will be required to:

- confirm your communication outline within two weeks of accepting the grant offer;
- publish digital media in line with the Australia-India Council's 'A Dynamic Mix' communication platform;
- provide a one to two-page policy paper to inform government of the key considerations relevant to the grant topic explaining key learnings, future challenges, opportunities or needs and recommended appropriate Government actions, if any, in the relevant area;
- provide a final report, including financial acquittal, using the online template within 60 days of project completion;
- for multi-year grants, complete interim reports once a year using the online template;
- where conference or meeting participation of a principal speaker is funded, provide a copy of the paper presented by the participant in addition to the final report;
- demonstrate that you have met the key performance indicators and the project specific outputs detailed in your application.

The Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade will negotiate agreements with successful applicants. If there are unreasonable delays in finalising a grant agreement, the grant offer may be withdrawn and the grant may be awarded to a different applicant.

Where a grantee fails to meet the obligations of the grant agreement, the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade may withhold or suspend the funding to the grantee; and/or require the grantee to repay all or part of the grant. No compensation is payable by the Department for termination in these circumstances.

You should not make financial commitments until a grant agreement has been executed by the Commonwealth.

### 11.2 HOW THE GRANT WILL BE PAID

The grant agreement will state the maximum grant amount to be paid.

We will not exceed the maximum grant amount under any circumstances. If you incur extra cost, you must pay them yourself.

We will make an initial payment on execution of the grant agreement and on receipt of a valid invoice. For multi-year grants, we will make subsequent payments detailed in the grant agreement progressively based on your interim reports, including acquittals, and receipt of valid invoices.

All grants are awarded in Australian dollars. You are responsible for any financial differences that may occur from the time of the application submission to when the project takes place due to fluctuations in exchange rates.

### 11.3 GRANT AGREEMENT VARIATIONS

We recognise that unexpected events may affect the progress of a project. In these circumstances, you can request a project variation, including:

- changing project milestones consistent with the original intent of the project;
- extending the timeframe for completing the project for a reasonable period of time;
- varying the allocations across budget items.

The Program does not allow for an increase to the agreed amount of grant funds.

If you want to propose changes to the grant agreement, you must put them in writing before the grant agreement end date. Contact the [Australia-India Council Secretariat](#) for further information. We will not consider changes after the grant agreement end date.

You should not assume that a variation request will be successful. We will consider your request based on factors such as:

- how it affects the project outcome;
- consistency with the Program policy objective and any relevant DFAT policies;
- changes to the timing of grant payments;
- availability of program funds.

## 12. ANNOUNCEMENT OF GRANTS

If successful, your grant will be listed on the website of the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade and/or GrantConnect within 14 days of the date of effect<sup>3</sup> as required by Section 5.3 of the CGRGs.

<sup>3</sup> See glossary

## 13. DELIVERY OF GRANT ACTIVITIES

### 13.1 YOUR RESPONSIBILITIES

You must submit reports in line with the timeframes in the grant agreement. Sample templates for these reports are available on the [website](#). We will expect you to report on:

progress against your communications plan and effectiveness in actively deepening international relationships and promoting your project and the council;

progress against agreed project milestones;

contributions of participants directly related to the project;

eligible expenditure of grant funds;

results against key performance indicators and the project specific outputs detailed in your application.

A key project deliverable for successful applicants will be a one to two-page policy paper to inform government of the key considerations relevant to the grant topic. The paper should explain key learnings, future challenges, opportunities or needs. and recommended appropriate Government actions, if any, in the relevant area.

You will also be responsible for:

meeting the terms and conditions of the grant agreement and managing and promoting the activity efficiently and effectively in line with the 'A Dynamic Mix' communication platform;

complying with record keeping, reporting and acquittal requirements as set out in the grant agreement;

contacting our High Commissions and Consulates when delivering projects in India;

all administrative arrangements associated with your project including visa and travel arrangements, visa charges, airport taxes, ground transport, travel and health insurance for project participants, medical and hospital insurance cover both overseas and in Australia for visitors not covered by Medicare (including evacuation and death cover), and necessary insurance for equipment and accommodation

other insurances, including workers' compensation as required by law, and professional indemnity, public health and liability insurance, as required by the project;

complying with all applicable domestic and international laws.

### 13.2 DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND TRADE'S RESPONSIBILITIES

The Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade will:

meet the terms and conditions set out in the grant agreement;

provide timely administration of the grant;

evaluate the grantee's performance.

We will monitor the progress of your project by assessing reports you submit, may also attend project events and conduct site visits to confirm details of your reports. Occasionally we may need to re-examine claims, seek further information or request an independent audit of claims and payments.

Funding under this grants program does not imply that the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade endorses the views of recipients involved in any funded activity.

### 13.3 GRANT PAYMENTS AND GST

Payments will be made as set out in the grant agreement. Where appropriate, payments will be GST inclusive.

If your grant application is successful, you should consider speaking to a tax advisor about the effect of receiving a grant before you enter into a grant agreement. You can also visit the Australian Taxation Office website at [www.ato.gov.au](http://www.ato.gov.au) for more information.

### 13.4 EVALUATION

The Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade will evaluate the Australia-India Council 2020 activities to measure how well the outcomes and objectives have been achieved. Your grant agreement requires you to provide information to help with this evaluation.

### 13.5 PUBLICITY AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The Australia-India Council logo and 'A Dynamic Mix' communication platform is to be used on all materials related to grants under the Program. Whenever the logo is used the publication must also acknowledge the Commonwealth as follows:

'This activity received grant funding from the Australia-India Council of the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade.'

Invitations to board members and/or officers of the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade to demonstrate Australian Government support for the project are highly desirable and can be coordinated through the Secretariat at [ausindia.council@dfat.gov.au](mailto:ausindia.council@dfat.gov.au).

## 14. PROBITY

The Australian Government will make sure that the Program process is fair according to the published guidelines, incorporates appropriate safeguards against fraud, unlawful activities and other inappropriate conduct, and is consistent with the CGRGs.

**Note:** These guidelines may be changed from time-to-time by the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade. When this happens the revised guidelines will be published on the Department's website at <http://dfat.gov.au/councils>.

### 14.1 COMPLAINTS PROCESS

All complaints about a grant process must be lodged in writing with the Secretariat.

Any questions you have about grant decisions for the Program should be sent to [ausindia.council@dfat.gov.au](mailto:ausindia.council@dfat.gov.au).

If you do not agree with the way the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade has handled your complaint, you may complain to the Commonwealth Ombudsman. The Ombudsman will not usually look into a complaint unless the matter has first been raised directly with the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade.

The Commonwealth Ombudsman can be contacted on:

Phone (Toll free): 1300 362 072

Email: [ombudsman@ombudsman.gov.au](mailto:ombudsman@ombudsman.gov.au)

Website: [www.ombudsman.gov.au](http://www.ombudsman.gov.au)

### 14.2 CONFLICT OF INTEREST

Any conflicts of interest could affect the performance of the grant. There may be a conflict of interest, or perceived conflict of interest, if the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade staff, any member of the assessment committee and/or you or any of your personnel has:

- a professional, commercial or personal relationship with a party who is able to influence the application selection process, such as an Australian Government officer; or

- a relationship with an organisation which is likely to interfere with or restrict the applicants from carrying out the proposed activities fairly and independently; or

- a relationship with, or interest in, an organisation from which they will receive personal gain because the organisation receives funding under the Program.

You will be asked to declare, as part of your application, any perceived or existing conflicts of interests or that, to the best of your knowledge, there is no conflict of interest.

If you later identify that there is an actual, apparent, or potential conflict of interest or that one might arise in relation to a grant application, you must inform the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade in writing immediately. Committee members and other officials including the decision maker must also declare any conflicts of interest.

The chair of the Assessment Committee will be made aware of any conflicts of interest and will handle them as set out in Australian Government policies and procedures. Conflicts of interest for Australian Government staff will be handled as set out in the Australian Public Service Code of Conduct (Section 13(7)) of the *Public Service Act 1999*. We publish our conflict of interest policy, available on the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade website.

### 14.3 PRIVACY: CONFIDENTIALITY AND PROTECTION OF PERSONAL INFORMATION

We treat your personal information according to the 13 Australian Privacy Principles and the *Privacy Act 1988*. This includes letting you know:

- what personal information we collect;
- why we collect your personal information;
- to whom we give your personal information.

You are required, as part of your application, to declare your ability to comply with the *Privacy Act 1988*, including the Australian Privacy Principles, and impose the same privacy obligations on any subcontractors you engage to assist with the activity. You must ask for the Australian Government's consent in writing before disclosing confidential information.

Your personal information can only be disclosed to someone else if you are given reasonable notice of the disclosure; where disclosure is authorised or required by law or is reasonably necessary for the enforcement of the criminal law; if it will prevent or lessen a serious and imminent threat to a person's life or health; or if you have consented to the disclosure.

The Australian Government may also use and disclose information about grant applicants and grant recipients under the Program in any other Australian Government business or function. This includes giving information to the Australian Taxation Office for compliance purposes.

We may reveal confidential information to:

- the committee and other Commonwealth employees and contractors to help us manage the Program effectively;
- employees and contractors of our department so we can research, assess, monitor and analyse our programs and activities;
- employees and contractors of other Commonwealth agencies for any purposes, including government administration, research or service delivery;
- other Commonwealth, State, Territory or local government agencies in program reports and consultations;
- the Auditor-General, Ombudsman or Privacy Commissioner;
- the responsible Minister or Parliamentary Secretary;
- a House or a Committee of the Australian Parliament.

We may share the information you give us with other Commonwealth agencies for any purposes including government administration, research or service delivery and according to Australian laws, including the:

*Public Service Act 1999*;

*Public Service Regulations 1999*;

*Public Governance, Performance and Accountability Act 2013*;

*Privacy Act 1988*;

*Crimes Act 1914*;

*Criminal Code Act 1995*.

The grant agreement will include any specific requirements about special categories of information collected, created or held under the grant agreement.

## 14.4 FREEDOM OF INFORMATION

All documents in the possession of the Australian Government, including those about the Program, are subject to the *Freedom of Information Act 1982 (FOI Act)*.

The purpose of the FOI Act is to give members of the public rights of access to information held by the Australian Government and its entities. Under the FOI Act, members of the public can seek access to documents held by the Australian Government. This right of access is limited only by the exceptions and exemptions necessary to protect essential public interests and private and business affairs of persons in respect of whom the information relates.

All Freedom of Information requests must be referred to the Freedom of Information Coordinator in writing.

By mail:           The Director  
Freedom of Information and Privacy Law Section  
Corporate Legal Branch  
Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade  
R.G. Casey Building  
John McEwen Crescent  
BARTON ACT 0221

By email:        [foi@dfat.gov.au](mailto:foi@dfat.gov.au)

## 15. GLOSSARY

<b>assessment criteria</b>	The specified principles or standards against which applications will be judged. These criteria are also used to assess the merits of proposals and, in the case of a competitive granting activity, to determine applicant rankings. (as defined in the CGRGs)
<b>date of effect</b>	The date specified in the grant agreement as the starting date. Where there is no grant agreement, entities must publish information on individual grants as soon as practicable. (CGRGs)
<b>decision maker</b>	The person who makes a decision to award a grant.
<b>double dipping</b>	Double dipping occurs where a grant recipient is able to obtain a grant for the same budget line items, project or activity from more than one source. (CGRGs)
<b>eligibility criteria</b>	The principles, standards or rules that a grant applicant must meet to qualify for consideration of a grant. Eligibility criteria may apply in addition to assessment criteria. (CGRGs)
<b>Commonwealth entity</b>	A Department of State, or a Parliamentary Department, or a listed entity or a body corporate established by a law of the Commonwealth. See subsections 10(1) and (2) of the PGPA Act.
<b>cost shifting</b>	Involves 'substitution of effort' by the Commonwealth for activities of another organisation or level of government. For example, cost shifting occurs where the Commonwealth provides a grant for an activity that would usually be paid for by a state, territory, or local government, such as municipal services. (CGRGs)
<b>grant activity</b>	Is the project /tasks /services that the Grantee is required to undertake with the grant money. It is described in the Grant Agreement
<b>grant agreement</b>	Grant agreement means the contract template used by Australian Government entities to set out the mutual obligations relating to the provision of the grant. The Australian Government is standardising and streamlining grant agreements between the Commonwealth and grant recipients to allow grant recipients to engage more easily and efficiently with the Commonwealth. (CGRGs)
<b>grant opportunity</b>	A notice published on GrantConnect advertising the availability of Commonwealth grants.

<b>grant program</b>	May be advertised within the 'Forecast Opportunity' (FO) section of GrantConnect to provide a consolidated view of associated grant opportunities and provide strategic context for specific grant opportunities
<b>grantee</b>	An individual/organisation that has been awarded a grant.
<b>PBS Program</b>	Described within the entity's Portfolio Budget Statement, PBS programs each link to a single outcome and provide transparency for funding decisions. These high level PBS programs often comprise a number of lower level, more publicly recognised programs, some of which will be Grant Programs. A PBS Program may have more than one Grant Program associated with it, and each of these may have one or more grant opportunities
<b>selection criteria</b>	Comprised of eligibility criteria and assessment criteria. (CGRGs)
<b>selection process</b>	The method used to select potential grantees. This process may involve comparative assessment of applications or the assessment of applications against the eligibility criteria and/or the assessment criteria. (CGRGs)

## APPENDIX A: ACRONYMS

AAC	Australia-ASEAN Council
ABN	Australian Business Number
ACC	Australia-China Council
ACDGP	Australian Cultural Diplomacy Grant Program
ACN	Australian Company Number
AIC	Australia-India Council
AII	Australia-Indonesia Institute
AJF	Australia-Japan Foundation
AKF	Australia-Korea Foundation
ASEAN	Association of Southeast Asian Nations
CAAR	Council for Australian-Arab Relations
CGRGs	Commonwealth Grants Rules and Guidelines
COALAR	Council on Australia Latin America Relations
CV	Curriculum Vitae
DFAT	Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade
FCI	Foundations, Councils and Institutes
FOI	Freedom of Information
GST	Goods and Services Tax
IRGP	International Relations Grants Program
PBS	Portfolio Budget Statement
PGPA Act	<i>Public Governance, Performance and Accountability Act 2013</i>

## APPENDIX B: FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

*Can you tell me if my proposed activities meet the strategic priorities of the AIC?*

- The AIC Grant Guidelines ('the Guidelines') provide information on the strategic priorities for each Grant Round and should be closely reviewed prior to submitting an application.
- In 2020, the focus will be on projects that support the recommendations of the India Economic Strategy.

*Am I eligible to apply for a grant?*

- Section 4 of the Guidelines outlines who is, and is not, eligible to apply for a grant.

*Can my application be reviewed by the Board before I submit it?*

- The AIC Board and Secretariat cannot provide advice on individual grant applications. For reasons of probity, the AIC Board and the Secretariat cannot meet to discuss individual applications.

*Can grant funding be used for programs in any country?*

- Funding will only be provided for activities in Australia and/or India.

*How will my application be assessed?*

- Every application will be assessed based on the criteria set out in section 7 of the Guidelines.

*Can grant funding be used to support ongoing administrative costs?*

- Funding cannot be used for continuing administration including phone, rent, or salaries for research assistants or other staff.

*Can grant funding be used to support the salaries of staff employed to work exclusively on the project?*

Grant funding may be applied to staff working exclusively on the project, such as an external consultant.

*Can funding be used for the purchase of equipment?*

- The Guidelines specify that grant funding cannot be used for capital expenditure or the purchase of equipment.
- We would encourage co-contributions / funding from other parties for those aspects of the activity through a grant partner.

*If I am shortlisted what and how should I present to the board?*

- Shortlisted applicants will be given at least two weeks' notice of their presentation to the Board, including information about what and how they will need to present to the Board.

*Are joint research collaborations between institutes in Australia and India eligible under the AIC grants program?*

- Joint research collaborations between Australia and India are eligible to apply for an AIC grant.

*The funding guidelines state that only one application per university or institution will be eligible for approval. Does this mean that each institution can submit only one application?*

- Multiple applications can be submitted per institution. However, only one project per institution will be recommended by the AIC to receive funding.

*When will successful grants be announced?*

- Successful grants are generally announced in July/August each year.

*When does the project need to commence?*

- In the same financial year that the Grant is provided.