

Emerging Leaders in Australia-Africa Diplomacy (ELAAD) Program

Pilot online program Nov 2022-June 2023

Information for Applicants

Program objectives

- 1) To create a diverse cohort and ongoing network of emerging leaders in Australia-Africa diplomatic relations from among postgraduate university students and junior diplomats across Australia and the African continent.
- 2) To provide an opportunity for this cohort to develop expert knowledge and professional skills in Australia-Africa relations through a customised and facilitated annual online program engaging with leading scholars and experts, journalists, senior diplomats and other policy practitioners.
- 3) To draw on the collective knowledge, expertise and ideas of this cohort to generate innovative policy ideas and meaningful socio-cultural exchanges for enhancing international relations between the African continent and Australia, including to develop collaborative solutions to global challenges.

Program structure

The Program is housed under the [Australia Africa Universities Network](#) (AAUN) and led by AAUN member [Curtin University](#). It consists of 36 annual participants selected through an application process and AAUN selection panel, with overall cohort diversity and balance a core principle for the selection panel. As the Program targets and develops emerging leaders, the eligible age range is 20-35 years of age. For the pilot program, there are no costs for the program participants other than their own time and commitment to active engagement. All completing participants will receive a certificate of participation. There is no formal qualification obtained.

The pilot Program will be conducted fully online via Webex platform and consist of a series of 12 x two-hour interactive, facilitated sessions over an eight-month period (Nov 2022-June 2023), with two sessions per month (including a holiday break from mid-December to mid-Feb). Due to time differences, the program will be facilitated at hours that accommodate both African and Australian participants. This will span from 4-6pm Australian Western Standard Time (AWST, GMT+8) which will allow participants from Africa and Australia's Eastern States to attend the sessions at a reasonable hour. See below:

West Africa (Ghana)	Southern Africa	Eastern Africa	Western Australia	Eastern Australia (AEDT)
GMT	GMT+2	GMT+3	GMT+8	GMT+11
8-10am	10am-12pm	11am-1pm	4-6pm	7-9pm

The pilot Program will be facilitated in English and the course convenor will manage the sessions. Each regular session will develop expert knowledge, professional skills and networking through interaction with other participants, program facilitators and guest speakers.

Distinguished subject experts, scholars, journalists and diplomatic practitioners from Australia and Africa will be invited to speak in particular sessions and to engage in Q&A discussion with the program participants. Some light pre-readings will be provided for background context and to generate discussion points. Further materials will be made available to participants through an online collaboration platform.

Pilot program schedule

Session	Date (Tues)	Topic
1	15 Nov 2022	Introductions and overview of program
2	29 Nov 2022	Knowledge: Understanding contemporary Africa
3	13 Dec 2022	Knowledge: Understanding contemporary Australia
4	14 Feb 2023	Knowledge: Australia-Africa bilateral and multilateral relations
5	28 Feb 2023	Skills: Diplomatic craft and careers
6	14 Mar 2023	Skills: Intercultural communication, public & digital diplomacy
7	28 Mar 2023	Skills: Policy research, analysis and writing
8	11 Apr 2023	Shared global challenge: Evolving geopolitical dynamics
9	25 Apr 2023	Shared global challenge: Climate change & natural resources
10	9 May 2023	Shared global challenge: Economic & human development
11	23 May 2023	Shared global challenge: Human & transnational security
12	6 Jun 2023	Conclusions: deepening Australia-Africa cooperation

Participant eligibility

Eligible status:

- Currently enrolled in a Master's program* in International Relations, Diplomacy, Regional Integration (or other closely related field); or
- Currently employed in a national government department/ministry of foreign affairs (or equivalent department)
- Aged 20-35 years at the time of the Application submission deadline

*For Master's student applicants, preference will be given to applicants at [AAUN member universities](#)

Eligible countries (14):

- Australia

- African countries in which there is an [AAUN member university](#) (South Africa, Uganda, Ghana, Nigeria, Malawi, Mauritius, Kenya, Zambia, Ethiopia, Botswana)
- Other countries in Africa in which there is currently no AAUN member university but in which Australia has a High Commission or Embassy (Egypt, Morocco, Zimbabwe)

Total participant group size (36)

- 10 from Australia
- 26 from across the 13 eligible African countries
- Gender balance across total cohort will be sought

Program outreach and outputs

- Program information, application form and submission details via AAUN website at www.aaun.edu.au
- Program social media platforms
- Post-program experience survey of program participants
- Program participants encouraged to publish op-eds and policy briefings
- Completing program participants receive a Certificate of Participation
- Provision of information and advice on further career development (academic or practitioner) to program participants
- Maintenance of program alumni network

Program dates

Activity	Date
Launch and call for Applications	AAUN Perth Forum, 29 August 2022
Applications open	30 August 2022
Application submission deadline	30 September 2022
Announcement of successful participants	AAUN Canberra Forum, 27 October 2022
Pilot program commences	15 November 2022
Pilot program ends	6 June 2023
Pilot program evaluation due	30 June 2023

Program convenor and contact

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ELAAD Program Ambassadors 2022-23: The ELAAD program acknowledges the intellectual and organisational work of the *ELAAD Program Ambassadors 2022-23* in helping to develop and promote the pilot program: Hamish Sneyd, Dr Muhammad Dan Suleiman, Beatrice Baiden, Nkechika Ibe, Isaac Frimpong.