

## Call for Expression of Interest (EOI)

### Fellowship Program for Recent Alumni of DFAT’s Australian Awardees

The Asia Foundation is a nonprofit international development organization committed to improving lives across a dynamic and developing Asia. Informed by six decades of experience and deep local expertise, our work across the region addresses five overarching goals—strengthen governance, empower women, expand economic opportunity, increase environmental resilience, and promote regional cooperation.

#### 1. ABOUT THE INITIATIVE

The Australia’s Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) and The Asia Foundation (TAF) are collaborating on a five-year program *Ponlok Chomnes: Data and Dialogue for Development in Cambodia* to strengthen the capacity of Cambodian knowledge sector institutions to undertake quality research that informs public policy analysis and dialogue in Cambodia.

- Objective 1:** Increase understanding of Cambodia’s knowledge sector;
- Objective 2:** Strengthen the capacity and networking of established knowledge sector institutions;
- Objective 3:** Support diverse emerging knowledge sector actors to promote inclusive policymaking; and
- Objective 4:** Promote thoughtful and inclusive policy dialogue and analysis.

#### 2. THE CALL: FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM FOR FRESH GRADUATE ALUMNI OF DFAT’S AUSTRALIAN AWARDEES

Under Objective 4, the Ponlok Chomnes program will pilot a fellowship program for fresh graduates of DFAT’s Australian Awards scholarship program who have returned to Cambodia. At least four fellows will be targeted, per year, and they will be able to continue their research with Ponlok Chomnes Core Partner Institutions for a period of two or three months. Alumni will receive a stipend of \$2,000 USD for the duration of the fellowship.

#### 3. DECIDING WHETHER TO APPLY

To apply, applicants must meet all of the following basic eligibility criteria. Applications that do not meet ALL of these criteria WILL NOT be considered.

No	Basic Eligibility Criteria
1	Cambodian citizen;
2	Graduates of the Australian Awards Scholarship Program who have graduated in the past academic year;
3	Area(s) of Interest including higher education, urbanization, agriculture and rural development, economic growth and development, foreign policy or international relations, empowerment of women and girls and marginalized communities or groups, social protection, and public policy.

Applicant that meets at least one of these additional criteria will be highly considered.

No	Additional Criteria on Research Topic That Focuses on
1	Gender Equality and Social Inclusion (GESI)
2	Cambodia's Post-COVID-19 Recovery
3	DFAT's Cambodia COVID-19 Development Response Plan <sup>1</sup>
4	Cambodia's foreign policy and/or international relations
5	Cambodia and ASEAN

#### 4. APPLICATION PROCESS & FELLOWSHIP TIMELINE

Stage	Stages	Timeframe
<b>Stage 1: Expression of Interest</b>	EoI publicized	July 15, 2021
	To apply for this program, please submit the followings: 1. Submit a three-minute video explaining why you are a good candidate, or discuss one major development challenge in Cambodia and how you would overcome this challenge through public policy change; 2. A Curriculum Vitae; 3. A concise cover letter explaining why you are interested in fellowship and expectations; 4. Proposed research that you would like to expand/deepen during the fellowship; and 5. A sample of previous work <sup>2</sup> that the you have produced.	August 23, 2021
<b>Stage 2: Shortlisting Process</b>	Eight applicants shortlisted	August 23-27, 2021
	Interview shortlisted applicants	September 6-10, 2021
	Nomination of four shortlisted applicants to DFAT for final confirmation	September 13-17, 2021
	Four-conditionally-approved finalists notified; at least 50% of the cohort will be women	September 20-24, 2021
<b>Stage 3: Notification of selected applicants</b>	Successful applicants notified	September 27-30, 2021
	Placement arrangement – letter of support	October 1-15, 2021
<b>Stage 4: Placement</b>	Placement begins (two to three months)	January – March 2022
<b>Stage 5: Reflection Ceremony</b>	Upon completion of the fellowship, participants will attend a closing ceremony to present their policy brief / paper; and reflect on their learnings during the fellowship	April 2022

<sup>1</sup> DFAT's Cambodia COVID-19 Development Response Plan: <https://www.dfat.gov.au/sites/default/files/covid-response-plan-cambodia.pdf>

<sup>2</sup> Sample of previous works refers to graduation paper, research paper, published article, conference paper, among others.

## 5. WHY SHOULD YOU JOIN THIS INITIATIVE?

During the fellowship, the alumni will be able to strengthen their research capacities and/or further refine their graduate work into different knowledge products (i.e. policy options, policy briefs, etc.). This will help alumni obtain further work experience in the knowledge sector, as well as to strengthen the evidence base in key policy areas.

Additionally, the alumni will have a chance to focus on their professional development, expand on their areas of academic interest, build on scholarly research, learn from Ponlok Chomnes' core partners about their work and operations in the Cambodian context, and have access to a broad network of development partners and experts.

## 6. PLACEMENT

Each successful applicant will be placed at one of Ponlok Chomnes Core Partner Institutions based on their research area of interest, including:

No.	Core Partner	Research Areas
1.	Cambodian Institute for Cooperation and Peace (CICP)	Foreign Policy; International Relations
2.	Center for Educational Research and Innovation, Cambodia Development Resource Institute (CDRI)	Higher Education;
3.	Center for Khmer Studies (CKS)	Urbanization; Financial sector; Tourism; Economic Growth and Development
4.	Centre for Policy Studies (CPS)	Agriculture; Labor; Natural Resource Management; Economic Growth and Development
5.	Future Forum (FF)	Public Policy; Governance; Economic Growth and Development

## 7. EXPECTED DELIVERABLES

During the fellowship, the alumni are expected to deliver the followings:

- Produce a policy brief/paper;
- Actively participate in policy talks or discussions co-organized by the Foundation and Core Partner Institution; and
- Submit a reflection paper/ fellowship report.

**For more information, please contact:**

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