

July - December 2025 Edition

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2025 AATL MENTORING PROGRAM

The 2025 AATL Mentoring Program was initiated after a successful pilot mentoring program was conducted with 10 participants in 2024.

The program provides a structured and supported environment through which more experienced Australia Awards Scholarship (AAS) and Women in Leadership (WLP) short course alumni can provide guidance and advice to less experienced alumni, with a view to supporting their professional and personal progression.

In 2025, 9 mentors and 11 mentees (13 women and 7 men, including 5 people with disability) are participating in the program, running from August 2025 to January 2026. The participants came together for a mid-program gathering in October 2025, to listen to a guest speaker discuss their mentoring experience, and share their own experiences from the program.



Australia Awards Timor - Leste | Program Office

Visit Australia Awards Timor - Leste Scholarship Program at
Dili Central CBD5 Level 2, Timor Plaza, Bebonuk, Díli Timor-Leste

Alumni Showcase



Alumni showcase activities support alumni to share their expertise with a wider audience by presenting research findings, convening seminars/conferences, or creating networking opportunities between alumni, experts and other stakeholders.

In November 2026, alumna Safira Esperança da C. Carvalho led a workshop on Integrating Food Microbiology Research and Food Safety Systems in Timor-Leste. This half-day of alumni showcase aimed to bridge research and practice by connecting laboratory findings with policy implementation. Two panels were convened to address policy-level challenges and technical capacity issues relating to food safety.



Graduate Internship Program (GIP)

AATL's Graduate Internship Program aims to support alumni who have recently completed their studies to reintegrate to the job market by introducing them to a professional working environment relevant to their area of study.

From July 2025 to December 2025, two recently returned alumni (one female, one male) commenced internships at the Timor-Leste Central Bank (BCTL) and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade (MNEC), with one eventually gaining employment with her host institution.



Alumni Reintegration Workshop

The alumni reintegration is held twice annually to facilitate newly returned graduates with practical assistance and information to support alumni to successfully transition back into life at home. Tailored sessions aim to help new alumni find work, build networks, and maximise opportunities.

In August 2025, 6 newly returned alumni (2 women and 4 men) participated in a 2-day reintegration workshop and were joined by two previous AAS alumni (both women) who were interested to learn some new insights and information from the workshop.



Climate Networking Meeting

In November 2025, the Australian Embassy collaborated with Australia Awards Timor-Leste to host a climate networking meeting for Australia Awards alumni and Australian volunteers, as well as AATL and Embassy personnel. Sixteen participants (5 women and 11 men) came together to share their professional experiences in the climate space — from climate mitigation and adaptation approaches to climate-smart agriculture, climate policy and finance.

Through the Australia Awards Scholarship program, many Timorese scholars and alumni have gained expertise in areas such as environmental science, natural resource management, agriculture, and engineering at world-class Australian universities. The meeting aimed to create opportunities for networking and collaboration across sectors and organisations, to help build the momentum for sustained climate action in Timor-Leste.



ALUMNI OF THE YEAR AWARD 2025

The Alumni of the Year (AoY) Award event celebrates Australia Awards alumni who are making outstanding contributions to their communities and country. The annual award was announced at a celebratory reception on 27 November, following nominations and voting by members of the Timor-Leste Australia Alumni Association (TL3A).

This year's winner, João Nonato da Costa, serves as National Adviser on Cybersecurity at the National Institute of Social Security, helping protect citizen data and ensure secure service delivery. Runners-up were Flávio Fefourli Antonio Bonito and Herval de Jesus for their contributions to education and health.

This year's celebration was attended by 102 guests (52 women and 50 men) including H.E Luke Gosling OAM MP, Special Envoy for Defence and Member of the Australian Parliament, the Australian Ambassador to Timor-Leste, as well as Australia Awards alumni, TL3A members, and other stakeholders.

