

**Australian Embassy, Beijing**

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| **Agency** | Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) |
| **Location** | Australian Embassy, Beijing |
| **Title** | Senior Cultural Relations Officer |
| **Position number** | BJ1-032 |
| **Classification** | LE5 |
| **Section** | Public Affairs Office |
| **Reports to** | Counsellor, Public Affairs & Culture |
| **Status** | Ongoing, Full-time |
| **Gross Annual Salary** | RMB 236,959.97 |
| **Commencement date** | As soon as possible |

## About the Australian Embassy, Beijing and Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT)

* The Australian Embassy in Beijing is part of the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade in Australia. The Embassy’s objective is to grow and diversify trade and investment; to enhance an understanding of China in Australia; to contribute to regional and global integration; to build links between Australia and China, and to help Australians in China.

The Australian Government is also represented by Consulates-General in Shanghai, Guangzhou, Chengdu, Shenyang and Hong Kong, and has Austrade offices in Wuhan and Shenzhen.

Please visit the official website of the Australian Embassy, Beijing (https://china.embassy.gov.au/bjng/home.html) for further information.

* The role of DFAT is to advance the interests of Australia and Australians internationally. This involves strengthening Australia’s security, enhancing Australia’s prosperity, including by supporting Australian businesses in overseas markets, delivering an effective and high-quality overseas aid program and helping Australian travellers and Australians overseas. The Department provides foreign, trade and development policy advice to the Australian Government. DFAT also works with other Australian government agencies to drive coordination of Australia’s pursuit of global, regional and bilateral interests.

Please visit DFAT’s official website (https://www.dfat.gov.au/) for further information.

**About the position**

The position is based in the Public Affairs Unit (PAU) at the Australian Embassy in Beijing. The activities and programs of PAU are underpinned by DFAT’s Public Diplomacy Strategy. The Senior Cultural Relations Officer develops and implements, with a high degree of autonomy, post’s strategies and programs across a broad range of cultural sectors. The position leads on providing advice to relevant Australian agencies on their engagement strategies and funding decisions in relation to cultural affairs.

**The key responsibilities of the position include but are not limited to:**

* Provide expert advice to Australian arts and culture institutions, festivals, foundations, companies and venues on strategies to develop long-term, sustainable relationships and programs in China, as well as on how to mount cultural events, broker partnerships, build market presence and profile or establish relationships in China.
* Identify and develop public diplomacy initiatives that project a positive, accurate and contemporary image of Australia, managing initiatives from conception to completion.
* Prepare reports and cables on the outcomes of the Embassy’s cultural programs, public diplomacy initiatives and events, and monitor and report on broad developments in both the Australian and Chinese cultural sectors.
* Prepare publicity materials for Embassy events including media releases, banners, programmes, catalogues, and posters.
* Identify suitable social media materials that promote Australian cultural affairs initiatives and, where necessary, contribute social media posts for the Embassy’s social media accounts.
* Event management, including liaison with local authorities regarding cultural permits and regulations, compilation of guest lists, speeches, orders of arrangement, catering, Audio/Visual requirements, translation, entertainment and event photography.
* Organise cultural and education events associated with high-level visits, and assist with management of media events such as press conferences and interviews. Develop complex media, staffing and logistics plans for high-level visits.
* Develop sponsorship agreements and managing sponsor relationships, including effective contract management.
* Manage project budgets independently, including managing financial reconciliations according to departmental guidelines and procedures.

**Selection Criteria**

Applicants should address all six (6) of the selection criteria below, clearly outlining their claims and specific experience that makes them suitable for this position (maximum 250 words each criteria).

* Relevant experience in managing complex cultural and other events and projects, particularly in an international context, including negotiation and liaison with service providers and relevant organisations, strategic planning, opportunity scanning, leading cultural programs and events from concept to completion.
* Highly developed knowledge and professional experience of the Chinese and/or Australian arts and cultural industries, including strong credible professional networks.
* Ability to communicate effectively, orally and in writing in Chinese and English, including the ability to write reports and cables on public diplomacy activities and prepare social media materials.
* Ability to organise and prioritise complex workloads and budgets so as to complete given projects and assignments in a timely and cost-effective manner.
* Ability to communicate with internal and external stakeholders in a professional, helpful and courteous manner under all circumstances.
* Initiative; flexibility; adaptability; ability to operate effectively with members of the work team, including in high pressure situations.

**The ideal candidate will also have the following traits:**

* Two or more years’ of relevant work experience.
* Tertiary qualifications in a relevant field.
* Formal training, qualifications and experience in interpretation and translation.
* High degree of computer literacy in Microsoft software, particularly Word and Excel.

**What we offer**

* Attractive remuneration package that includes performance bonuses, additional insurance coverage, 14 days public holiday, generous leave provisions.
* Safe and secure workplace where safety of employees are a high priority and a diverse and inclusive workplace is actively promoted.
* Opportunity to work in a diplomatic mission and interact with colleagues from a broad range of interesting areas.
* Opportunity to learn new skills and meet unique challenges.

**How to Apply**

Your application, written in **English**, should include:

* Curriculum Vitae (maximum 2 pages)
* Form of Application for Locally Engaged Staff Employment (please see attachment A)
* Selection Criteria Statement (please see Attachment B) - Applicants are required to address each of the Selection Criteria explaining how you have demonstrated the particular skills or quality. **For each criteria, applicants must limit their response to 250 words.**

Appendix 1 provides useful information on how to structure your answer and ensure you address the selection criteria. Applications that do not address the selection criteria will not be considered.

Please email your application to[**beijing.hrrecruitment@dfat.gov.au**](mailto:beijing.hrrecruitment@dfat.gov.au) before **17:00 on Friday 23 October 2020**. Applications received after the closing date and time will not be considered.

For further information about this position, please contact [beijing.hrrecruitment@dfat.gov.au](mailto:beijing.hrrecruitment@dfat.gov.au).

Please note that only applicants short-listed for interview will receive a written reply. If you have not received any communication from the Human Resources Section of the Australian Embassy within four weeks after the close of application, please consider your application unsuccessful. Thank you for your understanding and your interest in working at the Australian Embassy in Beijing.

**Attachment A: Application for Locally Engaged Staff Employment**

Position you are applying for: Date available for work**:**

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| **PERSONAL INFORMATION** | | | | | |
| Title: | | Last Name: | | | First Name: |
| Email Address: | | Contact Number: | | | Citizenship(s) |
| Address: | | | | | |
| Are you eligible to work in the country in which you are applying for a position? Yes  No  *(Note: to be eligible to work in this country you should be a citizen, hold or be able to obtain an appropriate working visa)* | | | | | |
| How did you hear about the vacancy? | | | | | |
| **PREVIOUS AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT EMPLOYMENT Yes  No** | | | | | |
| Have you ever been employed by the Australian Government, either in Australia or overseas?  If yes, please provide the details.  If yes, did you ever receive a redundancy or other payment benefit? | | | | | |
| **REFERENCES** | | | | | |
| Please provide the names and email addresses of two work-related referees whom we can contact. Both referees should be able to comment on your work performance. | | | | | |
| **REFEREE 1** | | | | | |
| Title: | First Name: | | | Last Name: | |
| Organization: | | | Position Title: | | |
| Relationship to Applicant | | | Years of Relationship: | | |
| Contact Number: | | | Email Address: | | |
| **REFEREE 2** | | | | | |
| Title: | First Name: | | | Last Name: | |
| Organization: | | | Position Title: | | |
| Relationship to Applicant | | | Years of Relationship: | | |
| Contact Number: | | | Email Address: | | |
| **APPLICANT’S STATEMENT** | | | | | |
| The above information, to the best of my knowledge, is true and correct. I consent to the mission collecting and using information, and to relevant employers / supervisors disclosing information, in relation to my work performance and conduct for the purpose of assessing my suitability to carry out the duties of the position I have applied for, and suitability for employment. I understand that misstatements or omissions in my disclosures may result in a failure to hire or immediate discharge if they are discovered  Accept: Name: Date: | | | | | |

**Attachment B: Selection Criteria Statement**

1. Relevant experience in managing complex cultural and other events and projects, particularly in an international context, including negotiation and liaison with service providers and relevant organisations, strategic planning, opportunity scanning, leading cultural programs and events from concept to completion.

*Enter your response here (maximum 250 words)*

1. Highly developed knowledge and professional experience of the Chinese and/or Australian arts and cultural industries, including strong credible professional networks.

*Enter your response here (maximum 250 words),*

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1. Ability to communicate effectively, orally and in writing in Chinese and English, including the ability to write reports and cables on public diplomacy activities and prepare social media materials.

*Enter your response here (maximum 250 words)*

1. Ability to organise and prioritise complex workloads and budgets so as to complete given projects and assignments in a timely and cost-effective manner.

*Enter your response here (maximum 250 words)*

1. Ability to communicate with internal and external stakeholders in a professional, helpful and courteous manner under all circumstances.

*Enter your response here (maximum 250 words)*

1. Initiative; flexibility; adaptability; ability to operate effectively with members of the work team, including in high pressure situations.

*Enter your response here (maximum 250 words)*

**APPENDIX 1: Addressing the Selection Criteria**

The duty statement or role description will help you understand the responsibilities and tasks required in the job. The selection criteria describes the personal qualities, skills, abilities, knowledge and qualifications (if any) a person needs to perform the role effectively.

The Embassy’s selection team will assess the responses of all applicants to each criterion. From time-to-time this will be enough to identify the right person for the role. More commonly though, this process creates a shortlist of applicants suitable to move to the next stage—usually an interview.

It is essential to respond to each criterion, writing at least one to two paragraphs explaining how you have demonstrated the particular skill or quality. Provide relevant examples from your work, study or community roles. Be clear and to the point. If a word or page limit is set, make sure you stick to it, and edit your responses for grammar, spelling and punctuation.

It is important to provide evidence to back up your claims. Where possible use actual examples of what you have done, how well you did it, what you achieved, and how it relates to the requirements of the job. The **STAR model** can help you form your answer.

### What is the STAR model?

The STAR model is one way of presenting information against selection criteria. For each criterion think about the following and use these points to form sentences:

**Situation -** Set the context by describing the circumstance where you used the skills or qualities and gained the experience.

**Task -** What was your role?

**Actions -** What did you do and how did you do it?

**Results** - What did you achieve? What was the end result and how does it relate to the job you are applying for?

### How do I address the selection criteria?

The most important aspect of addressing selection criteria is to provide evidence through relevant examples. Support your claims with actual, specific examples of what you have done and how well you did it. The following steps provide guidance on how to address selection criteria.

#### Step one –Understand the selection criteria

As an example, take *written communication skills*. The associated selection criterion could be:

*‘Well developed written communication skills. This includes the ability to:*

* *structure written communications such as reports to meet the needs and understanding of the intended audience;*
* *express opinions, information and key points of an argument clearly and concisely; and*
* *write convincingly in an engaging and expressive manner’.*

It is important that you clearly understand what is meant by each selection criterion before drafting a response. Your application itself may also be used to assess this criterion.

#### Step two – Opening sentence

Begin each selection criteria with an opening sentence that clearly states your claim to this criterion. For example:

‘I possess strong written communication skills, which I have developed over the course of my career.’

Support the statement with detailed examples of where you demonstrated these skills. The following steps will help you to provide a structured, easy-to-understand response.

#### Step three – Brainstorm ideas for each criterion

For each selection criterion, brainstorm ideas from your recent work life. Ideally, confine your examples to the last two or three years of employment, or other relevant examples (e.g. study, community participation). At this stage, it is useful to generate as many examples as possible.

#### Step four – Expand on your brainstorming ideas and provide the evidence

Expand on these points from step three. Go back to each criterion and choose which examples to use, by matching them against the wording of the criterion. Once you have finalised your examples, you need to demonstrate how they meet the different aspects of the criterion. Be specific and describe exactly what you did, including the outcome, to demonstrate convincingly that you have met the requirements of each criterion. Here, the STAR method described earlier can be used. For example:

**Situation** – role as Research Support Officer

**Task** – needed to ensure that managers were kept informed of policies and procedures

**Action or approach** – initiated monthly newsletter, which was emailed to each manager. Took responsibility for writing the main articles. This involved obtaining ideas and input from other stakeholders to ensure that the articles reflected managers’ needs (in terms of content and language)

**Result** – led to improved lines of communication between managers and the Research Support Unit. Feedback was consistently excellent. Received divisional achievement award for newsletter quality.

Once this has been achieved, you can then write the draft paragraph in full. For example:

As Research Support Officer, I needed to ensure that managers were kept informed of policies and procedures. To do this, I initiated a monthly newsletter, which was emailed to each manager. I took responsibility for writing the main articles in each publication. This involved obtaining ideas and input from other stakeholders to ensure that the articles reflected the needs of managers, both in terms of content and language. I received consistently excellent feedback in relation to this newsletter from these internal clients and my own manager. I received a divisional achievement award for the quality of this newsletter from management. Importantly, this initiative resulted in improved lines of communication between managers and the Research Support Unit.

Remember to use only one or two of your strongest examples to respond to the selection criteria.

#### Step five – checking work

At this stage, you should read through your application, and check the following points:

1. Have I been honest? Your responses should reflect an accurate picture of your role and achievements.
2. Have I used positive and specific language? Avoid ambiguous or unclear expressions such as *‘involved in*’ or ‘*assisted*’ as it makes it difficult to understand exactly what you did. Words and phrases which could reduce credibility should also be avoided (e.g. some, a little, limited, somewhat).
3. Have I used strong action (doing) words? Avoid using passive language. For example, *‘I received consistently excellent feedback in relation to this newsletter from these internal clients and my own manager’*, is better than simply stating, *‘Feedback in relation to this newsletter was consistently excellent’*.
4. Have I avoided unsupported claims about my capabilities? For example, rather than simply saying, *‘The newsletter was received well by others’*, this assertion is substantiated in the following way: *‘I received a divisional achievement award from management for the quality of this newsletter’*.
5. Have I addressed all aspects of the criterion? It is important that you go back to the wording of the particular selection criterion. In the example provided, it is clear that the content refers mainly to the first descriptor, *‘structure written communications to meet the needs and understanding of the intended audience’*. To make a full statement against the criterion, *‘well developed written communication skills’,* it would be necessary to address the remaining two descriptors in additional paragraphs.
6. Have I paid attention to the language of the criterion? For example, writing a response to the criterion *‘well developed written communication skills’* requires a focus on actual experiences and the degree of skill in this area. However, if the criterion was phrased ‘*knowledge of effective written communication skills and techniques’*, this would require different examples which do not necessarily rely on describing actual performance in the workplace.