

Introduction

Australia - Destination for Education

While overseas study is expensive, Australia is more affordable than most other destinations and offers a high standard of quality education, excellent living condition and a tolerant multicultural society. Australia's Higher Education Institutions rank among the world's best and the quality of education they offer is correspondingly high.

Higher education in Australia provides value for money by offering shorter and more intensive courses, they quickly incorporate latest innovations in science & technology, modern trends in marketing & management in their diploma/degree programs, hence Australian education is more practical and responsive to the needs of Trade & Industry.

Australia seems to be high on the list for many reasons:

- Indian 12+3 is acceptable for masters degree.
- Duration for the masters courses is between 1, 1.5 to 2 yrs.
- Competitive costs for tuitions and living in comparison to other developed countries. Like USA, UK etc.
- Australian education is recognized world wide from US to NZ.
- High Standard of education in international terms, good research facilities available with state of the art equipment.
- Visa process is straightforward and fair.
- Currently over 50000 Indian Students in Australia.
- Australian universities are members of an International Academic community and academic staff are frequently recruited on an international basis.
- Australian academics and graduates are keenly recruited into institutions overseas, indicating a measure of Quality Education.
- ESOS Act to protect the interest of overseas students.
- Safe country with pleasant climate and a stable democracy.

Quality Assurance

In Australia every course offered in a university has CRICOS Code which is given by Australian Government reflecting that the education system is fully controlled by the Government in Australia. There is no formal ranking of universities. Thus students from all around the world have long made Australia their education destination.

Facts

- **Full name:** Commonwealth of Australia
- **Population:** 21.5 million (UN, 2009)
- **Capital:** Canberra
- **Largest city:** Sydney
- **Area:** 7.7 million sq km (2.9 million sq miles)
- **Major language:** English
- **Monetary unit:** 1 Australian dollar = 100 cents
- **GNI per capita:** US \$32,220 (World Bank, 2006)
- **International dialing code:** +61

Economy

Australia has a prosperous and mixed economy in western-style with a per capita GDP in excess of many urbanized countries like, UK, Germany, and France. It was ranked third in the United Nations in 2007 and sixth in The Economist in 2005. By the end of March 2008, the GDP per capita of Australia was about \$ 824.9 Billion (CIA World Factbook). The inflation rate was 4.7% per annum and 4.5% of unemployment rate in 2008. Service sector constitutes 69% of GDP, whereas agriculture and natural resources constitute 3% and 5% of GDP respectively. These statistical facts advocate that there is excellent scope for career formation in every sector.

Climate

Australian climate varies widely based on the region, which was significantly influenced by ocean currents. Largest part of Australia was outback, which is desert or semi-dry. The southern region has a temperate climate and moderately fertile soil and the northern region has a tropical climate, which was partly rainforests, grasslands and deserts. Large number of population lives within the south-eastern coastline in a temperate atmosphere. All a whole, people from any country can have a pleasant atmosphere in Australia.

Culture

Australia's culture was greatly derived from the European lineage, but there are some distinctive Australian characteristics grown from the atmosphere, aboriginal culture and influence of its neighborhood. Since the past 50 years, the culture of Australia was strongly influenced by the American popular culture, especially movies and television. Literature, movies, opera, music, dance,

painting, theater and crafts are the dynamism and creative arts of Australia, which has achieved global appreciation. The most of the immigrants are from Asian and European countries

Admission Procedure

Our experts will help you with the application procedure.

1. Intake Period:

- Main Intakes – September/October
- Some Universities Intake – Jan/Feb

2. Language Requirements:

Course	IELTS	TOEFL
Under Graduate	6.5	80
Post Graduate	7.0	90

The above is exempted if students has completed school and college in English medium and have also scored above 70% in the main exams.

3. Eligibility:

- For Undergraduates - One has to have the required scores in certain subjects in the Xth and XIIth exams. The students should have completed 18 years of age before he joins the degree program.
- For Post Graduates - One has to have the required scores. At least 2-3 years of full time work experience. Age should be above 25 years.

*The eligibility criteria vary from University to University.

4. Documents:

Our counselors will assist you in compiling and attesting all the necessary documents*. In addition, they will also -

- Give special attention to your application
- Highlight the areas essential for a well-presented, error free application.
- Assist with References and the 'all-important' Statement of Purpose.
- Review your Essays

* **Documents Required** - Covering Letter, Application Fees, Application Form, Statement of

Purpose, Essays, Resume, Reco Letters, Transcripts, Mark sheets & Cert., Bank Statement, Affidavit of Financial Statements, Test Score Report

Education System

There is a vast range of study courses available in Australian education, which includes traditional academic programs in addition to the further practical and vocational courses.

Primary School

Primary education of Australia is seven years of preliminary courses, where children commence their education at the age of 5 years (Year-1) and will be completing at the age of 12 (Year-7). This level of education provides general education for the students and gets them ready for a role in society and for the next level of education.

Secondary School

Students move to secondary school (Year-8) at the age of 12 and it is mandatory to complete their two years of 'junior high school' till the Year-10, after which they have the option to discontinue their education or can pursue their further course of study. Students have to accomplish another 2 years of 'high school diploma' (Year-12). Students leaving their school after 'junior high school' can also go for vocational education course or for apprenticeship training to enter the work force.

Tertiary School

After completing final year (Year-12) of secondary school, students head for their higher (Tertiary) education that awards degree for Bachelors, Masters and Doctoral studies. Mostly students from overseas come for education at this level. Tertiary education in Australia is within the purview of the Australian Qualification Framework (AQF),

which aspires to integrate both vocational and higher education into a solitary classification of tertiary education.

Australia's higher education offers several types of courses that are discussed below:

(a) Vocational Education & Training (VET)

These courses are offered by TAFE (Technical and Further Education) colleges and other private institutions. The tenure of VET courses can be one or two years depending on the field of study and knowledge of employment experience.

- **Diploma:** It is a 1-2 year full time course of study that offers high professional qualification. Diploma under AQF is a dual-sector qualification - higher education sector and vocational education & training sector. Diploma of higher education sector is depended on the selection of the academic program by the functional focus that provides general or specified training for employment at high professional level. They can coherent to advanced diploma courses and can provide advanced standing or credit transfer (usually one year) into a Bachelor Degree program.
- **Advanced Diploma:** It is a specialized level requirement that needs 2 years of full-time study. Advanced Diploma under AQF is a dual-sector qualification - higher education sector and vocational education & training sector. Advanced Diploma of higher education sector has units from Bachelor's degree course that provides exit point with a stand-alone requirement with an option to pursue their bachelor's degree. Advanced Diplomas can provide advanced standing or credit transfer (usually two years) into a Bachelor Degree program.
- **Associate Degree:** This course of study needs the eligibility of 2 years of full-time education program that highlights preliminary research-based expertise of one or more academic disciplines and the progress of standard work skills. Associate degree provides advanced standing or credit transfer (usually two years) into a Bachelor Degree program in the same field.

(b) Bachelor Degree:

Acquiring a Bachelor's degree from Australia offers an imposing method of discerning you from your associates. Apart from acquiring a universally recognized university, you can experience a modern and inspiring culture. There are many divisions in Bachelor's degree of Australia that includes, '3-year degrees', '4-year degrees', 'professional degrees', 'combined degrees' and 'Honours degrees'. Despite the length or specifics of the program requirements, all the Bachelor degree courses are directed towards similar educational outcomes.

Foundation Courses (For International Students)-It is most suitable for students looking for Australian Bachelor's degree for the course of medical/ paramedical/science and do not get the

required minimum scores in their Year-12. Normally intake will be during the months of January, June and October.

(c) Postgraduate Education

Admission for Master's degree (postgraduate program) requires completion of Bachelor's degree with certain exceptions for pertinent work experience. The qualifications are based on the institution and the course for Master's degree adopted. They can be:

- Master Degree by Coursework - Entry on the basis of Bachelor Degree, Honours Bachelor Degree or Graduate Diploma
- **Master Degree by Research** - Entry on the basis of Bachelor Honours Degree, Master preliminary year, a research-based Graduate Diploma or equivalent research experience, and
- **Professional Master Degree** – Entry on the basis of Bachelor Degree with appropriate work experience. Entry may also be based on articulation from a Graduate Certificate or Graduate Diploma program

(d) Doctoral Degree

Doctorate degree is the top level of education award offered by Australian universities. It requires minimum qualification of Master's degree in the chosen field of study. Conversely, students' degrees with work experiences should articulate the knowledge of the discipline in which student plan to initiate their research.

- **Research Doctorate**- Entry on the basis of a research or part-research Master Degree or a Bachelor Honors Degree (First or Second Class, Upper Division)
- **Professional Doctorate** - Entry on the basis of the combination of research and coursework Masters Degree, or by a Bachelor Honors Degree (First or Second Class, Upper Division) or equivalent.

Study Costs

Australia offers excellent value for money, with living expenses and tuition costs in Australia considerably less expensive than the United Kingdom (UK) and the United States of America (USA)

- Tuition fees vary according to the institution and course selected but this website provides a guide to the average costs. Scholarships are available for international students but the competition is intense and most of the international students in Australia are full-fee paying students
- The average international student in Australia spends about \$320 per week on housing, food, clothing, entertainment, transport, international and domestic travel, telephone and incidental costs. This is a realistic guide, but remember that individual circumstances will vary by location, course and lifestyle
- International students studying in Australia are required to have Overseas Student Health Cover (OSHC) for the duration of your student visa in Australia. Students in Australia are also responsible for their own accident and property insurance. It is a good idea to take out travel insurance before leaving your country to cover lost baggage, cancellation of plane tickets and repatriation
- International students can work while studying in Australia but the money you earn should not be used as your only source of income. To be granted a student visa in Australia you need to have adequate means of financial support.

Tuition Fees

International students are charged up-front tuition fees. Institutions sometimes make an additional charge to cover other costs associated with being a student: student organisation membership, library and laboratory costs and sports facility costs. All school tuition fees are exempt from Australia's Goods and Services Tax (GST)

Institutions will advise when to pay your tuition fees and acceptable methods of payment.

Foundation Studies	\$A9000-\$A14,000 a year Approx.
such as university entrance, preparatory and bridging courses	
Undergraduate	
Bachelor Degree	\$A10,000- \$A13,500 a year Approx.
such as courses in arts, business, economics and law	
Laboratory-based Bachelor Degree	\$A11,000- \$A16,500 a year Apporx.
such as science and engineering courses	
Postgraduate	
Graduate Certificates / Graduate Diplomas	\$A9000- \$A16,000 a year Approx.
Masters Doctoral Degree	\$A11,000-\$A18,500 a year Approx.

Scholarships

There are many scholarships available to Indian students wanting to study in Australia. All the scholarships are merit-based and students need to demonstrate their eligibility when applying. There are no qualifying examinations for scholarships in Australia. The only exam which the students may have to take is the IELTS to demonstrate their English language ability.

For information on scholarships offered by the Australian government

please visit www.australiaawards.gov.au

Australian Institutions offer their own scholarships. For information on scholarships that are currently offered by Australian institutions kindly visit the website mentioned below or search the Scholarships Database on the Study in Australia website:

- <http://bel.uq.edu.au/asia-scholarships>
- <http://www.studyinaustralia.gov.au/Sia/en/StudyCosts/Scholarships.htm>

Student Visa

Every student seeking for high quality of education and training system in Australia for more than 3 months has to apply for the student visa. The study courses which are under 3 months of period will be considered for the visitor visa or working holiday visa. Visas will be issued by the Australian DIAC (Department of Immigration and Citizenship). It will be issued only if your study program is a fulltime registered course (which is offered by Australian government for international students) or a part of a registered course. Know more about **Registered Courses**.

Student Visa Procedure

The process of Australian student visa begins with the application for admission in university. Then an offer letter would be sent, based on which you need to complete the Electronic Confirmation of Enrolment (eCoE) process. It is always a good idea to wait till you get the guidance from the university to obtain a eCoE. They provide information regarding how to apply and what documents are required to enclose with the application. To complete the process, you have to make payment of tuition and other fees (Overseas Student Health Cover and application fee, if any)

New procedure for Student Visa

Under the new procedure for Australian student visa, you have to lodge your application electronically through approved Education agents. Read all the information from the form-1025i (Making Processing Visa Applications). Every applicant has to fulfill the criteria of issuing student visa such as, financial ability, proficiency of English language intention to comply visa conditions. Each application will be assessed against one of the 5 Assessment Levels for each visa sub-class.

eCoE - Electronic Confirmation of Enrolment

An eCoE is the certificate issued by the DIAC for the students to confirm the acceptance of their admission in the university. This certificate is required for the processing of the visas application or for the extension. Before the issuance of eCoE students have to undergo a Pre-Visa Assessment (PVA) based on the nationality and principal course of study. To get eligible for student visa, students have to enroll in an Australian university/institution and receive an eCoE. The eCoE form includes the crucial information such as the course starting date, ending date and other codes used by the DIAC that students have to be aware of. Typically eCoE will be issued after the university receives the student's tuition fee. A copy of your eCoE must be submitted to your local DIAC office before a student visa can be issued.

Conditions for Student Visa

Students going to Australia for education will be encircled by the laws of Commonwealth of Australia. Students have to strictly adhere to the set of rules determined by the host university. Australian government has provided a range of essential conditions that has to be abided by every student applying for Australian student visa. The following are some of them:

- Students have to pursue a consistent study program that is recognized by the Australian government.
- Students have to fulfill all the requirements of the study program.
- Students have to maintain a valid enrolment - attendance requirements may apply
- Students holding student visa can work without getting any additional permission.
- Students are not allowed to work for more than 20 hours a week during their semester, except any specific permission.

- Every student has to sustain their OSHC (Overseas Student Health Cover) all the time in Australia.
- Students under the age of 18 years have to arrange for their accommodation, support and general welfare provisions certified by the Australian government – DIAC. In case of changing the residence or other arrangements they have to get the written approval from the government.
- Students are not allowed to stay in Australia beyond the visa expiry date, unless it is an extremely critical situation.

Australian Student Visa

After receiving the eCoE from the educational provider, you can apply for the student visa. To prioritize your application, DIAC encourages students to lodge their visa application as soon as they receive eCOE. Students have to make sure that they have met the English language requirements before lodging the visa application. Student visa application will be lodged in 3 different ways:

1) E-Lodgment through Online: Visit the official Australian visa

website http://www.immi.gov.au/e_visa/students.htm accordingly. The visa fee can be paid either by credit card or by Bpay method (It takes 7 days to process the payment). Through Online application you can automatically get the bridging visa, which enable you to stay in Australia and study while your application is being processed.

Within 7 working days after lodging your application online, you will be receiving a decision of approving your application. If there is any incomplete documentation, you will be first receiving an e-mail or a letter advising to forward the further documentation you may be required to lodge the application.

2) Lodging Application at Office

Students have to fill up the Form-157A, get ready with all the required documents and visit the nearer VFS office. You can download the Form-157A from the website: www.immi.gov.au/allforms/pdf/157a.pdf. Fill the application form and submit it to the officer enclosing all the required documents including the eCoE, academic results, Medical Test results and other items listed in the checklist.

3) Applying By Mail

Students can also apply for the Australian visa even through the mail. This is preeminent for the people who cannot make their application through online or visit directly to the office. This is method application will be employed in a very rare situation. Students have to send their

application along with the completed Form-157A including the fee amount and eCoE to the following Address,

DIAC Client Services

GPO BOX 241

Melbourne, 3001

Note: Impel uses the E-Visa system only for its students.

If required you will be contacted to attend an appointment. A letter will be sent to you advising of outstanding documents required within 7 working days. In most cases lodged and Mailed applications will NOT require you to come into our office.

Sub-Classes of Student Visa

Australian student visas are broadly classified into the following seven sub-classes based on the education sector chosen by the student.

Subclass 570	Independent ELICOS
Subclass 571	Schools
Subclass 572	Vocational education and Training (VET) sector
Subclass 573	Higher Education
Subclass 574	Postgraduate Research
Subclass 575	Non-award
Subclass 576	AusAID or Defence sponsored

Source: www.studyinaustralia.gov.au

All the above visa sub-classes are placed under Assessment Level 4 for India, with effect from 1st Sept. 2008.

One peculiar condition while applying for a student visa is that the applicant's family members must be included on student's initial student visa application, even if they do not accompany the student to Australia or intend to visit him/her in Australia. The Department of Immigration and Citizenship (DIAC) classifies the student family as the spouse (a person you are legally married to or a person of the opposite sex who you have been living with in an exclusive relationship for more than 12 months) and the student's children aged under 18 and never married.

There are a number of conditions on the student visa the student must follow to be allowed to study in Australia. The main conditions are that the student must:

- maintain satisfactory attendance;
- achieve satisfactory academic results;
- continue to be enrolled in a registered course;
- notify the student education provider of the his/her address within seven days of arriving in Australia, and within seven days of any change in the student address;
- notify the university if the student changes to a new university within seven days of obtaining your new certificate of enrolment; and
- maintain OSHC cover

Post Study Work

Every student seeking for high quality of education and training system in Australia for more than 3 months has to apply for the student visa. The study courses which are under 3 months of period will be considered for the visitor visa or working holiday visa. Visas will be issued by the Australian DIAC (Department of Immigration and Citizenship). It will be issued only if your study program is a fulltime registered course (which is offered by Australian government for international students) or a part of a registered course. Know more about **Registered Courses**.

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