



## Australia – A Top Destination for Education and Research

- Increasing numbers of students and scholars from around the world have turned to Australia for the knowledge, ideas and technologies needed to address local and global challenges.
- Australian universities are consistently being ranked among top educational institutions in the world, offering a complete range of programs and courses that lead to highly regarded and internationally-recognised qualifications.
  - Nine (9) Australian Universities were included in the 2009 list of Top 200 Universities, six of which are in the top 50. The Australian National University is the highest ranked of all institutions at 17<sup>th</sup> place overall<sup>1</sup>.
- In 2008, there were 543,898 international student enrolments in Australia, 20.7% per cent higher than the previous year.
  - Asia remains Australia's major source of international students, representing more than four out of every five of Australia's overseas student market. The greatest number of international student enrolments came from the following countries: China (127,276); India (97,035); Republic of Korea (35,376); Thailand (22,278); Malaysia (21,134)<sup>2</sup>.
  - The Philippines had around 3,400 enrollees in 2007 or about 3.5 per cent of total number of international enrolments from the Southeast Asian region<sup>3</sup>.
- Since the late 1940s, Australia has been providing scholarships to enable students in the Asia-Pacific region to study in Australia. The Australian Scholarships, managed by the Australian Agency for International Development (AusAID) and the Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations, offer educational and professional development to citizens of the Asia Pacific region, which in turn help establish stronger links at the individual, institutional and country levels. (see <http://www.australianscholarships.gov.au/>)
  - In the 1950s, a large number of Filipinos came to Australia to study as scholars under the Colombo Plan. Since 1990, Australia has awarded Australian Development Scholarships to over 2000 Filipinos from partner Philippine Government agencies, enabling them to undertake post-graduate study in Australia
  - Since 2007, 119 Filipinos have been awarded other Australian Government scholarships: 83 through the Australian Leadership Awards-Scholarships and Fellowships; and 36 through the Carnegie Mellon University-AusAID Scholarships, the University of Wollongong-AusAID Centre for Transnational Crime Prevention Scholarships, and the Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations' Endeavour Awards.
  - As part of its Defence Cooperation program with the Philippines, the Australian Government provides defence scholarships to Philippine military personnel. An average of 100 students from the Department of National Defence, the Armed Forces of the Philippines and the Philippine Coast Guard are trained in Australia every year. The education and training programs are focused on professional development in areas of strategic governance, maritime security and counter-terrorism

## Research Education

In 2007, almost 10,000 international postgraduate research students were enrolled in onshore and offshore Australian higher education institutions—up 10 per cent from 2006.

- With world-class laboratories, facilities and teaching staff, Australia's higher education and research institutions are major drawcards for international postgraduate students in areas as diverse as energy resources, water management, conservation biology, aquaculture, vaccine research and virology, defence science, governance and Asia-Pacific studies.
- By partnering with peers in more than 110 countries, Australian researchers tap into the many benefits and strengths that international collaborations offer. Around 40 per cent of Australian research papers are the product of international collaboration, and this figure is growing.
- Qualifications awarded by Australian universities are internationally recognised and highly regarded by employers around the world, with many countries sponsoring postgraduate researchers to study in Australia.
- Australian qualifications rated highly at 3.35 on a scale of 1 to 4 in a United Kingdom survey of 1156 international postgraduate students in 2008.
- Students in a 2006 survey reported a high level of satisfaction with living in Australia, particularly with things to see and do, the level of safety and security, the relatively low cost of living and the availability of accommodation.
- The survey found that around 85 per cent of all international higher education students would recommend living in Australia—and the city they lived in—to family and friends.

### Australia—a research leader

- Australia has only 0.3 per cent of the world's population but produces around 3 per cent of the world's scientific knowledge.
- In 2007, Australia ranked in the top 10 nations for the influence of its scientific papers.
- Around 110 highly cited researchers are at work in Australia—a large number on a per capita basis.
- The number of research publications in Australian higher education increased by 46.5 per cent between 2002 and 2006. This growth partly explains why Australia was ranked eighth out of 140 countries—ahead of the United States and the United Kingdom—in the 2007 World Bank Knowledge Economy Index.
- Ten Australians have been awarded a Nobel Prize, nine in science and medicine, one in literature. Australians have been awarded a Japan Prize for applied science and a Fields Medal for mathematics in the past two decades.
- Eight of Australia's 39 universities are in the top 100 in the world in the Times Higher Education – QS World University Ranking 2009, with 24 universities in the top 500. Five Australian universities ranked in the top 16 Asia-Pacific universities.
- Australia ranked third in the world for the number of universities in the top 50 in the 2008 United Kingdom Times Higher Education Supplement world university rankings.

<sup>1</sup>Times Higher Education- Quacquarelli Symonds (QS) World University Rankings 2009

<sup>2</sup>Australian Education International

<sup>3</sup>Department of Immigration and Citizenship

