

# Australia

Apart from quality and

internationally recognised education, Australia also provides a safe, comfortable and multicultural environment. The popularity of Australia is on the upturn among students as in 2008 till August about five lakh students from some 217 different nationalities were enrolled in Australian institutions. Of these, more than 80,000 were Indian students. Around 300 students from Rajasthan alone flew to Australia last year. High quality of lifestyle and education and cost efficiency are the main reasons for which students prefer Australia. The education and living expenses in Australia are 40 to 60 per cent less than that of the US and UK.

The major admission intake in Australia happens in July while February is the mid intake session. One of the main advantages of studying in Australia for Indian students is the 10+2+3 education structure followed in the country. It is easier for Indian students who are familiar with it to adjust to the new system. They can choose from a variety of education institutions and universities to suit their specific requirements. Each higher education institution has its strengths and areas of specialisation. This provides students with a wide choice of study options and access to the latest research in their chosen field.

The most popular courses among Indian students are Business (Banking and Finance, Management Information Systems, Accounting, International Business), Human Resources, Marketing, Information Technology, Engineering (Bio-medical, Computer, Mechanical etc), Science and Hospitality, Engineering and Technology, Hospitality and Tourism, Teaching and Education. Though enrolments in the higher education sector remain high, vocational education too is becoming popular among Indian students.

To facilitate easy processing of documents, the Australian Government has created the Education Services for Overseas Students (ESOS). Under the ESOS

regulations, a national register called the Commonwealth Register of Institutions and Courses for Overseas Students or CRICOS has been created. The official website of CRICOS ([cricos.deewr.gov.au](http://cricos.deewr.gov.au)) lists all Australian education institutes that offer courses on student visa. The listing is mandatory for institutes and until a course is present in the registry, students would not be able to apply even for the student visa.

The admission procedure in Australia is similar to that in the UK or U

The personal application essays and statement of purpose (SoP) play a significant role in the process of evaluating students' applications for admission as well as financial aid. The SoP generally include reasons for choosing a particular course, areas of interest of the student, the suitability of student education and experiential background for the targeted course. It may also include student's goals in life, his or her hobbies and other related details. For postgraduate

Australia, after the United States, is the second most popular destination of higher education among Indian students. The country is a stable, culturally diverse and democratic society with a skilled workforce and a strong, competitive economy. With a population of more than 21 million, it is the only nation to govern an entire continent. It is the earth's biggest island and the sixth-largest country in the world in land area. It has ten per cent of the world's biodiversity and a great number of its native plants, animals and birds exist nowhere else in the world. It has many world heritage listings and national parks and wildlife sanctuaries.

According to a 2007 report, Australia has the 14th biggest

## FOREIGN EDUCATION SPECIAL



overall economy in the world and the 9th biggest industrialised economy. It is the 15th richest nation in per capita terms, and the 6th oldest continuously functioning democracy in the world. Its population includes more than 6.5 million migrants from over 200 countries. Although English is the official language in Australia, more than three million Australians speak a language other than English at home. As a result, Australia offers the familiarity of a western business culture with a workforce capable of operating in many different business environments.

## THE PREFERRED STATE

Australia is the most preferred destination for study abroad today. Located at the bottom of the southern hemisphere, Australia brings a plethora of job opportunities for fresh talent. The South-East Australasia Region comprising Australia, Malaysia, Singapore, Hong Kong is a vibrant business hub of the world which has not been affected by the global economic meltdown as badly as the US and Europe.

The country welcomes students to take up a professional qualification in its universities and institutes and provides a distinct provision of working and settling here. The opportunity is most availed by on-shore students, who go on a study visa and apply for PR (Permanent Residency). There is an MODL (Migration Occupations in Demand List) for Australia, which entitles the professions in demand in Australia. The country also has a critical skills list, which shortlists professions whose processing is given priority over the others in MODL.

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