

Q20.

Australian Strategy for International Education consultation submission

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Q1. Name *

Roula Tsiolas

Q2. Organisation *

Australian Industrial Systems Institute

Q3. Occupation/role at the organisation (if applicable)

Managing Director/CEO

Q4. Contact email address *

[REDACTED]

Q5. Contact phone number

Q6. 1 - What do you see as the key priorities for a new Australian strategy for international education? [limit to 500 words]

*Gvt needs to appoint an International Education Advocate team who will be tasked with presenting and implementing international education opportunities and assist to overcome barriers and challenges to the sector's growth. *Gvt needs to strengthen visa offers in particular for HE students to keep up with the offerings of competitor nations

Q7. 2 - Students should be at the centre of the new Strategy. How can Australian education providers deliver the best possible student experience both now and in the future? [limit to 500 words]

*The Strategy needs to be further enhanced by new members from the private sector, whose perspectives and realities can be very different from mainstream universities and TAFEs. This must occur to be able to identify new opportunities and work jointly together to identify solutions to challenges, especially if these are different across various providers. Australian providers need to have a global mobility outlook for international education provision as mobility and exchange are key components in creating and maintaining international partnerships. Government, through this strategy, needs to ensure and enable a flow of people to help strengthen the connectivity and export opportunities for our international education sector.

Q8. 3 - What changes are needed to make Australia more globally competitive over the next decade? [limit to 500 words]

*Gvt must work closely with VET and HE sectors to share and identify good practice as to how providers can effectively support international students into employment and further study both in Australia and their country of origin. This will assist the sector to have evidence based international graduate outcomes which will enhance Australia's sector future plans and possible required changes. A good benchmark example is the UK's future skills-based immigration system which sets out plans for a new global immigration system which will support an open global economy in line with the country's industrial strategy. Such a strategy aims for a highly skilled, innovative and highly productive workforce and continues to place no limit on the number of international student that can go to study.. There is a similar program available in Canada, which too is taking a large proportion of the Australian international education market. This is the competition that Australian international education is up against and which needs to be addressed, especially within this Australian Strategy for International Education. *The government must prioritise resources to support international education opportunities in Australia's key geographic regions, commencing with current maximisation of trade agreements which is key, as well as lobbying for more such trade agreements to come to being with major international education regions such as the Middle East, Africa and Latin America.

Q22. 3.1 - Policy and regulatory flexibility are important in enabling providers to innovate. How can we utilise these settings to pursue opportunities, and in what other ways can we work together to ensure Australia remains globally competitive? [limit to 500 words]

The government must work with providers to assist to resolve regulatory barriers through international agreements to ensure agreements include recognition of Australian qualifications inclusive of online and blended learning programs. Its important to provide regulatory advice to innovators in a transparent way, supporting experimentation and testing innovations. Streamlining regulatory approvals would also assist, especially by lessening the regulatory burden. The flexibility should incorporate collaboration allowances internationally on innovation. By assisting providers to be able to navigate different jurisdictions and interact with regulators is the way for Australia to remain globally competitive.

Q21.
4 - How can providers, governments and stakeholders work together to achieve diversification opportunities (for example of disciplines, source countries, study destinations and delivery models)? [limit to 500 words]

Through an International Education Advocate team, the government will be able to inform providers about exporting opportunities with the establishment of a new program of targeted training and information sessions to all interested provider. This will assist in the growth, as sharing intelligence with the sector about the scale and scope of international opportunities will allow providers to make informed decisions on participation and investment to do so.

Q9.
5 - What are the necessary skills for the future that students should be prepared for? [limit to 500 words]

Australian international education sector must ensure that the following major skill areas of the future are available within our programs: Data Skills and Digital Literacy; Artificial Intelligence and Computational Thinking; Blockchain Skills; Emotional and Social Intelligence; Cognitive Flexibility; Creative and Innovative Mindset Skills development; Judgement and Decision Making Skills; Complex Problem Solving; Critical Thinking; People Management Skills and Service Orientation Skills. Our Australian qualifications need to provide all such skills in order for graduates to be job ready for any future work environments as the future of work is now being influenced and shaped by demographics, global economic power, rapid urbanisation, resource scarcity and technological breakthroughs, some or all of which we are yet to be skilled in to encounter.

Q10.

5.1 - How can Australia improve employability outcomes for international students, ensuring students have the necessary the skills to compete in a globally competitive labour market? [limit to 500 words]

All students are required more and more to be "job ready" as the ultimate outcome of any graduation qualification. I recommend that the potential International Education Advocate team be the body to inform the international education sector of global opportunities linked to industry. There must be assistance to provide training, support and access to formal networks who will offer skills development opportunities across all industry sectors. Delivering a supplier network from industry to providers will assist in the development of relevance and job ready outcomes from courses being delivered, which is now a mandatory benchmark of a successful graduate of any educational program.

Q11.

6 - How do we create a uniquely Australian education experience? [limit to 500 words]

The government needs to provide contry specific gudes that support targeted partnerships development and assisting in facilitating partner matching between Australian and overseas providers and potential international collaborations. The key to a unique Australian education experience is to provide programs of currency and relevance to graduates on a global perspective. The way to achieving this will be though utilisation of government-to-government and government-to-industry links to promote Australia's graduate skills, thus having an influential effect to gain interest from international students to study in Australia.

Q12.

6.1 - What is our value proposition for both international and domestic students? [limit to 500 words]

The value proposition for both international and domestic students is Australia's education system's promise of value to be delivered. This value proposition should be embedded in the whole student journey from application to graduation. Its important to differentiate the different challenges of the international student to the domestic student and cater for this with other included points in the student journey. All students are looking for a return on their investment of time and money. The return is to be globally job ready and competitive.

Q13.

6.2 - How do we offer an Australian education experience while complementing the value of Australian offshore and online education? [limit to 500 words]

As international education providers we seek the support to ensure that students have the opportunity to attain Australian qualifications including engaging with contemporary global issues and developing an appreciation of the different neighbouring regions and beyond. A successful experience is a graduate who has achieved academic excellence, is practically grounded and socially conscious and responsible. This is a well rounded Australian education experience. This is the ultimate international education provision promotion for Australian education.

Q14.

7 - What else should the Council for International Education and the Australian Government consider in developing a new strategy? [limit to 500 words]

Build on its inclusive organisational culture by including more Expert members n the panel from the private HE and VET sectors. The success of the strategy depends greatly on effective engagement from all.

Q15.

8 - Do you have any additional comments or feedback to share?

As an active participant within the international education arena for 35 years, I would like to offer my services to be considered as being included as one of the private HE provider representatives on the Expert Member panel.

Q19.

If you wish to upload a document to support your submission, including a document answering the discussion questions, please upload it here.

Q16.

Do you give the Department of Education, Skills and Employment permission to publish your submission on its website? *

- Yes – publish my submission with my name
- Yes – but keep my name anonymous
- No – don't publish my submission