

legislation, which is maintained by the Department of Education, Science and Training (DEST). This legislation was written to make sure that international students' rights are protected at all times. The ESOS act requires all international education providers to be registered on the Commonwealth Register of Institutions and Courses for Overseas Students (CRICOS). No provider is legally allowed to offer courses to international students unless they are CRICOS registered. Further information on CRICOS legislation and registered providers can be found at <http://cricos.dest.gov.au> .

About ELICOS

The advantage of studying English in a country where it is the main language is that you get lots of opportunities to practise speaking and reading English, hear it spoken and see it written.

Students coming to Australia on a student visa to learn English are required to study full time. There are generally no set entrance requirements for ELICOS study but you should always check with your chosen education provider. Tourists and visitors to Australia can also participate in ELICOS study during their visit as long as the course is less than 12 weeks long. There are courses combining study and tourist activities specially designed for studying visitors. Details of visa requirements can be found at the Department of Immigration and Multicultural and Indigenous Affairs (DIMIA) website at www.immi.gov.au .

Courses

Institutions offer a wide range of courses, suited to all learning needs. Courses include:

- general English
- English for academic purposes
- English for secondary school preparation
- English for special purposes (for example, English for business)
- IELTS and TOEFL preparation
- Cambridge test preparation
- bridging and foundation courses
- study tour programs (which include other extracurricular activities).

English proficiency tests

A range of tests to assess international student's English language abilities are available in Australia. The main ones are:

International English Language Testing System (IELTS)

This system measures the English ability of international students wishing to study in Australia. Students can choose between two IELTS modules: the Academic module (for

students wanting to study at university level), and the General Training module (for students seeking entry into other courses).

Further details can be found at www.ielts.org.

Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL)

TOEFL is designed to measure skills in North American English, generally for academic purposes. The test is widely accepted around the world and is offered via computer where possible, and by paper if computer access is not available.

Further details can be found at www.toefl.org.

Cambridge English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL)

The Cambridge ESOL exams are known all over the world and are accepted by universities, employers and national education authorities in many countries as proof of English ability for admission to courses, or as part of course assessment.

Occupational English Test (OET)

The OET assesses the English language skills of medical and health professionals who wish to study in, work in or migrate to Australia. It covers listening, reading, writing, and speaking ability.



Secondary Education

Australia is a popular secondary school destination with overseas students. Not only does Australia offer quality, internationally-recognised education, it also provides a safe, comfortable and multicultural environment. An Australian education aims to provide skills for your future study, employment and life in Australia or anywhere in the world.

School term dates

Term 1:	3 February to 13 April	2 February to 13 April
Term 2:	1 May to 7 July	30 April to 6 July
Term 3:	24 July to 29 September	23 July to 28 September
Term 4:	16 October to 21 December	15 October to 21 December

Courses and qualifications

Australia's secondary schools have a national curriculum that was developed to ensure high academic standards in all Australian schools. The different states and territories of Australia do have individual systems of secondary education, but all conform to the same high standards required by the national curriculum. For a school to be accredited to accept international students it must provide, or have access to, specialist English language programs.

Across the different states and territories, the Year 12 (final year) qualification is known as:

Australian Capital Territory (ACT)	ACT Year 12 Certificate
New South Wales (NSW)	NSW Higher School Certificate (HSC)
Northern Territory (NT)	Northern Territory Certificate of Education (NTCE)
Queensland (QLD)	Senior Certificate
South Australia (SA)	South Australian Certificate of Education (SACE)
Tasmania (TAS)	Tasmanian Certificate of Education (TCE)
Victoria (VIC)	Victorian Certificate of Education (VCE)
Western Australia (WA)	Western Australian Certificate of Education (WACE)

Different schools offer varying elective subjects and areas of specialisation, but all provide subjects in the eight key learning areas: English, mathematics, society and the environment, science, the arts, economics, technology, and health and physical education.

In addition to the subjects offered, it's a good idea to research the school's focus and extracurricular activities to help you find the school most suited to your needs and interests.

Average tuition costs

- A\$6000–A\$13 000 a year*

Entry requirements

Entry requirements vary throughout Australia. The selection process involves consideration of the applicant's academic record and proven ability, along with other factors which may include sporting achievement and other extracurricular accomplishments.

Further study

The successful completion of senior secondary school allows students to apply for entry to further education but it does not guarantee a place. Entry into most Australian courses is on a competitive basis, for both international and local students.

Vocational training in schools

An increasing number of Australian schools offer vocational training subjects as part of their school curriculum. These subjects allow students to gain practical, work-based skills whilst completing their senior secondary education, and are part of Australia's commitment to providing a balanced education that prepares students well for life after secondary school.

The International Baccalaureate Diploma

The International Baccalaureate (IB) Diploma is a two-year pre-university course for motivated students 16–19 years of age. It is recognised for university entrance around the world.

There are also programs for middle year students (aged 11–16) and primary year students (aged 3–12). Schools must be officially approved by the International Baccalaureate Organisation (IBO) to be able to offer IB programs. There are 85 IB-authorized schools in Australia. For more information or to search for a school, go to www.ibo.org.



Vocational Education and Training

Thousands of courses are offered through the Vocational Education and Training (VET) system in Australia (often referred to as Technical and Vocational Education (TVE) in other countries). Qualifications gained through the VET system can lead to a variety of diverse and exciting careers.

Who offers VET courses?

VET courses are offered by registered training organisations (RTOs). These can include Technical and Further Education (TAFE) institutes and private colleges. These organisations are all registered by each state or territory authority to:

- provide quality training
- deliver courses developed in conjunction with industry
- issue a nationally recognised qualification.

A list of registered RTOs is provided on the National Training Information Service website at www.ntis.gov.au .

RTOs that wish to offer courses to international students must also register with the Australian Government's Commonwealth Register of Institutions and Courses for Overseas Students (CRICOS). This register allows the government to monitor the education offered to international students in Australia and ensure that it is of consistent and ongoing high quality. Full details can be found at <http://cricos.dest.gov.au> .

Courses and qualifications

Australian VET courses provide students with skills which employers have identified as important in the workplace. They are also generally considered to provide more practical, work-orientated skills than the higher education system.

The types of qualifications that can be obtained through the VET system include:

- **Certificate I–IV:** These courses are designed to provide introductory skills and training. They provide industry-specific knowledge, and skills in communication, participation, literacy and numeracy, and teamwork. They vary in length from a few weeks to six or more months.
- **Diploma:** A diploma course prepares students for industry, enterprise and para-professional careers. Some diploma courses can be completed at university level as well as at TAFE institutes and private colleges. Diplomas require 18 to 24 months of full-time study.
- **Advanced diploma:** An advanced diploma provides a high level of practical skills for employment in a specific career area, such as accounting, building design, and engineering. Some advanced diploma courses can also be completed at university level. Advanced diplomas vary in length from 24 to 36 months.
- **Vocational graduate certificate/diploma:** The vocational graduate certificate and diploma are the equivalent of the higher education graduate certificate or diploma. They provide high level employment-related skills and knowledge. The graduate certificate usually requires six months of full-time study and the graduate diploma usually requires one year of full-time study.

VET courses, particularly at the diploma and advanced diploma level, are often linked to entrance to higher education. On the other hand, it's increasingly common for higher education graduates to complete VET qualifications in order to gain practical, work-orientated skills to assist them to enter the workforce.

Average tuition costs

- A\$5500–A\$18 000 per year*

Please note that course fees can vary widely depending on the course, institute, and location chosen and should always be sourced from the relevant provider(s).

Entry requirements

Entry into the TAFE system, usually requires students to have reached a level of study equivalent to the Australian Year 10, 11 or 12. Some courses may have prerequisite subjects or work experience requirements. Entry into some courses, such as art and design courses, may also require submission of a portfolio. Students should check with individual colleges for any additional entry requirements, English language requirements, information on fees and charges, and course commencement dates.



Technical and Further Education

The Technical and Further Education (TAFE) sector is the largest education and training sector in Australia. Each year thousands of international students come to Australia to take advantage of the extensive range of courses and subject areas that provide practical skills and training for a huge variety of career possibilities.

What TAFE offers

TAFE institutes in Australia are government owned and have a long history of helping international students reach their career goals. International students attend TAFE institutes to complete courses that range from certificate to postgraduate level.

TAFE also offers English language courses, which range in length from four to 48 weeks.

Some common reasons for international students choosing to enrol in TAFE are to:

- improve their chances of being accepted into university-level study
- gain practical, work-based skills to improve their employment prospects
- take advantage of the wide variety of courses on offer
- enjoy the individual attention that the typically small class sizes allow.

Courses and qualifications

The types of qualifications that can be obtained through the TAFE system include:

- **Certificate I–IV:** These courses are designed to provide introductory skills and training. They provide industry-specific knowledge, and skills in communication, participation, literacy and numeracy, and teamwork. They vary in length from a few weeks to six or more months.
- **Diploma:** A diploma course prepares students for industry, enterprise and para-professional careers. Some diploma courses can be completed at university level as well as at TAFE institutions. Diplomas require 18 to 24 months of full-time study.
- **Advanced diploma:** An advanced diploma provides a high level of practical skills for employment in a specific career area, such as accounting, building design, and engineering. Some advanced diploma courses can also be completed at university level. Advanced diplomas vary in length from 24 to 36 months.
- **Vocational graduate certificate/diploma:** The vocational graduate certificate and diploma are the equivalent of the higher education graduate certificate or diploma. They provide high level employment-related skills and knowledge. The graduate certificate usually requires six months of full-time study and the graduate diploma usually requires one year of full-time study.

Pathways to university

TAFE provides students with a number of education pathways to university. In addition to providing assistance with entrance requirements, TAFE courses can also be counted towards some higher education courses. For example, students who graduate with a diploma from a TAFE institute may receive up to two or three semesters of credit towards a related university degree. There is also the benefit of graduating with two Australian academic awards at the end of your degree.

The exact amount of credit granted towards a degree depends on the university, the degree course, and the TAFE qualification completed. It is important to check with the intended university to be certain about possible credit transfers.

Pathways to the workforce

A TAFE qualification can improve your prospects in the job market. Due to the practical emphasis of most courses in this sector, a TAFE qualification can be a valuable addition to the resume.

Average tuition costs

* A\$5500–A\$18 000 a year*

Please note that course fees can vary widely depending on the course, institute, and location chosen and should always be sourced from the relevant TAFE institute(s).

Entry requirements

Entry into the TAFE system, usually requires students to have reached a level of study equivalent to the Australian Year 10, 11 or 12. Some courses may have prerequisite subjects or work experience requirements. Entry into some courses, such as art and design courses, may also require submission of a portfolio. Students should check with individual colleges for any additional entry requirements, English language requirements, information on fees and charges, and course commencement dates.



Foundation Studies

Foundation courses help international students, who may not initially meet entry requirements, gain entry to undergraduate study at Australian universities. They also help students adapt to the Australian academic environment and way of life. Some foundation courses promise a place at university after successful completion of the course.

Courses and qualifications

There are two major advantages to studying a foundation course in Australia:

- Successful completion of a foundation course may guarantee entry into specific degree courses at some universities.
- Foundation courses allow students to ‘settle in’ to the Australian education system and way of life before they start university.

Foundation studies are typically intensive one-year preparatory courses, but this time frame can sometimes be altered according to the student’s needs. Students capable of accelerated learning may be able to complete programs in nine months. Other courses may be lengthened to allow students more time to prepare for their university studies.

Some foundation courses have a flexible structure that allows students to enter at different times during the year, and at different levels of English language and/or academic progression.

Foundation studies are generally divided into subject streams, such as business or science studies, according to the student’s choice of undergraduate course. Most foundation courses offer a range of compulsory and elective subjects, and English language support is often a major focus.

Schools, Vocational Education and Training (VET) institutions, and universities all commonly offer foundation courses to international students. Many universities and some

other institutions also offer ‘bridging’ courses, which are shorter, intensive courses designed for students who are about to enter a degree course but do not meet assumed knowledge requirements, or who wish to be better prepared for university study.

Learning styles

Foundation courses usually offer some university-style teaching through lectures and tutorials. This makes sure that students are familiar with this way of learning, and feel prepared for their degree course.

Some foundation courses are taught at university campuses. The students of such courses have the advantage of having access to the university’s facilities such as the library and computer laboratories, as well as health and housing services, sports centres and student clubs.

Average tuition costs

A\$9 000–A\$14 000 a year*

Please note that fees vary widely and should always be sourced from the relevant institution.

Entry requirements

To gain entry to a foundation course, students will need to have completed or nearly completed their home country’s end-of-school certificate. They will also need to meet standards for written and spoken English. The exact requirements vary from one course to another so it’s important to contact the course provider directly for details.



Higher Education and universities

Australia has built a strong reputation for excellence and quality across its education and training programs. This global reputation is reflected in the ever increasing number of international students who choose to broaden their minds and enrich their lives by studying here. In fact, more international students are now choosing to study in Australia than in the UK or USA!

Course and qualifications

Australia has a national set of qualifications, which are endorsed by the Australian Government. This means that there is national and international recognition of each qualification and the level of education it represents.

The types of qualifications offered by most higher education institutions include:

Undergraduate

Bachelor Degree: provides initial preparation for professional careers and postgraduate study. Involves a minimum of three years full-time study. Entrance typically requires completion of an Australian Secondary School Certificate of Education (Year 12) or the overseas equivalent; or a diploma or advanced diploma from the Vocational Education and Training (VET) sector.

Bachelor Degree (Honours): may be completed as an optional, additional year of study following the three-year degree; or, it may be awarded for academic achievement in degrees of four or more years.

Postgraduate

Graduate Certificate/Diploma: generally designed for specific vocational purposes, either the broadening of skills and knowledge already gained in an undergraduate program; or for gaining of vocational skills and knowledge in a new professional area. The typical requirement is six months of full-time study for the Graduate Certificate and twelve months of full-time study for the Graduate Diploma. Entrance usually requires a Bachelor Degree or Advanced Diploma. In some cases students may also be awarded entrance through recognition of prior learning.

Masters Degree: provides a mastery or high-order overview of a relevant field of study or area of professional practice. Typically they involve two years of study after a Bachelor Degree, or one year of study after a Bachelor Honours Degree. The Masters Degree may be offered in three formats:

- **Coursework Masters:** consists of coursework, project work and research in varying combinations. Entry typically requires prior completion of a Bachelor Degree, a Bachelor Honours Degree or a Graduate Diploma.
- **Research Masters:** consists of at least two-thirds research with a substantial thesis, which is often externally assessed. Entry normally requires a Bachelor Honours Degree or Masters preliminary year, a research-based Graduate Diploma or equivalent research experience.
- **Professional Masters:** may consist of a work-based project. Entry requires a relevant qualification and professional experience, or extensive relevant professional experience.

Doctoral Degree: recognises a considerable original contribution to knowledge in the form of new knowledge or the adaptation, application and interpretation of existing knowledge. The Doctoral Degree may be offered in two formats:

- Research Doctorate: consists mainly of supervised research. Entry requires a research or part-research Masters Degree or a Bachelor Honours Degree.
- Professional Doctorate: consists of varying combination of coursework and research. Entry typically requires a combined research and coursework Masters Degree or a Bachelor Honours Degree. In addition, considerable professional practice experience is required either before or during the course.

Starting dates

These vary widely depending on the course. Higher education courses generally run from late February to mid November. The academic year is typically divided into two semesters, though some education providers operate on a trimester system and/or offer summer schools from December to February.

Undergraduate and postgraduate coursework students enrol for their courses at the beginning of the year (usually in January or February). Some institutions also have mid-year enrolment and intake (usually in July) for certain courses. Students studying towards a Doctoral Degree or other research-based award may be able to negotiate an alternative starting date with their project supervisor.

Average tuition costs

- Bachelor Degree: A\$10 000–A\$13 500 a year (for example, arts, accounting, business and management, and law courses)
- Laboratory-based Bachelor Degree: A\$11 000–A\$16 500 a year (for example, science and engineering courses)
- Graduate Certificate/Diploma: A\$9000–A\$16 000 a year
- Masters and Doctoral Degrees: A\$11 000–A\$18 500 a year

Please note that fees vary widely and should always be sourced from the relevant institution.

Entry requirements

Entry into most higher education courses in Australia is highly competitive and a high standard of English language proficiency is required for both undergraduate and postgraduate study. Each education provider will have different entrance requirements so it's important to contact individual providers to check requirements.

* Please note that course fees can vary widely depending on the course and provider