



Queensland University of Technology
response to the
Inquiry into Australia's tourism and international education sectors

QUT welcomes the opportunity to comment on the inquiry into Australia's tourism and international education sectors.

We address below the specific topics raised in the consultation paper.

1 Challenges associated with the loss of international student numbers as a result of the significant disruption caused by the COVID-19 pandemic and effective measures to attract and retain students to Australia.

- Attraction and retention need a whole of government approach with DHA, DoE and other departments aligning programs and efforts. Currently it's piecemeal and the messaging is confusing for prospective students.
- Consistency of policy and application of it is key – too often a kneejerk reaction which reinforces international students as a cash-cow perception.
- Repair reputation around support for international students in crisis situations.
- Clear and consistent information around post-study options and streamlined pathways to stay in Australia, as a driver of recruitment and cornerstone of skilled migration.

2 Online innovations in education delivery and potential opportunities to strengthen the sector's resilience.

- We may see a growth in online offerings, but we need to ensure that those offerings don't detract from the quality of Brand Australia or undercut our own efforts at rebuilding an onshore student cohort.
- Assess the opportunity for online academic support services (e.g., Studiosity) to lift support levels to international students, while reducing cost.
- Reduce the onshore withdrawal/transfer poaching market by extending the requirement to complete 6 months of principal program to 12 months.
- Remove trailing visa risk by requiring the institution where the student is ENROLLED carry the SSVF risk rather than that which issued the CoE.

3 Initiatives to ensure positive international student experience and support pathways to build their skills and contribute to Australia's prosperity.

- Broader education of industry around the opportunities the international student cohort offers – not just the Permanent Residents.

- Address the dissonance between the idea of contributing to Australia's prosperity when current student visa conditions require that they demonstrate they intend to or will go home
- Establish strong compliance and enforcement arrangements around the intersection of skilled migration and international education and mitigate the risk of reputational harm from non-genuine providers.

4 Opportunities for international education to support strategic and foreign policy objectives.

- Australian government scholarship programs for full-fee students could be reinstated (Endeavour). New Colombo Plan (NCP) provides excellent support for outbound Australians, but we also need to train future industry leaders and bureaucrats of significant geopolitical partners in full degree programs.