



Queensland University of Technology

Submission to the General Review of the *Japan-Australia Economic Partnership Agreement*

The Queensland University of Technology (QUT) appreciates the opportunity to contribute to the General Review of the Japan-Australia Economic Partnership Agreement (JAEPA), being conducted by the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade.

QUT supports and recognises the significant work in the current JAEPA and the positive benefit the Agreement can bring to the relationship between Australia and Japan. The openness of the Japanese system to Australia is of clear benefit to the higher education sector in all aspects of the relationship. While there are few obvious barriers raised with us in the relationship we particularly note the opening of services opportunities in the Agreement and the lowering of barriers for cross-border service trade. This enlightened approach is to be commended, particularly in contrast to other, more restrictive Free Trade Agreements.

The Australian university sector would welcome any further options to support mobility in research collaborations, additional mutual recognition for qualifications, including professional qualifications and support for the opportunity for movement from sub-degree to degree awards between Japan and Australia.

We note there is considerable opportunity for joint investment in research and scientific exchange, particularly given the strength and sophistication of the Japanese research and development sector. Australia can benefit significantly from any actions that supported greater mobility and joint programs with the highly regarded research sector in Japan. While people-to-people movements are relatively open and easy between the two countries, if the JAEPA can do anything to assist in easing cross border mobility for researchers and researcher funding it would be mutually beneficial.

For further engagement on this matter please contact QUT's Deputy Vice-Chancellor and Vice-President (International), Professor Scott Sheppard, at scott.sheppard@qut.edu.au or on 07 3138 2747.

6 July 2021