



FIRST 2023 MEETING OF THE COUNCIL FOR INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION 21 February 2023

On 21 February 2023, the Minister for Education, the Hon Jason Clare MP, and the Expert Members of the Council for International Education (the Council) held their first meeting of the year at Australian Parliament House, Canberra.

The Minister welcomed new and returning Expert Members and foreshadowed other ministerial participation in future meetings of the Council. Minister Clare invited views from Expert Members on the role the Council can play in providing strategic advice and sector feedback about international education's future. The Minister, Expert Members and the Department discussed how the Council's work can complement the *Australian Strategy for International Education 2021-2030* (the Strategy) and the Joint Standing Committee *Inquiry into Australia's tourism and international education sectors*.

The Council received an update from Minister Clare on his joint announcement with the Minister for Home Affairs, the Hon Clare O'Neil MP, to extend post-study work rights for international graduates from an Australian higher education provider and to increase the allowable work hours cap from 40 hours per fortnight to 48 hours per fortnight. Further information on the announcement is available on Minister Clare's website: [Addressing skills shortages in key industries and rebuilding the international education sector | Ministers' Media Centre](#).

The Minister also addressed how upcoming bilateral engagement can deepen our international partnerships, including through his visit to India at the end of February 2023, and how education can support greater engagement in Southeast Asia and the Pacific.

Expert Members met with the Panel conducting the review of the Australian Universities Accord, to discuss the role international education can play in Australia's education ecosystem. The discussion focused on the key issues around international education that the Panel should consider in their review of the Accord and how international education can help support a strong and resilient higher education sector.

Future meetings of the Council for 2023 will focus on priority areas to support a resilient international education sector in Australia. These include how international education can support Australia's skills needs, the role international education plays in delivering on Australia's foreign policy objectives and ways to provide a unique and positive student experience.

The next Expert Members meeting is scheduled for April 2023.