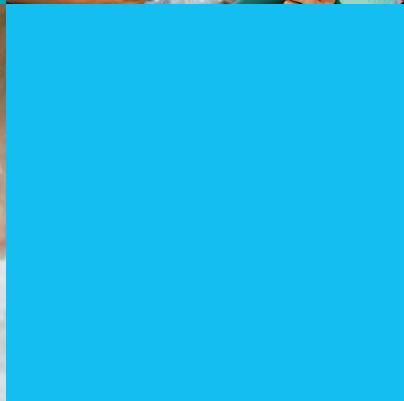
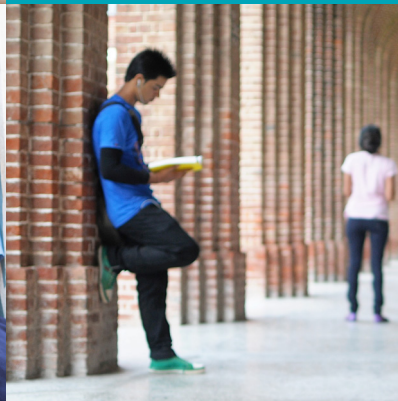




Australian Government

A Partnership for the Future: Australia's Education Strategy for India





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The document must be attributed as *A Partnership for the Future: Australia's Education Strategy for India*.

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Minister's Foreword

A Partnership for the Future: Australia's Education Strategy for India marks the beginning of a new era in Australia-India education cooperation.

Our aim is to deepen and broaden the Australia-India education relationship which has enjoyed decades of cooperation between our students and institutions since the original Colombo Plan scholars came to Australia in the 1950s.

The Australian Government has created this education blueprint to encourage closer engagement and stronger ties while laying the foundations for future education cooperation and collaboration.

We have worked with Indian and Australian stakeholders to create a plan which provides pillars, objectives and actions where Australia can support India's education reforms under its *National Education Policy 2020* and build on the education aspects of the *India Economic Strategy*.

The strategy also showcases how Australian providers are contributing to the Australia-India education relationship while also establishing a roadmap for more flexible options to ensure Australian education services remain relevant to India's changing landscape.

I thank and acknowledge the Indian Minister of Education, the Hon Shri Dharmendra Pradhan, and his team, for their tireless work and efforts to strengthen India's education system through the enactment of India's *National Education Policy 2020*.

Australia and India's longstanding education partnership has continued to gain strength and momentum during Minister Pradhan's tenure.

I also thank the members of Australia's higher education community for their contribution to the development of this strategy, which will help shape future directions and identify more collaborative opportunities with our valued Indian partners.

The Hon Jason Clare MP
Minister for Education



Introduction

India is a key strategic and economic partner for Australia. Our relationship is underpinned by mutual understanding, trust, and a shared vision for a stable, open and prosperous Indo-Pacific. Both Australia and India benefit from the long-standing education partnerships and deep friendships between our people and institutions. Education provides a living bridge between our countries.



Australia and India's strong partnership, combined with India's ambitious education reform agenda, creates significant opportunities for Australian and Indian education providers to help deliver a prosperous future for both nations.

Strengthening education and research partnerships will enhance mobility and broaden ties between Australian and Indian institutions, while creating new pathways to knowledge and employability. Australia is diversifying our education offering in India, with Australian universities being the first in the world to establish campuses in India. Further research collaboration will also advance capacity building and industry connections, and help lay the foundations that will sustain the bilateral relationship in the long term.

Existing regulatory frameworks, including commitments to improved recognition of qualifications, provide a robust foundation for further cooperation between Indian and Australian students, researchers, academics, institutions and governments.

Strategic context

The relationship between Australia and India has never been stronger. As the world's largest democracy and fifth largest economy, India is a dynamic global partner for Australia across education, research, science and technology.

Australian and Indian providers have over 450 formal academic and research collaboration partnerships in place, including joint PhD programs between leading Indian institutions and Australian universities such as RMIT, Deakin University, the University of Queensland, the University of Melbourne, the University of Western Australia, LaTrobe University, Western Sydney University, and Curtin University. India is Australia's 9th largest research partner, with almost 20,000 joint research publications between 2018 and 2023. Across programs like the Australia-India Strategic Research Fund, which is Australia's largest fund dedicated to bilateral research, the Australian Government has invested over AU\$120 million in the education and research relationship with India.

In 2023, the Australian Government established the Centre for Australia-India Relations (CAIR) to build greater understanding of the bilateral relationship across all levels of government, industry, academia and civil society. CAIR is a tangible demonstration of the Government's commitment to enhanced engagement with India and serves as a national centre of gravity for the relationship. It complements the work of existing organisations, including the Australia India Institute, which was established in 2008 to research contemporary issues in India and contribute to strengthening bilateral relations.

Education is a strong pillar in our bilateral relationship, with formal cooperative agreements in place since 1970. Indian students are attracted to Australia as a study destination with Australian education providers educating over 400,000 Indian students in the last 20 years. Thousands of Australian students have also undertaken studies and exchanges in India, including through programs such as the New Colombo Plan.

As leading democracies in the Indo-Pacific region, Australia and India are natural research partners, collaborating in research areas that address large-scale shared challenges, such as food and water security, healthcare, and environmental change. This drives innovation and assists both our countries in remaining at the leading edge.

In 2023, both governments made a commitment to recognise each other's qualifications under the *Mechanism for the Mutual Recognition of Qualifications between Australia and India*. This is the most comprehensive education agreement of its type that India has signed with another country. India has also implemented transformational regulations, allowing – for the first time – joint delivery of degrees by our higher education providers and the establishment of Australian university campuses in India.

In May 2023, Australia and India entered into a *Migration and Mobility Partnership Arrangement*. This bilateral framework supports shared immigration priorities, including reinforcing opportunities for two-way mobility in the education and business sectors. In December 2022, the *Australia-India Economic Cooperation and Trade Agreement* also entered into force and opened new opportunities for two-way trade between Australia and India, including in education services.

India's National Education Policy 2020

India's *National Education Policy 2020* (NEP) outlines India's vision to transform its education system. Underpinning India's reform and modernisation of its education system is its need to meet future workforce demands, by increasing the capacity of tertiary education systems to provide post-secondary education and training to the 250 million students currently enrolled in Indian schools.

The NEP has set a target of almost doubling India's higher education gross tertiary enrolment rate from 26.3 per cent in 2018 to 50 per cent by 2035. This equates to between 30 and 35 million additional higher education students over the next 12 years. India's higher education system needs to add capacity by leveraging physical and digital infrastructure while ensuring the quality of delivery remains high.

In addition to higher education enrolment rate increases, the NEP's key objectives include achieving 100 per cent enrolment in school education and providing universal access to early childhood education and care by 2030, achieving universal foundational literacy and numeracy in primary schools by 2025, and increasing India's education budget allocation to 6 per cent of GDP. The NEP proposes the establishment of new regulation and accreditation bodies, a new curriculum framework and professional standards for teachers. The NEP also seeks to internationalise education in India, allowing for foreign universities to establish campuses in India and Indian institutes of technology to establish campuses overseas.

India's education reforms can inform Australia's own reform agenda across early childhood education, schooling, and higher education, and offers opportunities for the Australian Government and education sector to deepen cooperation with Indian counterparts. In particular, the NEP's commitments to increase education access and improve teacher quality align strongly with Australia's focus and policy expertise. Sharing expertise and mutual learning on policies to meet education needs for students from low socio-economic backgrounds and in regional and remote settings can lead to strengthening of both countries' schooling systems. Australia's world-class international education sector can also partner with Indian providers to work towards India's ambition of becoming a net provider of international education, including through partnerships and offshore campuses.



The strategy



The strategy builds on our strong bilateral relationship and demonstrates to India that Australia is a committed education partner with deep ties and a clear vision for the partnership going forward. It draws views from across Australia's education sector and government in identifying opportunities for collaboration, in line with India's ambitions under the NEP and Australia's education priorities.

The strategy also builds on Australia's *India Economic Strategy 2035* (IES) released 2018, and subsequent *Update to the India Economic Strategy 2035* (IES Update) released in 2022. Both strategies focus on collaboration in online education, deepening research and innovation partnerships, supporting in-country presence, expanding joint degree programs, scoping work-integrated learning, and meeting future skills needs through innovative education delivery. Both the IES and IES Update recognise the significant potential for mutual benefit in the flagship sector of education. The pillars, objectives and actions of this strategy complement and extend the vision outlined in the IES and IES Update to continue advancing the bilateral relationship through education and research cooperation.

Many Australian providers have been active in India for decades and are deeply committed to their partnerships with Indian providers. The strategy showcases how providers are contributing to the Australia-India education relationship and aims to drive new and emerging opportunities for engagement with India. It recognises that the Australian Government and sector will need to ensure Australian education offerings remain relevant to India's changing landscape and that research connections deliver benefits for both countries.

Australia seeks to assist India in achieving its education goals. Working together, Australia and India can become leaders in education, research and technology in the region and beyond. The strategy will position Australia to enhance the education partnership with India across three pillars.

Pillars and objectives





Australia is committed to strengthening our education partnership with India

Pillar

1

Delivering mutual benefits through education



Objective 1

Strengthening education delivery to bolster India's education reform agenda

Pillar

2

Strengthening institutional partnerships and research collaboration



Objective 2

Enhancing innovative partnerships to strengthen Australia and India's higher education capabilities



Objective 3

Encouraging research partnerships in areas of shared benefit

Pillar

3

Enhancing people-to-people links, mobility and employability



Objective 4

Supporting mobility of students, researchers and academics of both countries



Objective 5

Preparing Australian and Indian students for the global workforce

Pillar 1: Delivering mutual benefits through education

There are opportunities for further collaboration between Australia and India in areas of shared priority, such as workforce development, building stronger education systems, and economic growth.



Objective 1: Strengthening education delivery to bolster India's education reform agenda

With India's aim to increase its tertiary gross enrolment ratio to 50 per cent by 2035, a growing number of young people across India will be seeking a tertiary qualification. Australian education providers can supplement India's domestic supply of education to assist India to meet this increasing demand, including through high-quality transnational and online education offerings.

Strong government-to-government efforts to enhance market access and reduce regulatory barriers underpin new opportunities for education delivery. For example, free trade agreements such as the *Australia-India Economic Cooperation and Trade Agreement* reduce barriers to two-way services trade. The Australian Government will continue working closely with the Indian Government, including its regulators, to assist providers from both countries to deliver innovative education offerings in support of India's education reform and workforce development.



The NEP recognises India as a global leader in information and communication technology, an area in which Australia has much to offer and to gain. India seeks to use technological developments to improve its educational processes and outcomes, and to transition to a digitally empowered society. Australia's increasing focus on e-learning and online education present a further avenue for exchange of resources, instructional technologies, and best practices with Indian counterparts.

Quality delivery and positive student experience must continue to underpin the expansion of education, regardless of a student's location. Providing students with opportunities to build connections with peers and their communities and engage in extra-curricular activities will help students make the most of their education experience.

Actions

1.1

The Australian Government will work with the Government of India as it adjusts regulatory settings in order to strengthen delivery opportunities for Australian and Indian providers in each country.

1.2

The Australian education sector will continue to prioritise quality delivery and student experience in education offerings to Indian students, regardless of location and delivery method.



Pillar 2: Strengthening institutional partnerships and research collaboration

Australian education providers are eager to take up further opportunities following India's announcement of regulations to support foreign partnerships and branch campuses. Australian and Indian universities and higher education providers can be at the forefront of innovation in institutional partnership models, including through engagement with industry.





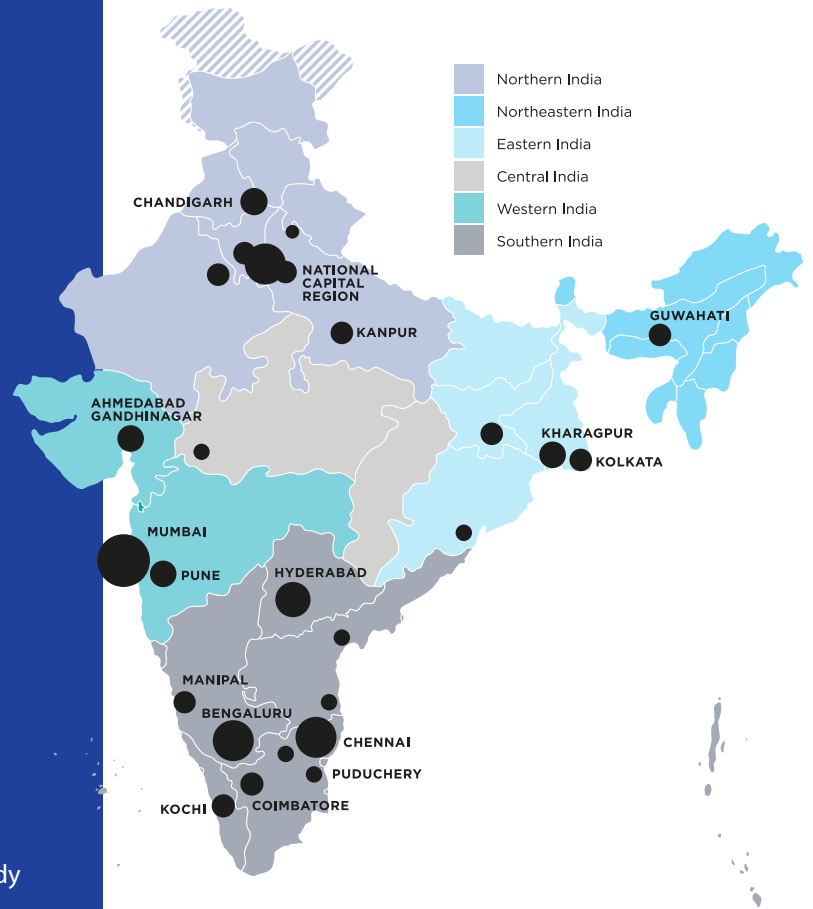
Objective 2: Enhancing innovative partnerships to strengthen Australia and India's higher education capabilities

The Australian higher education sector is already actively engaged in India with over 450 formal partnerships in place between Australian and Indian universities. Partnerships have increased fivefold between 2007 and 2020.

Partnerships can take many forms and Australian providers are already utilising innovative delivery models, including online and blended modes of learning, to bring benefits to students, teachers, and institutions across both countries. Consortium models which include independent higher education providers, government agencies and industry partners alongside universities will capitalise on the respective strengths of India and Australia.

Indian initiatives such as the Gujarat International and Finance Tec (GIFT) City can serve as a further model of the benefits of government support for innovative partnerships. Deakin University and the University of Wollongong are the first two foreign universities in the world to announce the establishment of campuses in India.

(Australia India Institute Compendium 2023)



AUSTRALIAN UNIVERSITY PARTNERSHIPS IN INDIA

Most Australian university partnerships are with Indian higher education institutions located in mega metropolitan areas. A significant number of partnerships are with institutions in regional cities in southern and northern India. The map indicates the main clusters of partnerships by Indian regions and urban centres.

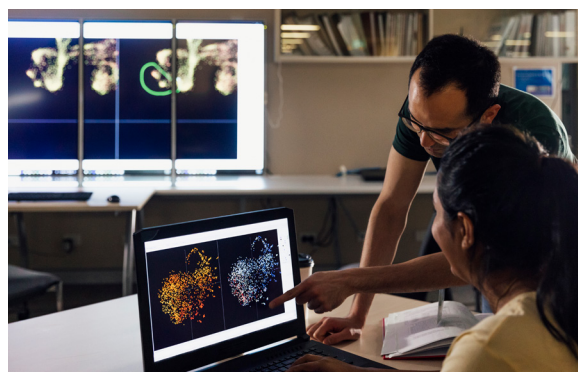


Case study: Deakin GIFT City Campus

Deakin's GIFT City campus will open in 2024 when it celebrates 50 years since Deakin's establishment, and 30 years of operating in India.

In the past 30 years, Deakin University has been a leader in building Australia-India relations. Of all Australian universities, Deakin University has the highest number of active formal partnerships (57) with Indian higher education institutions such as IIT Bombay, O.P. Jindal Global University and Manipal Academy of Higher Education.

Deakin's GIFT City campus will at first offer postgraduate courses in cybersecurity and business analytics, before expanding to other degrees from the faculties of Science, Engineering & Built Environment and Business & Law.



Case study: University of Wollongong (UoW) GIFT City Campus

UoW's GIFT City campus will offer postgraduate courses in computing and finance and financial technology, and undergraduate course in business and computing science in 2024–25.

UoW plans to establish a Global Capital Markets Research Centre in its GIFT City location, focused on training PhD students.

UoW has strong and ongoing relations with India through strategic research collaborations in the fields of 3D bioprinting, transportation, and advanced medicine solutions.

It has 30 years of transnational education experience as a global university, with the biggest offshore campus operation among Australian universities.



Case study: Birla Institute of Technology and Science – RMIT Higher Education Academy

In mid-2023, Birla Institute of Technology and Science, Pilani (BITS) and RMIT's Higher Education Academy commenced its initial offering of four dual degree undergraduate engineering programs and a dual PhD program. Students will begin their learning at BITS followed by two years at RMIT in Melbourne with potential for a career in Australia or India.

This institutional partnership was enabled by the Indian University Grants Commission's 2022 regulations allowing academic collaboration between Indian and foreign higher education institutions to offer twinning, joint degree and dual degree programs.

The Australian Government-led *Developing Critical Skills Courses in India* initiative is demonstrating the value of close collaboration with industry to meet identified workforce needs. This work, led by a consortium of providers under the University of Adelaide, is supporting development of agriculture skills courses in India, an area of mutual interest, with the aim of creating opportunities for Australian providers to expand offshore delivery and build partnerships with industry.

Building on momentum from the signing of the *Mechanism for the Mutual Recognition of Qualifications* in March 2023, the Australian and Indian Governments will continue to work together to strengthen the recognition of qualifications, particularly full recognition of online delivery and qualifications delivered through new and innovative teaching methods. This will create a strong foundation for innovative partnerships between Australian and Indian education providers and pave a way forward for new qualifications.

Actions

2.1

Australian higher education providers will pursue viable opportunities to establish presences in India, including through consortium models.

2.2

The Australian Government and education sector will leverage commercially attractive transnational models to deliver in India, such as those realised through the Australian Government-funded *Developing Critical Skills Courses in India* initiative.

2.3

The Australian Government will work with the Indian Government to implement the *Mechanism for the Mutual Recognition of Qualifications*, including seeking a way forward on full recognition of online learning and educational recognition of professional qualifications.



Objective 3: Encouraging research partnerships in areas of shared benefit

Collaborative research partnerships, including joint projects between Australian and Indian institutions and industry, bring value to both nations. Australia and India can bolster regional research efforts, pursue mutually beneficial commercialisation opportunities, and solve shared problems.

Australia can learn much from India's world leading expertise in research areas such as digital technologies, space, medical devices, advanced manufacturing and agriculture. With more than 90 per cent of Australia's universities undertaking research rated world standard or higher, Australian providers are also well positioned to be the research partner of choice for India.



Australia-India research relationship

Australia is India's sixth largest research partner. Australia and India have had almost 20,000 joint publications in the last five years. The top five subject areas of research collaboration are:

- Biomedical and clinical sciences (29.3 per cent)
- Engineering (27.0 per cent)
- Physical sciences (12.5 per cent)
- Biological sciences (12.0 per cent)
- Health sciences (11.7 per cent)

Case study: Australia India Water Centre

The Australia India Water Centre (AIWC) brings together a consortium of 27 academic institutions, government entities, and industry stakeholders from both nations, pooling their expertise to tackle water security challenges and promote sustainable water management practices.

AIWC conducts cutting-edge research, knowledge exchange, a post-graduate program, and capacity-building efforts, addressing critical areas such as water conservation, integrated resource management, and climate resilience.

AIWC exemplifies the potential of international cooperation to find innovative water security solutions.



A range of existing initiatives strengthen research ties between Australia and India:

- The long-standing **Australia-India Strategic Research Fund**, jointly administered by the Australian and Indian Governments, provides grants to Australian researchers and organisations to collaborate with Indian counterparts on joint projects, workshops, fellowships and other collaborative activities. Established in 2006, the program has provided more than AU\$100 million to support over 350 research projects and other initiatives in areas of shared priority, including agriculture, medical research, and clean energy technologies.
- The **Australian Researcher Cooperation Hub India** works to increase research collaboration between Australia and India by providing information for researchers and institutions on funding opportunities and areas of research strength for each country.
- The **Australia-India Research Student Fellowships** enable Australian and Indian research students and early career researchers to build networks by supporting two-way student and academic mobility between Australia and India for the purposes of short-term research.
- Through the **Quad Advancing Innovation to Empower Nextgen Agriculture (AI-ENGAGE)** initiative, science agencies from Australia and India, along with the United States and Japan, are supporting joint research in cutting edge areas such as artificial intelligence (AI), robotics and communications.
- The Australia India Institute's **Australia India 'Unnati' Research Collaboration Grants program**, funded by the Australian Government Department of Education, provides research funding to build collaboration in food and water security, healthcare, environmental change and energy frontiers, and digital humanities and intelligent futures.

India's large-scale demand for qualified researchers can be partially met by increased numbers of Australian-trained and experienced researchers moving or returning to India to undertake high quality research.

India and Australia have similar rates of mobility between industry and academia, which can be improved to strengthen cross sectoral relationships and drive greater research commercialisation outcomes. Australian initiatives such as the National Industry PhD Program and Trailblazer Universities Program can inform Indian research commercialisation efforts, while Australia can learn from India's cost-effective approach to research upscaling.



Case study: Australia-India Strategic Research Fund novel approach for processing hazardous electronic waste project

Professor Veena Sahajwalla, Director of the Centre for Sustainable Materials Research and Technology (SMaRT) at the University of New South Wales (UNSW) Sydney, led a joint research team with the Institute of Minerals and Materials Technology (IMMT) in India investigating better, safer and more environmentally friendly ways to recycle electronic waste (e-waste).

In their research, Professor Sahajwalla and her team made a major scientific breakthrough underpinned by precise control of processing conditions, including temperature. This research laid the foundations of a 'zero waste' novel approach for managing and recycling e-waste and made significant contributions towards recovering a range of valuable materials from a variety of e-waste. UNSW has taken the work further and unveiled a unique low-cost microfactory technology that transforms e-waste into high value materials and products like filaments for 3D printing, where the filaments are made entirely from e-waste plastics.

Actions

3.1

The Australian higher education sector will develop a roadmap identifying priority opportunities for research collaboration under India's NEP.

3.2

The Australian Government, through the Australia India Institute, will fund new research initiatives with positive systemic impacts on the bilateral research relationship.

Pillar 3: Enhancing people-to-people links, mobility and employability

Australia and India benefit from deep people-to-people links between students, researchers, and academics forged through both inbound and outbound education mobility. These links strengthen the connection between our countries and provide benefits to Australia and India's communities and economy.



Objective 4: Supporting mobility of students, researchers and academics of both countries

Mobility programs, at both the government and institutional level, provide rich learning experiences for Australian and Indian students, researchers and academics. They expose students to different cultures, build personal and professional connections, facilitate collaboration and help create globally minded graduates. Initiatives such as the Destination Australia Program, which supports international students to study in regional Australia, and the New Colombo Plan, which supports Australian students to study abroad, contribute to student mobility between Australia and India. The Australian Government, through the Centre for Australia-India Relations, will also offer Maitri Scholarships to top Indian students to study PhD and Masters by research programs in Australia in 2024.

The Maitri Scholarships are part of a broader Maitri Program committed by the Australian Government in March 2022 under the IES Update to foster Australia-India cooperation, creativity, understanding and exchange.

New Colombo Plan

Since 2014, almost 8,000 Australian undergraduates have undertaken study and work-based experiences in India under the New Colombo Plan.



29

scholarships



7,831

mobility grants

The Australian education sector will play a key role in the recently announced *Migration and Mobility Partnership Arrangement* between Australia and India, reinforcing opportunities for the mobility of students, graduates, researchers, and academics for work and study. Our countries can leverage mobility arrangements to address workforce pressures and bolster our respective research workforces, including through programs such as the Mobility Arrangement for Talented Early-professionals ('MATES') scheme.



Case study: Monash University Global Immersion Guarantee (GIG)

Monash University's GIG initiative is a funded international study program that takes students to one of eight countries, including India, at the end of their first year of study. GIG students focus on topics exploring the human impact on the environment, society, and technology. GIG receives support through the Australian Government's New Colombo Plan.

Three Indian institutions participate in the GIG, providing Australian students with the opportunity to learn from local academics, non-government organisations (NGOs), and businesses. Students doing the GIG program in Mumbai or Delhi work with local students and leaders to better understand and address some of the region's most pressing challenges. They might participate in field visits to small NGOs implementing local community response, attend workshops focused on sustainability and young people, receive a consulate briefing on the role of students in Australia-India relations, or visit to local cultural and historical sites before their final assessment and group presentations.

Alumni of mobility programs become powerful advocates for the relationship between India and Australia. They join a broader Australia-India alumni network who are current and future leaders, influencers and change-makers. The Australian Government and sector can ensure continuing connection with Indian student alumni, including through developing alumni strategies, building alumni engagement into the design and delivery of mobility programs, and connecting students to broader alumni networks at the completion of their study program.

Actions

4.1

The Australian Government and education providers will leverage existing mechanisms to enable mobility opportunities, including for Australian students to study in India.

4.2

The Australian Government and education sector will strengthen Australia-India alumni networks, including through developing alumni strategies and prioritising alumni engagement in mobility and research collaboration programs.





Objective 5: Preparing Australian and Indian students for the global workforce

The vast majority of future jobs across India and Australia will require post-school qualifications, making higher education key in developing a highly skilled and mobile global workforce. With targeted initiatives to drive better education to employment transitions, Australia and India can help one another secure the skilled graduates needed to drive national growth and productivity.

Shared workforce challenges for Australia and India, such as in teaching, health and clean energy, can be eased through collaborative education solutions. Options for further exploration include delivery of joint degrees, such as joint teaching and nursing degrees that meet registration requirements in both countries, increasing the global pool of skilled graduates.



Case study: Central Queensland University (CQU) Infosys partnership

In March of 2023, CQU signed a Memorandum of Understanding with India's Infosys Limited. The agreement aims to strengthen collaborative efforts on training, education, and upskilling. It will see CQU offer short course modules on economics, finance, and journalism followed by full degree courses through Infosys' learning platforms, Springboard and Wingspan. Short course modules are available to all Indian nationals free of charge, and will assist in making Australian education more accessible to university students, graduates and citizens across the country. Additional courses will also be delivered to Infosys' corporate partners in areas such as allied and public health to help upskill staff and meet the demand for accredited CQU qualifications. This initiative helps deliver on an agenda to make Australian education more accessible in India.

Australia's business community will play a crucial role in ensuring the successful education to employment transition of Indian graduates in Australia. The forward work program of the Australia India CEO Forum's Education working group is one avenue which is expected to drive improved employability for Indian students and graduates through enhanced industry engagement, increased work-integrated learning opportunities, and greater awareness among Australian employers of employment opportunities for skilled Indian graduates.

The education to employment transition is also supported by education providers through employability skills and work-integrated learning, providing students with practical skills and experience relevant to their course of study, including internships, placements and projects. By leveraging industry partnerships, education providers can help to ensure Australian and Indian graduates have the skills employers need.

Actions

5.1

The Australian Government will identify opportunities for Australian education providers to collaborate with Indian counterparts to increase the pool of qualified graduates in areas of mutual need.

5.2

The Australian education sector will increase focus on employability skills for international students through Australian course offerings.



Measuring success

The Australian Government and education sector will work with Indian counterparts to drive implementation of this strategy across the three strategy pillars. To measure the strategy's success, the Government will draw on a range of key indicators, such as:

- Institutional partnerships
- Joint research publications
- Australian foreign campuses in India
- Student experience and employability outcomes
- Government-to-government policy dialogues
- Increased recognition of qualifications
- Scholarship and mobility programs
- Alumni engagement
- Indian student enrolments

The Australia-India education partnership is ripe with opportunity to help meet both our countries' education and workforce needs now and into the future. This strategy demonstrates Australia's commitment to elevate and strengthen Indian partnerships to realise these opportunities.





Summary of actions

Pillar 1: Delivering mutual benefits through education

Objective 1

Strengthening education delivery to bolster India's education reform agenda

- 1.1**  The Australian Government will work with the Government of India as it adjusts regulatory settings in order to strengthen delivery opportunities for Australian and Indian providers in each country.
- 1.2**  The Australian education sector will continue to prioritise quality delivery and student experience in education offerings to Indian students, regardless of location and delivery method.

Pillar 2: Strengthening institutional partnerships and research collaboration

Objective 2

Enhancing innovative partnerships to strengthen Australia and India's higher education capabilities

2.1



Australian higher education providers will pursue viable opportunities to establish presences in India, including through consortium models.

2.2



The Australian Government and education sector will leverage commercially attractive transnational models to deliver in India, such as those realised through the Australian Government-funded *Developing Critical Skills Courses in India* initiative.

2.3



The Australian Government will work with the Indian Government to implement the *Mechanism for the Mutual Recognition of Qualifications*, including seeking a way forward on full recognition of online learning and educational recognition of professional qualifications.

Pillar 2: Strengthening institutional partnerships and research collaboration

Objective 3

Encouraging research partnerships in areas of shared benefit

3.1



The Australian higher education sector will develop a roadmap identifying priority opportunities for research collaboration under India's NEP.

3.2



The Australian Government, through the Australia India Institute, will fund new research initiatives with positive systemic impacts on the bilateral research relationship.

Pillar 3: Enhancing people-to-people links, mobility and employability

Objective 4

Supporting mobility of students, researchers and academics of both countries

4.1



The Australian Government and education providers will leverage existing mechanisms to enable mobility opportunities, including for Australian students to study in India.

4.2



The Australian Government and education sector will strengthen Australia-India alumni networks, including through developing alumni strategies and prioritising alumni engagement in mobility and research collaboration programs.

Pillar 3: Enhancing people-to-people links, mobility and employability

Objective 5

Preparing Australian and Indian students for the global workforce

5.1



The Australian Government will identify opportunities for Australian education providers to collaborate with Indian counterparts to increase the pool of qualified graduates in areas of mutual need.

5.2



The Australian education sector will increase focus on employability skills for international students through Australian course offerings.

