



International education and skills strategic framework

International students are an incredibly important part of our economy and our communities, and we need to ensure the sector is sustainable and set up for the future.

The Australian Government will develop a new International Education and Skills Strategic Framework for a managed system to deliver sustainable growth in international education over time.

The Framework will support the sustainability, quality and integrity of our world-class international education sector.

The Government will consult with the international education sector on all aspects of the [draft Strategic Framework](#) and release the final Framework later this year.

Why is this important?

Rapid growth in international education, particularly post-pandemic, has given rise to integrity issues and undermined the sector's reputation for quality.

Recent reviews have also highlighted exploitative practices which undermine Australia's international education sector, including a sharp increase in fraudulent visa applications.

Developing a new Framework will consolidate actions Government has already taken to improve the integrity of the sector and involve the sector through consultation on how Government will manage the system to deliver sustainable growth over time.

How will this initiative work?

Australia's international education system must have the right settings to provide the highest quality student experience and maintain Australia's world-class reputation for delivering education. The Government has released a draft International Education and Skills Strategic Framework and will consult with the sector.

The development of the new Strategic Framework will support:

- an international education sector built on quality and integrity
- a managed system to deliver sustainable growth over time, and

- Australian providers to take our high-quality education and training to the world.

Legislative Reform

As part of the new Framework, the Government will bring forward legislative amendments to the *Education Services for Overseas Students Act 2000* (ESOS Act). The legislation will enable the Minister for Education to set an allocation for the maximum number of new international student enrolments education providers can offer.

For vocational education, these allocations will be set based on advice from the Minister for Skills and Training.

The legislation will also deliver important reforms to strengthen the integrity and quality of international education, including the power to:

- Limit cross-ownership and collusive behaviours between providers and education agents through the strengthened fit and proper provider test.
- Pause applications for registration from new international education providers and of new courses from existing providers for periods of up to 12 months.
- Require new providers seeking registration to demonstrate a track record of quality education delivery to domestic students before they are allowed to recruit international students.
- Cancel dormant provider registrations to prevent them being used as a market entry tool by unscrupulous actors.
- Prevent providers under serious regulatory investigation from recruiting and delivering courses to international students.
- Improve the sharing of data relating to education agents.
- In addition, the Government will amend the *National Code of Practice for Providers of Education and Training to Overseas Students 2018* to prohibit the payment of agent commissions on student transfers between providers in Australia to remove incentives for unscrupulous agents and providers to 'poach' students.

Managing the system to deliver sustainable growth over time

The Framework outlines the Australian Government's approach to deliver sustainable growth across the international education sector over time.

Details underpinning this approach to managing the system will be informed by targeted consultation with the sector and consider factors such as a university's supply of purpose-built student accommodation, and the contribution of enrolments to meeting Australia's skills needs.

This will help provide certainty about student growth for Australian education providers, particularly in the regions, and enable Australia's international education providers to better support Australia's skills needs.

Student accommodation

Providing enough housing for domestic and international students is also a core part of university planning. Universities have drawn significant revenue from international students over many years, but the development of new purpose-built student accommodation has not kept pace.

The Framework will help to ensure students have access to affordable student accommodation by requiring universities to consider how to provide appropriate levels of new student housing to support future growth.

Who will benefit?

Developing a new International Education and Skills Strategic Framework will put Australia on the front foot to ensure the sustainability, quality and integrity of our world-class international education sector.

The Framework will provide a path for the Government to work with the sector to help it grow international education sustainably, so it continues to deliver benefits to our economy, communities and international students well into the future.

These changes are designed to support better student experience for all students, and to provide confidence to students and families considering an investment in an Australian education.

The Framework will also work to expand the reach of Australia's institutions offshore so that the sector can take more Australian education and training to the world.