

Q20.

Australian Strategy for International Education consultation submission

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Q1. Name *

Nayonika Bhattacharya

Q2. Organisation *

UNSW Student Representative Council

Q3. Occupation/role at the organisation (if applicable)

UNSW SRC General Secretary

Q4. Contact email address *

[REDACTED]

Q5. Contact phone number

Q6. 1 - What do you see as the key priorities for a new Australian strategy for international education? [limit to 500 words]

Australian education must focus on the following key priorities: 1. Expansion of international education to an online medium. In the current climate, where International student enrolments have exponentially dropped because of visa and border restrictions, it is important to improve the availability, accessibility and reliability of online learning platforms and portals across tertiary education providers in Australia. To continue engaging with international students around the world, it is important to ensure that these online platforms of engagement can accommodate different learning styles. International education must move towards facilitating stronger independent learning with a strong focus on Australian work contexts and highly sought after skills that make Australian graduates globally sought after. 2. Improvement of existing student support services. Engagement with students who have commenced their degrees while they are overseas must be supported through student support services at their educational institutions. Academic skills support, Wellbeing and Assessment support and Inter-culture online inclusion programs play a key role in key participation and integration of overseas students in the academic field and classroom context. 3. Extensions of student visa and post-study work visa availabilities once border restrictions are eased. International students who are currently offshore and have commenced the degrees while overseas, who have been granted their student visas to commence their degrees, must be given the option to extend their student visas upon completion of their degrees to gain Australian work experience and have Work Integrated learning opportunities. This extension must not be attached to a financial cost as these students have already borne these costs without being able to enjoy the Australian educational experience. 4. Inclusion of international educational institutions and greater cross-institutional study options. Engagement with key partner, regional and emerging educational institutions is a fantastic opportunity to improve and further diplomatic relations and widen the breadth of educational options offered to students commencing their degrees in Australia.

Q7. 2 - Students should be at the centre of the new Strategy. How can Australian education providers deliver the best possible student experience both now and in the future? [limit to 500 words]

For students to be at the forefront of having a positive Australian education experience, the following criteria are important: 1. Making online education, classroom content, textbooks and key educational material accessible online via tertiary education websites, at affordable e costs. 2. Setting up international student inclusion programs and events online for greater discussion of international student barriers. 3. Lowering academic, SSAF and other Australian education costs as students are currently overseas and unable to freely, openly and frequently access in-person tertiary support services. 4. Create clear community-driven information and awareness on legal, employment, tenancy. educational rights and obligations for international students. Setup mandatory 6 monthly check-ins between the educational institution and the student to ensure there are proper academic progress, support and wellbeing check-ins are carried out so students do not stand the risk of failing courses 5. Setup community, local council, state government-wide support networks and check-in centres for the student to physically be able to visit or have the opportunity to set up teleconference appointments. 6. Set up international student consultations every 3-4 years with key stakeholders, institutions and make it freely accessible for international students to continuously contribute to it. 7. Expand the list of countries, work categories and regional areas international students can work and gain experience in. Develop more workplace opportunity visas, student visas with extension opportunities for stronger and more competitive applications to be sent in. 8. Allow international students to work beyond 40 hours a fortnight within reasonable restrictions with full workplace rights to ensure they can make the most out of their learning opportunity. They should still have strong academic requirements and expectations to be met to prevent workplace exploitation from taking place.

Q8. 3 - What changes are needed to make Australia more globally competitive over the next decade? [limit to 500 words]

The following changes play a key role in making Australia the global leader: 1. The availability of internationally recognised short courses, diplomas, competitions and Fellowships to increase the diversity of the intelligence pool we have applying at Australian universities. 2. Managing competitive visa entry requirements, increasing types of visas available and streamlining the application process to reduce application delays, extra and or double costs. 3. Ensure stronger student safety and community awareness. Ensure students have academic, skills and financial support. Provide room for part-time study for international students under exceptional circumstances. Include dental and physiotherapy in private health insurance schemes for international students.

Q22. 3.1 - Policy and regulatory flexibility are important in enabling providers to innovate. How can we utilise these settings to pursue opportunities, and in what other ways can we work together to ensure Australia remains globally competitive? [limit to 500 words]

Q21.

4 - How can providers, governments and stakeholders work together to achieve diversification opportunities (for example of disciplines, source countries, study destinations and delivery models)? [limit to 500 words]

Q9.

5 - What are the necessary skills for the future that students should be prepared for? [limit to 500 words]

The following skills are crucial to stand out in the global market: 1. Strong technical understanding, practical experience and application skills of this knowledge for technical degrees and fields of work. 2. Strong academic skills and knowledge for theory-heavy courses with the capability to critically engage with content and global fellowship opportunities. 3. Commerciality and Customer-centric attitude. As a heavy service-driven nation, these skills help international students provide world-class customer skills. This creates an opportunity for Australians to pave the way in the service and consumer experience industry and raise the bar.

Q10.

5.1 - How can Australia improve employability outcomes for international students, ensuring students have the necessary the skills to compete in a globally competitive labour market? [limit to 500 words]

Q11.

6 - How do we create a uniquely Australian education experience? [limit to 500 words]

Q12.

6.1 - What is our value proposition for both international and domestic students? [limit to 500 words]

Q13.

6.2 - How do we offer an Australian education experience while complementing the value of Australian offshore and online education? [limit to 500 words]

Q14.

7 - What else should the Council for International Education and the Australian Government consider in developing a new strategy? [limit to 500 words]

Q15.

8 - Do you have any additional comments or feedback to share?

Q19.

If you wish to upload a document to support your submission, including a document answering the discussion questions, please upload it here.

Q16.

Do you give the Department of Education, Skills and Employment permission to publish your submission on its website? *

- Yes – publish my submission with my name
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