



AUSTRALIA



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EducationUSA Advising in Australia

The five EducationUSA Advising centers in Australia, located in Canberra, Sydney, Melbourne, Brisbane and Perth, were established in 1989. Each office is autonomous with oversight provided by the Office of Public Affairs, U.S. Embassy, Canberra and funding (in part) from the U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs.

Together the EducationUSA Centers serve a population of 20 million in a country the same size as the continental U.S. All centers are open part time providing 60 hours of student advising a week. A unique feature of the EducationUSA network in Australia is that most advisers are volunteers, several of whom have been involved with the network since 1989.

The EducationUSA Centers provide advising through telephone, e-mail, individual appointments and group information programs (such as predeparture orientations) as well as outreach activities at high schools and universities, with the aim of strengthen students' applications and assisting them in navigating the U.S. college admission process. The majority of inquiries relate to undergraduate and graduate study options, financial assistance, admissions tests and sports scholarship opportunities.

In 2002 the five U.S. centers formed *Team Australia* with the goal to make the centers more efficient, effective, consistent and coordinated across Australia, through the sharing of resources, knowledge, and skills.

In 2003 EducationUSA Australia received the ETS Excellence Award for Overseas Educational Advising Centers. The award recognized the Centers outstanding and innovative initiatives and the important role it plays in the field of international educational exchange in Australia.

Australian Students in the U.S.

In academic year 2005/06, there were 2,806 students from Australia studying in the United States (up 5.5 % from the previous year).

- **Academic Level.** The majority of Australian students study at the undergraduate level. In 2005/06, their breakdown was as follows:

34.6% graduate students
 49.6% undergraduate
 15.8% other

Historical trends.

Year	# of Students From Australia	# of US Study Abroad Students Going to Australia
2005/06	2,806	n/a
2004/05	2,659	10,816 (down 5.3%)
2003/04	2,706	11,418
2002/03	2,777	10,691
2001/02	2,707	9,456
2000/01	2,645	8,066
1999/00	2,617	6,329
1998/99	2,436	5,368
1997/98	2,308	4,355
1996/97	2,206	3,870
1995/96	2,244	3,313
1994/95	2,247	3,346

Note: Study abroad figures in the Open Doors report reflect credit given by U.S. campuses in the survey year to their students who studied abroad in the academic year just completed, including the summer term. Study abroad in 2005/06 will be reported in the 2006/07 Open Doors, once credit is awarded by the home campus.

Source: *Open Doors: Report on International Educational Exchange*, published annually by IIE with support from the U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs.

Australian Education System

Schooling in Australia starts with a preparatory year followed by 12 years of primary and secondary school. In the final year of secondary school, Year 12, students prepare for a government-endorsed certificate that is recognized for further study by all Australian universities and vocational education and training institutions. This Senior Secondary Certificate of Education, recognized for entry into many international universities. The language of instruction in Australian educational institutions is English

Education in Australia is primarily regulated by the individual state governments. Generally education in Australia follows the three-tier model which includes Primary education (Primary Schools grades K-6), followed by Secondary education (Secondary Schools/High Schools grades 7-12) and Tertiary education (Universities and TAFE [Technical And Further Education] Colleges).

School system

Preschool education is commonly one year in length and is not compulsory. School education is thirteen years and divided into:

- a preparatory year before Year 1: not compulsory but almost universally undertaken

- primary schooling: six or seven years—Years 1-6 or 1-7
- secondary schooling: five or six years—Years 7-12 or 8-12

Children start in the preparatory year at around five years of age although in some States the starting age is closer to four years.

School education is compulsory until the age of 15 or 16. By this age, students usually have completed Year 9 but more commonly Year 10.

Education is compulsory up to an age specified by legislation; this age varies from state to state but is generally 15-17, that is prior to completing secondary education.

The academic year in Australia varies between states and institutions, but generally runs from late January until mid-December for primary and secondary schools and TAFE colleges, and from late February until mid-November for universities.

Universities

Post-compulsory education is regulated within the Australian Qualifications Framework, a unified system of national qualifications in schools, vocational education and training (TAFE) and the University. Higher education is a nationally-consistent system offered by Australia's 39 universities and other accredited higher education institutions which together provide programs that lead to the following qualifications:

- Diplomas
- Advanced Diplomas and Associate degrees
- Bachelor degrees (usually 3-year degrees)
- Graduate Certificates and Diplomas
- Master degrees
- Doctoral degrees

In 2006 there were 270,000 international students undertaking education and training courses at Australian schools, universities and vocational institutions.

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