

AUSTRALIA

Australia's secondary and tertiary (tertiary education is formal, non-compulsory, education that follows secondary education) education system is made up of high schools, senior colleges, vocational institutes and universities. Australia has 38 public (government-funded) and three private universities. The 41 universities range in size from about 3,000 to 50,000 students and are located around the country in both rural and urban settings.

Undergraduate and postgraduate programs are offered in a wide variety of subjects. Vocational institutes offer a range of qualifications that give you practical skills and industry experience to boost your career. These types of vocational courses are offered at government-funded Technical and Further Education (TAFE) institutes. There are over 100 TAFE institutes in more than 1,100 locations across Australia.

Since Australia is located in the Southern Hemisphere, the academic year is different. For universities on a semester system, first semester starts in mid-February and ends in late June; second semester starts in mid-July and ends in late November.

Australia has a unique approach to non-university post-secondary education. Vocational courses are provided at both the government-funded Technical and Further Education (TAFE) institutes and at private institutions.

Many vocational programs are closely linked with industry, making courses very practical and skill-based. Others are more "pathway" focused, allowing students to continue forward to university.

TAFE institutions offer a wide range of courses in a near limitless array of fields, such as tourism and hospitality, aviation, healthcare, and building or construction - to name a few.

Please note that for certain professional degrees – such as engineering, teaching or medicine – the bachelor's degree can be four years or longer, with honours given to students who do exceptionally well.

If you are not an Australian national you would normally have to apply through IDP.

www.idp.com

Students applying for undergraduate courses require the overseas equivalent of an Australian Senior School Certificate. For students from the British system, this is three passes at GCE A Levels in appropriate subjects. Some courses also have certain pre-requisite subjects.

Some courses are more competitive than others, and you should read the university profiles page and contact the university to find out the exact entry requirements and application deadlines for the course you are interested in. Most Australian universities expect you to take the IELTS whether you have 2nd or first language IGCSE English. Check the university website.

If you are not an Australian national you would normally have to apply through IDP. IDP Education Australia is a global organization with more than 90 locations throughout the world helping you with advice and the application process to universities in Australia (and its free!) If you are an Australian national you apply directly to the university.

<http://www.idp.com>

<http://www.australian-universities.com>

<http://studyinaustralia.gov.au>