

STUDY GUIDE

# AUSTRALIA



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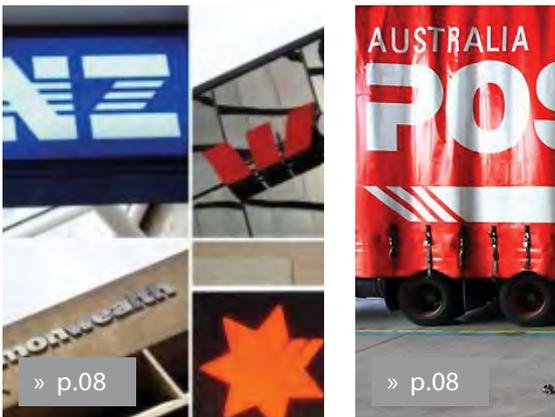
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Australia is officially the Commonwealth of Australia. It is a country that consisting the mainland of the Australian continent, the island of Tasmania, and several smaller islands. The neighboring countries are Indonesia, East Timor and Papua New Guinea to the north; the Solomon Islands, Vanuatu and New Caledonia to the north-east; and New Zealand to the south-east.

Australia consists a land area of approximately 7.692 million square kilometers. It is the world's sixth largest country after Russia, Canada, China, the United States of America and Brazil. It is also the only one of the largest six nations that is completely surrounded by sea as the Indian and Pacific oceans. It is separated from Asia by the Arafura and Timor seas, with the Coral Sea lying off the Queensland coast, and the Tasman Sea lying between Australia and New Zealand.

Australia has six states such as New South Wales, Queensland, South Australia, Tasmania, Victoria, and Western Australia and two major mainland territories as the Northern Territory and the Australian Capital Territory (ACT).

Each of the state and major mainland territory has its own parliament— unicameral in the Northern Territory, the ACT, and Queensland, and bicameral in the other states. The states

are sovereign entities, although subject to certain powers of the Commonwealth as defined by the Constitution.

Australia is a safe, friendly and harmonious country. Political unrest is limited in Australia, crime rates are low and strict gun control laws provide a safe environment. Australians value the wealth of cultural diversity and social sophistication that international students bring to our campuses and communities.

Australians are open, friendly people and always provide warm welcome to everyone. You may find yourself struck by the friendliness and hospitality of the people once you arrived, just to imagine: “you’ve left your country behind, yet somehow, you’ve arrived home”.



## Country Info

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# Country Info

TIME, WEATHER, LANGUAGES, CURRENCY

## AUSTRALIA TIME ZONE

Australia spans three time zones, but the ACT, New South Wales, Victoria, South Australia and Tasmania also operate daylight saving which usually begins from the last weekend in October and runs to the first weekend in April.

South Australia: GMT + 9.5 (GMT + 10.5 from first Sunday in October to first Sunday in April).

Tasmania: GMT + 10 (GMT + 11 from first Sunday in October to first Sunday in April).

Queensland: GMT + 10 (no daylight saving). Victoria: GMT + 10 (GMT + 11 from first Sunday in October to first Sunday in April).

New South Wales: GMT + 10 (GMT + 11 from first Sunday in October to first Sunday in April)

Australian Capital Territory: GMT + 10 (GMT + 11 from first Sunday in October to first Sunday in April).

Western Australia: GMT + 8 (Western Australia rejected daylight saving in its fourth referendum on the issue in 2009).

Northern Territory: GMT + 9.5 hours (no daylight saving).



## AUSTRALIA WEATHER

Australia is in the southern hemisphere and the seasons are opposite to those in Europe and North America. There are two climatic zones: the tropical zone (in the north above the Tropic of Capricorn) and the temperate zone. The tropical zone (consisting of 40% of Australia) has two seasons, summer ('wet') and winter ('dry'), while the temperate zone has all four seasons.

Spring to summer (October to March): Warm or hot everywhere, tropical in the north, and warm to hot with mild nights in the south.

Autumn to winter (April to September): Northern and central Australia have clear warm days and cool nights; the south has cool days with occasional rain but still plenty of sun. Snow is totally confined to mountainous regions of the southeast.

## LANGUAGES

### Languages in Australia

The major spoken language in Australia is English. There are also many other languages retained by minorities, including Italian, German, Greek, Vietnamese, Chinese dialects and Aboriginal languages.

## CURRENCY

### Currency & Denomination

The currency used in Australia is Australian Dollar (AUD; symbol A\$) = 100 cents. Notes are in denominations of A\$100, 50, 20, 10 and 5, while coins are in denominations of A\$2 and 1, and 50, 20, 10 and 5 cents.

### Exchange Rate Indicators

1.00 GBP = 1.56 AUD

1.00 USD = 0.96 AUD

1.00 EUR = 1.23 AUD

\*Currency conversion rates as of 20 September 2012.

Exchange facilities are available for all incoming and outgoing flights at all international airports in Australia. International-class hotels will exchange major currencies for guests. It is recommended that visitors change money at the airport or at city banks.



## SECURITY

### Security in Australia

The current Prime Minister of Australia is Julia Gillard since June, 2010 and she is the first female Prime Minister of Australia. All individual states and territories in Australia have their own autonomous legislative, executive and judicial systems (though certain powers remain under the jurisdiction of the federal government).

## HEAD OF STATE

Australia's Head of State is the Queen of Australia, Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II. Under the Australian Constitution, the executive power of the Commonwealth is vested in the Queen and is exercised by the Governor-General as the Queen's representative. The Governor-General is appointed by the Queen on the advice of the Prime Minister of Australia.

## GOVERNMENT

The bicameral Federal Parliament holds legislative power. Both chambers are elected by universal adult suffrage. The 76-member Senate serves a six-year term, while the House of Representatives is voted in every three years.

The Prime Minister is the leader of the largest party in the Lower House and wields executive power at the head of a Cabinet of Ministers.

The Queen of England is formally head of state, represented locally by a Governor General. Each of Australia's six states also has its own directly elected legislature, enjoying considerable autonomy in areas such as health, education and transport policy.



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## DINING

## Dining in Australia

Seafood is an integral part of the cuisine scene in all its shelled and scaled forms. Production of organic foods is increasing and available in the cities and larger towns. There are fine dining restaurants throughout the larger cities, particularly Melbourne and Sydney, while regional food markets and increasing numbers of food festivals across the states are a great way to sample local produce.



## National specialties:

- Sydney rock oysters.
- Barramundi (freshwater fish).
- Moreton Bay bugs (a shellfish).
- Macadamia nuts.
- Kangaroo.

## National drinks:

- Australian wine, especially Coonawarra, Clare Valley, Barossa Valley, Hunter Valley and Margaret River.
- Australian beer, including Coopers, Cascade, James Squire, Little Creatures and Matilda Bay.



## SHOPPING



## Shopping in Australia

Australians like to shop, as evidenced by the huge variety of local- and international- brand shops, and the crowds that gather at every clearance sale. Big cities can satisfy most consumer appetites with everything from high-fashion boutiques to second-hand emporiums, while many smaller places tend towards speciality retail, be it home-grown produce, antiques or arts and crafts. Be sure to check these places such like Brunswick St, Fitzroy (Melbourne), Oxford St, Paddington (Sydney), Ann & Brunswick Sts intersection, Fortitude Valley (Brisbane) and Oxford St, Leederville (Perth).

Markets are a great place to shop too, especially for a bargain, and most cities have at least one permanent bazaar, such as Hobart's Salamanca Market. Melbourne and Sydney have a couple – do try the Queen Victoria Market in Melbourne or the Paddington Market in Sydney. Alternative markets on the New South Wales north coast, such as the one at Nimbin, are also worth a visit.

Opening hours for most stores in the cities are Mon-Fri 0900-1730, Sat 0900-1700.

Late-night shopping is available on Friday to 2100 in Melbourne, Adelaide, Brisbane, Hobart and Darwin. Also, late-night shopping is available on Thursday at the same times in Sydney, Canberra and Perth.

Major stores in some states are open Sun 1000-1600 while most supermarkets are open until 2000, and are sometimes 24-hour. Corner stores, restaurants and snack bars are open in most cities until well into the night.

## POSTAL SERVICE



### Postal Services in Australia

There are post offices in all the main towns of every state. Stamps are often available at hotel and motel reception areas and selected news-agents.

There are several basic postal services and products that provided by the Australia Post such as prepaid mailing products, packaging products, paper supplies and so on.

**Post office operating hours:** Mon-Fri 0900-1700; some post office are also open Sat 0900-1200.

## BANKING SERVICE

### Banking in Australia

Banking services in Australia are extremely competitive. There are more than 20 local and numerous international banks represented in Australia and all major banks have many branches in each city and regional centre. Major banks in Australia include the Commonwealth Bank, ANZ, Westpac, National Australia Bank (NAB) and St George.

Normal trading hours are 9:30am to 4:00pm on Monday to Thursday and 9:00am to 5:00pm on Fridays. Most of the banks are closed on Saturdays and Sundays, however some institutions are opening for short periods on Saturday mornings.

**Banks operating hours:** Mon-Thurs 0930-1600, Fri 0930-1700. These hours may vary slightly throughout the country.



# ACCOMMODATION

## LIVING IN AUSTRALIA

Depending on your place of study, there are several types of accommodation arrangements you can pursue:

### Homestay: A\$110–270 a week

Homestay is a great way for younger international students to immerse themselves in Australian life, and benefit from the safety and supervision of adults. Meals are usually included in the cost, but self-catering Homestay is sometimes available. Single or shared rooms are available.

Institutions maintain registers of families who board international students during the academic year. Institutions check that these families are reputable and offer accommodation at a reasonable standard.

### Hostels and guest houses: A\$80–135 a week

Hostels are usually run by organisations such as Youth Hostels Australia and the Young Men's Christian Association (YMCA). Students share kitchen and bathroom facilities.

### Shared accommodation: A\$70–250 a week Rental accommodation: A\$100–400 a week

Sharing off-campus accommodation is very popular with international students. You should look for advertisements on campus notice boards and local newspapers. Expect that you will have to provide your own furniture.

When renting a house, apartment or bed sitter, landlords require rent to be paid in advance, and will require a security bond equal to one month's rent.

### Boarding schools: A\$10,000–20,000 a year

Many private secondary schools provide accommodation, meals and laundry services for international students.

*Note: Tuition fees are in addition to the boarding fees.*

### Campus accommodation: A\$80–250 per week

Most universities and some vocational institutions offer a variety of accommodation on or near campus, such as apartments, residential colleges or halls of residence. The cost varies on the type of accommodation.

Residential colleges are slightly more expensive and provide accommodation with meals. They may also have sporting and social facilities, tutoring, libraries and computer facilities.

Halls of residence are located on or near institution campuses. Students usually have meals and some cleaning services provided. Students need to apply early because demand for places is high.

## PROPERTY & REAL ESTATE

### Property & Real Estate Agents

Contact the Australian Real Estate for more information on housing options and current rates.

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# TRANSPORTATION

## PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION

Australia cities have excellent public (and private) transport systems which are very convenient for the people around to travel. There are various public transport in Australia such as bus, ferry, Metro Light Rail & Monorail, train, and etc. Different capital city has its own best public transport to get around and the following is the breakdown list:

### Sydney

Bus, Ferry, Metro Light Rail & Monorail, Train

### Melbourne

Bicycle, Bus, Train, Tram

### Brisbane

Boat, Bus, Train

### Perth

Boat, Bus, Train

### Adelaide

Bus, Train

### Darwin

Bus, Taxi

### Hobart

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### Canberra

Bus





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# COST OF LIVING

## COST OF LIVING AUSTRALIA

For international students, knowing the average living costs in Australia is an important part of your financial preparation. The tuition fees are not the only expenses you need to prepare, you may need to find accommodation, transportation, food, and entertainment.

The annual cost of living in Australia is depends on your daily lifestyle and the type of accommodation you choose. However, A\$400-A\$500 per week is generally the sufficient costs for most students to live comfortably in Australia.

**Here are some of the costs associated with living and studying in Australia:**

General Items	Prices in AU Dollar	Prices in US Dollar
Combo Meal at McDonalds or Similar	A\$ 8	\$ 7.54
Mean at Inexpensive Restaurant	A\$ 16	\$ 15.07
Rent for a Room in City Centre (Shared rental per month)	A\$ 280 to A\$1000	\$ 265 to \$942
Rent for a Room On campus (per week)	A\$ 320 to 1000	\$301 to \$942
One-way Ticket (Local Transport)	A\$ 4	\$3.8
Taxi Start (Normal Tariff)	A\$ 3.80	\$3.58
Gasoline (1 litre)	A\$ 1.50	\$ 1.41
Basic (Electricity, Heating, Water, Garbage) for 85m <sup>2</sup> Apartment	A\$ 200	\$ 188
Internet (6Mbps, Unlimited Data, Cable/ADSL)	A\$ 60	\$ 56.50

*The current exchange rate is one Australian Dollar is equal to ninety-four cent US Dollar.*

As the above table shows some of the monthly and daily expenses that you will face as a student in Australia. Hence, it can help you estimate the general cost of living in Australia.

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# WHY STUDY IN AUSTRALIA

Australia is one of the preferred destinations in terms of education among international students. Australia is more affordable compared to the most other destinations, because it has excellent living condition with friendly and harmonious society, and it is admitted as one of the safest countries in the world.

Generally, Australian universities are known for the quality of their teaching and research, which offers and provides a unique educational experience that encourages students to be innovative, creative, and think independently.

## Here are the reasons to study in Australia:

### Excellence

Australia has a strong reputation for excellence and quality across its higher education and training programs. It is supported with high quality services and modern facilities. Australian institutions offered practical and career-oriented training that let the graduates have a confident skill demanded by employers. On the contrary, Australian institutions have international reputations that are recognized around the world.

### Quality Assurance

Australia's national quality assurance system is unique in its structure and its strictness. The government committed in protecting Australia's reputation as a source of quality education and training. Australia provides the world's most rigorous protection for international students through a government program called ESOS – it is Education Services for Overseas Students Act that provides the regulatory requirements for education and training institutions offering courses to international students in Australia on a student visa.

Hence, any institutions that accept international students will get the rights and other important legislation to protect their international students.

### Multicultural Society

Australia is accepting of all religions and welcomes the wealth of cultural variety that international students bring to the society. The multicultural nature of Australian allows you as an international student to have the opportunity to meet people and make friends from all over the world.

Furthermore, in terms of environment, Australia has a low crime rate and strict gun control laws to

provide a safe environment in looking after international students.

### Earn an income while studying

In Australia, an international student can receive permission to work while studying. The government provides the student work visa that allows you to work 40 hours per fortnight - a period of 14 days commencing on a Monday, and you would be able to work during any fortnight in your course session.

### Employment prospects

One of the best advantages that you can gain by studying in Australia is that your qualification will be recognized as a mark of quality education. Employers in many countries around the world recognize Australian education as a high qualification. Most of the courses and training in Australia are covered by Australian Qualification Framework (AQF) system, which is authorized by the national government. Thus, the Australian qualification will help you to further your career in the future.

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**Shawn Kelly**  
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# GENERAL VISA REQUIREMENTS FOR AUSTRALIA

## DOCUMENTS REQUIRED FOR A STUDENT VISA

The student visa program enables international overseas students to come to Australia to commence full-time study. However, to apply a student visa, you must have been accepted for full-time study in Australian universities or institutions.

There are subclasses of student's visas, based on the education sector of your main course:

Subclasses	Details
<b>Independent ELICOS</b>	English Language Intensive Courses for Overseas Students.
<b>Vocational education and training</b>	Certificate I, II, III and IV; VET diploma; VET advanced diploma.
<b>Higher education</b>	Bachelor degree; associate degree; graduate certificate; masters by coursework.
<b>Postgraduate research</b>	Master by research degree, Doctoral degree
<b>Non-award</b>	Enabling course; non-award foundation studies; other full-time courses or components of courses not leading to an Australian award.
<b>AusAID or Defence</b>	Full-time courses of all types undertaken by AusAID or Defence students sponsored by the Australian Government

### Visa requirements

You must provide evidence to fulfill the assessment criteria that apply to you before you can be granted a student visa. The student visa in Australia depends on your chosen course of study. These are the typical key requirements you will need to fulfill are:

- Issued an electronic Confirmation of Enrolment (eCoE) certificate.
- Meet the Genuine Temporary Entrant requirement.
- Sufficient funds for airfares, course fees and living costs
- English language proficiency
- Acceptable Overseas Student Health Cover (OSHC)

### Online application

The Australian Government offers online lodgements of student visa application for 24 hours a day. For applying online, you must hold a valid passport and a confirmation of enrolment from a registered Australian university.

Nonetheless, you must also be able to pay the visa application using an acceptable credit card. The confirmation of visa condition and requirements will be sent to your email if the visa is granted. Therefore, if your application is exempt from VAC (Visa Application Charge), you will not be able to lodge your visa online.



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# ECONOMIC OUTLAY

## ECONOMIC OUTLAY OF AUSTRALIA

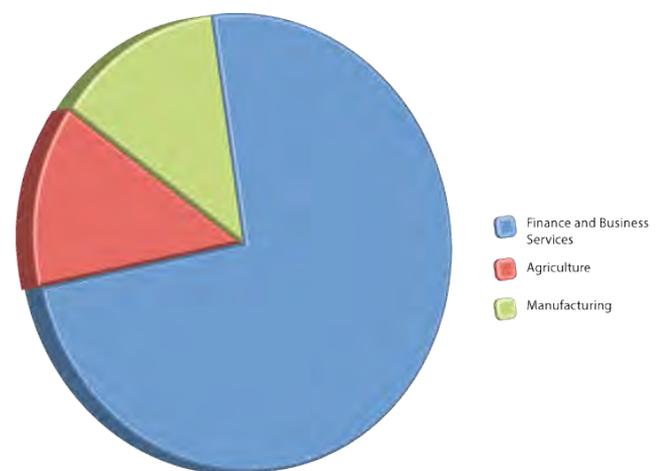


From the early 1980s onwards, the Australian economy has undergone a continuing economic liberalization. In today's world, Australia is one of the largest capitalist economies in the world with a GDP of US\$1.57 trillion. Australia was the 13th largest national economy by nominal GDP in 2011, with a low unemployment rate of 5.6 per cent.

The financial system in Australia has remained stable, whereas makes Australia one of the world's most reliable and attractive environments for entrepreneurs. Even so, The Australian economy is dominated by its service sector (71.4%), industry (24.6%), and Agriculture (4%). However, almost 82 per cent of the workforce in Australia, locals and internationals are employed in service sector. The service sector such as; telecommunication, travel, banking and insurance play an increasingly important role in their international trade and economic growth.

Here is the industry overview based on the distribution of GDP consumption per sector in the economy.

Industry Overview



Based on the chart above, it is crystal clear that the whole GDP consumption is taken within the services sector. Furthermore, this could help student to examine which sector is the most developing and this can also shows that any students considering or having graduated related to the services sector will have no difficulties in finding jobs.



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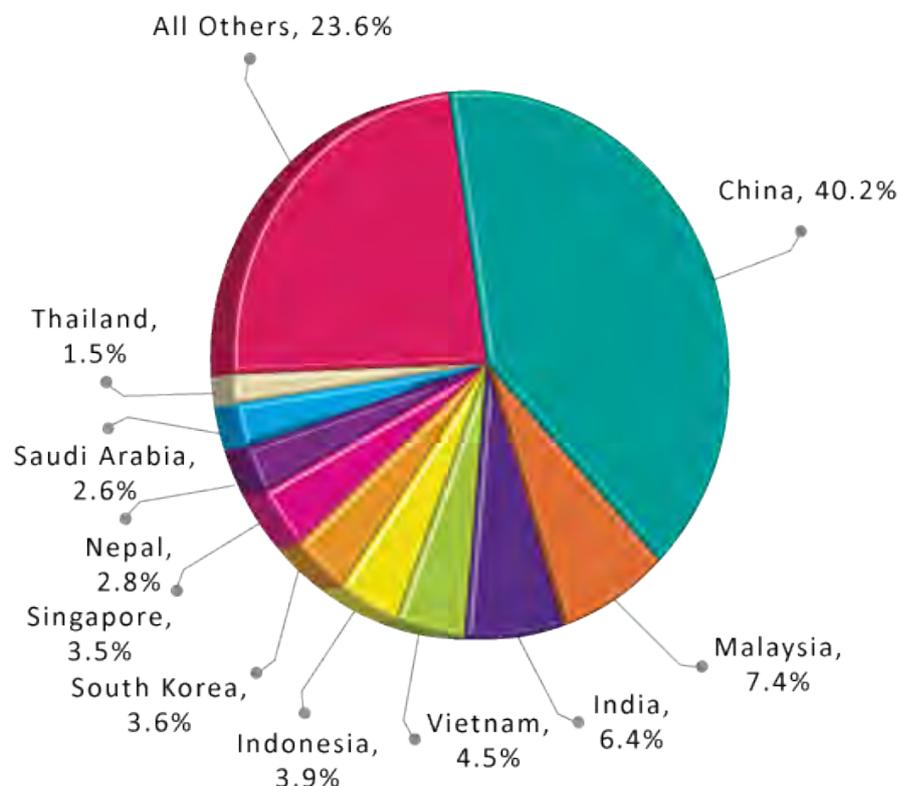
# WHO STUDIES IN AUSTRALIA?

For over the last twenty years, Australia is known as one of the countries with the largest amount of International students among the global education industry.

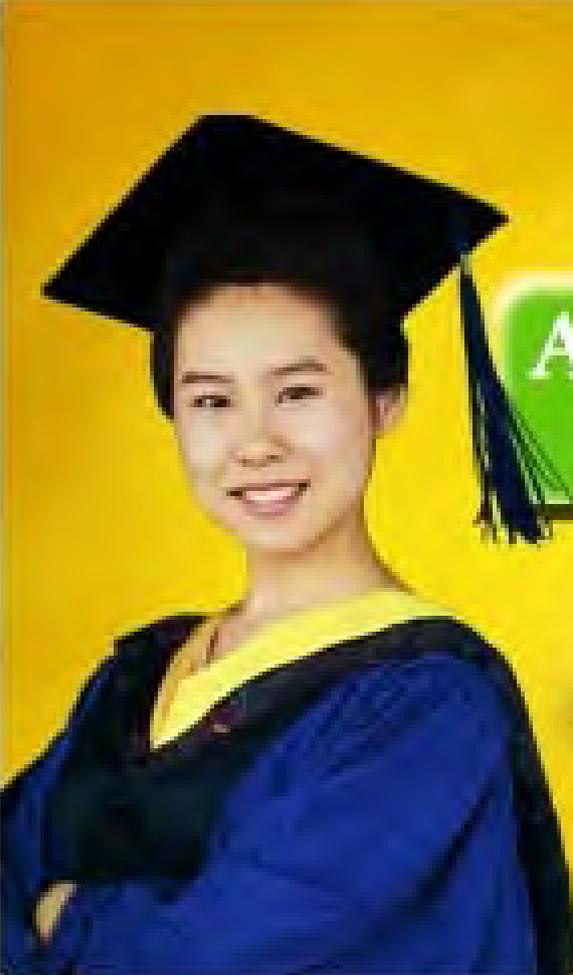
International students help Australia to make a significant improvement to Australian society, diversifying and strengthening Australia's global networks.

There are over 350,000 international students in Australian higher education and education is still the largest services export and import in Australia. Most of the international students in Australia are studying in the higher education sector; there were approximately 242,351 students.

Furthermore, almost 80% of Australia's international students come from Asia, such as; China, Malaysia, India, Vietnam, and Indonesia. In 2011, China was the largest contributor to the higher education sector in Australia - 40.2%, it is almost 159,691. While Malaysia came on the second place with 7.4% and followed by India 6.4%, Vietnam 4.5% also Indonesia 3.9%.



*The chart shows the ratio places of origin of International Students in Australia (Source: Australian Education International, AEI)*



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