



How Australia's visa changes will affect the International Education industry in Australia April 2017

The Federal Government commissioned a report on the value of the international education industry to the Australian market in 2015.

The results were that this industry was worth a massive \$20 billion per year and 130,000 fulltime jobs <https://internationaleducation.gov.au/research/research-papers/Documents/ValueInternationalEd.pdf>

The changes announced last week will change all that. The 457 and permanent visa changes mean that from March 2018 international student graduates will no longer be able to be sponsored by Australian companies without 2 years of work experience. They are recent graduates and so simply will not qualify.

Make no mistake the main goal of a student studying in Australia is a chance to ultimately become a Permanent resident and contribute to our society as a highly skilled young tax payer. With the changes on the 19th April that opportunity has virtually gone and students are not happy.

We surveyed 495 International students from cities all around Australia over the last 7 days to find out their opinion on the changes and more importantly what their views were about studying in Australia

The results are devastating for the Education Sector in Australia as you will see below.

Results so far 495 responses

Average costs spent on courses \$68,000 per student

Average additional living costs in that time \$80,900 per student

Do you feel the government has let you down with all the visa changes to company sponsored and the points test since you arrived ?

93% said YES

If you had known what the current visa rules would be, would you have still chosen Australia to study in ?

89% said NO

If not, then which country would you most likely have studied in instead ?

68% said Canada

Would you recommend to a friend or family that Australia is a good place to study given the visa rules at the moment ?

88% said NO

We asked respondents for comments and we have published 2 below that are typical of the views we received

Nicholas - *What I think every international student will agree on, especially the ones that come from a developed side of the globe and therefore have nothing more than good work opportunities to gain from Australia, is that: if the Government is not going to value and reward the money, culture, diversity and expertise international students bring in, than we will EASILY settle somewhere else. While I agree that every country must act in their own people interests, I also believe that migrants have to look after their own interests as well. Is Australia getting tougher? See ya later mate!*

Alphonsia - *The future is really scary now despite the hard work you do in this country as an international student... A big advice to family n friends back India: Better move to any other country than investing your hard earned money here on studies and other type of visas. Enough of our money we have wasted in this country and at the end what are we getting- only discrimination!*

For the vast majority of international students in Australia the attraction has always been the permanent visa pathways after graduation. The pro rata limitations on the points test and now the requirement of 2 years prior work experience needed for company sponsored visas from March 2018 has left the student population feeling they are unwanted in Australia.

We had not been asked about Canadian migration in 21 years in this industry. Last week alone we were asked 7 times if we could assist students already here to obtain visas to move to Canada. The effect on the number of students who choose to study in Australia and boost our economy will be devastating.

The initial feedback from the education sector are that Universities are in shock with regards what it will do to future enrolments and many colleges will drop courses and be under pressure to close altogether.

This is going to cost Australian billions of foreign income and tens of thousands of jobs in the industry.

Steven O'Neil
Managing Director
Iscah Migration

