

ARRANGEMENT

**ON HIGHER EDUCATION
QUALIFICATIONS RECOGNITION**

BETWEEN

THE GOVERNMENT OF AUSTRALIA

AND

**THE GOVERNMENT OF THE PEOPLE'S
REPUBLIC OF CHINA**

Recalling that under the *Memorandum of Understanding on Cooperation in Education, Training and Higher Education Research between the Government of Australia and the Government of the People's Republic of China* ('the Participants'), signed in Canberra on 12 December 2012 ('2012 MOU'), the Participants established a mechanism to promote cooperative activities in education and to improve student and professional mobility between China and Australia.

Desiring to supplement and extend the general principles set out in the 2012 MOU as provided for by **Paragraph 29** of the 2012 MOU and following on from the previous Arrangement on Higher Education Qualifications Recognition signed on 7 April 2011 the Participants are entering into a new Arrangement on Higher Education Qualifications Recognition ('Arrangement') under which:

The Participants have reached the following understandings:

PARAGRAPH 1: Purpose and Implementing Authorities

- 1.1 The purpose of this Arrangement is to facilitate the recognition of higher education degrees and qualifications as herein described and awarded to students in China and Australia so as to make it easier for those students to pursue further academic studies in Australia and China.
- 1.2 The implementing authorities for this Arrangement are the Ministry of Education of the People's Republic of China (for the Government of China) and the Department of Education (for the Government of Australia).
- 1.3 The implementing authorities of the Participants will designate appropriate bodies to provide information to one another on recognition of academic qualifications, and to make concrete recommendations in accordance with their current regulations and practices to promote academic exchange and cooperation.

PARAGRAPH 2: Scope of Arrangement

- 2.1 The Participants mutually decide that the provisions of this Arrangement will apply to:
 - (a) all Chinese Higher Education Institutions and Research Institutions with degree-and-qualification-awarding authority recognised by the Government of China and
 - (b) all Australian Higher Education Institutions with the authority to award higher education qualifications as listed on the Australian Qualifications Framework.

- 2.2 The Participants respect the autonomy of higher education institutions in China and Australia as bodies that may make their own decisions about the recognition of overseas qualifications and degrees for the purpose of admission to programmes of study.

PARAGRAPH 3: Introduction to the Academic Qualifications Frameworks in China and Australia

CHINA

- 3.1 According to *High Education Law of the People's Republic of China, Academic Degree Regulations of the People's Republic of China, Vocational Education Law of the People's Republic of China*, academic diplomas are inclusive of college diploma, undergraduate certificate, postgraduate certificate, and academic degrees include Bachelor, Master and Doctoral degrees.

College Diploma

- 3.1.1 A person enrolled in high education institutions (including universities, independent colleges, academic colleges and vocational colleges) may be awarded a college diploma upon two to three years of college education.

Bachelor Degree

- 3.1.2 A person enrolled in regular higher education courses may be awarded an undergraduate graduation certificate upon accomplishing four years of university undergraduate education. A qualified student may apply for and obtain a Bachelor degree, provided the institution has the authority to award a Bachelor degree.

- 3.1.3 A person who fails to enter a regular higher education course may also obtain an undergraduate graduation certificate if he/she passes the National Test for Self-Taught Students or meets the relevant requirements of an Adult Higher Education Institution. A qualified person may apply for and obtain a Bachelor degree, provided the institution has the authority to award a Bachelor degree.

Master Degree

- 3.1.4 A Bachelor degree holder may be admitted to a higher education institution or research institution with authority to award a Master degree after passing the National Entrance Test. Upon corresponding time of study and/or research, he/she may obtain a Master degree if qualified; he/she may also apply for and be awarded a Master degree by an institution with authority to award a Master degree by means of part-time study upon corresponding time.

Doctoral Degree

- 3.1.5 A Master degree holder may be admitted to a higher education institution or research institution with authority to award a Doctoral degree after passing the required test. Upon corresponding time of study and/or research, he/she may apply for and obtain a Doctoral degree if qualified; he/she may also apply for and be awarded a Doctoral degree by an institution with authority to award Doctoral degree by means of part-time study for Academic Degree upon corresponding time.
- 3.1.6 Some institutions that have authority to award a Doctoral degree offer from Bachelor-to-Doctor degree awarding programmes. A Bachelor degree holder who is enrolled in such a programme may apply for and be awarded a Doctoral degree after five years of study and/or research.

AUSTRALIA

- 3.2 Detailed descriptions of Australian qualifications are contained in the Australian Qualifications Framework, as reviewed periodically.

Diploma

- 3.2.1 The Diploma provides a broad introduction to an academic discipline by developing academic and employment-related skills. Normally the Diploma requires one to two years of full-time study, and provides the basis for articulation into the relevant Bachelor Degree programmes with one year of advanced standing with specific credit.

Advanced Diploma

- 3.2.2 The Advanced Diploma provides specialised knowledge of one or more academic disciplines by developing academic and advanced employment-related skills. Normally the Advanced Diploma requires one-and-a-half to two years of full-time study, and provides the basis for articulation into the relevant Bachelor Degree programmes with a maximum of two years of advanced standing with specific credit.

Associate Degree

- 3.2.3 The Associate Degree provides the foundational underpinnings of one or more academic disciplines by developing academic skills and generic employment-related skills relevant to a range of employment contexts. Normally the Associate Degree requires two years of full-time study, and provides the basis for articulation into the relevant Bachelor Degree programmes with a maximum of two years of advanced standing with specific credit.

Bachelor Degree

- 3.2.4 The structure of the Australian Bachelor Degree depends on the subject area studied and on the department / faculty concerned. The Bachelor Degree

provides initial preparation for professional careers and postgraduate study. It commonly requires three years of full-time study or the part-time equivalent. A number of Bachelor Degrees are four or more years in duration. Apart from Bachelor Honours Degrees (see below) this is most common in professional education, where additional time may be required to prepare students to operate in a professional context.

Bachelor Honours Degrees

3.2.5 A Bachelor Honours Degree typically requires a total of four years study, with students being usually selected on the basis of outstanding academic achievement in the Bachelor Degree or programme. The additional year normally involves specialised study in one subject involving research and the submission of a thesis.

Graduate Certificate and Graduate Diploma

3.2.6 Graduate Certificates and Graduate Diplomas are generally designed for specific professional purposes, either the broadening of skills and knowledge already gained in an undergraduate programme, or developing skills and knowledge in a new professional area. Although the duration of programmes may vary, the typical requirement is one semester of full time study for the Graduate Certificate and two semesters of full time study for the Graduate Diploma. Entry is normally based on successful completion of a Bachelor Degree.

Master Degree

3.2.7 The Master Degree provides a mastery or high order overview of a relevant field of study or area of professional practice. It varies in length, typically requiring either one year of study following a four-year or Bachelor Honours Degree, or two years following a three-year Bachelor Degree, but requirements differ, depending on the discipline area.

Doctoral Degree

3.2.8 The Doctoral Degree represents the highest level of postgraduate study. In Australia, the Doctoral Degree most commonly undertaken is the Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) which usually involves a searching review of literature, experimentation or other systematic approach to the relevant body of knowledge. The award of this qualification recognises a substantial original contribution to knowledge in the form of new knowledge or significant and original adaptation, or application and interpretation of existing knowledge. It normally requires three years of full-time study following a Master or Bachelor Honours Degree.

3.2.9 Professional Doctorates have the same research focus as PhDs but are oriented towards advanced professional practice, and combine coursework and research. They normally require three to four years of full-time study with entry based on a combined research and coursework Master Degree or a Bachelor Honours

Degree in the First or Upper Second class. In addition significant professional practice either prior to and/or as part of the programme is required.

- 3.2.10 Higher Doctorates are awarded to those who usually have a Doctoral Degree, on the basis of an internationally recognised original contribution to knowledge rather than supervised candidature.

PARAGRAPH 4: Approval for Graduates of Australian Education Institutions to Study in Chinese Higher Education Institutions

- 4.1 The Participants acknowledge that in granting approval for graduates of Australian education institutions to study in Chinese higher education institutions, the higher education institutions in China will be permitted to determine the qualifications, grades and examination results required to enter all courses of study according to their own regulations.
- 4.2 The Participants to this Arrangement acknowledge that:
- (a) a Diploma, Advanced Diploma or Associate Degree holder from an officially recognised higher education institution in Australia may be considered for admission to studies leading to a Bachelor Degree in China subject to the specific requirements of the admitting institution.
 - (b) a Bachelor Degree holder from an officially recognised higher education institution in Australia may be considered for admission to studies leading to a Master Degree in China subject to the specific requirements of the admitting institution.
 - (c) a Graduate Certificate and Graduate Diploma holder from an officially recognised higher education institution in Australia may be considered for admission to studies leading to a Master Degree in China subject to the specific requirements of the admitting institution.
 - (d) a Master Degree holder in Australia may be considered for admission to Doctoral studies in China subject to the relevance of previous studies and the proposed research and the specific requirements of the admitting institutions.

PARAGRAPH 5: Approval for Graduates of Chinese Education Institutions to Study in Australian Higher Education Institutions

- 5.1 The Participants acknowledge that in granting approval for graduates of Chinese Education Institutions to study in Australian higher education institutions, higher education institutions in Australia will be permitted to determine the

qualifications, grades and examination results required to enter all courses of study according to their own regulations.

5.2 The Participants to this Arrangement acknowledge that:

- (a) a College Diploma holder from an officially recognised higher education institution in China may be considered for admission to studies leading to a Bachelor Degree in Australia, subject to the specific requirements of the admitting institution.
- (b) a Bachelor Degree holder from an officially recognised higher education institution in China may be considered for admission to studies leading to a Graduate Certificate, or a Graduate Diploma or a Master Degree in Australia, subject to the specific requirements of the admitting institution.
- (c) a Master Degree holder in China may be considered for admission to Doctoral studies in Australia subject to the relevance of previous studies and the proposed research and the specific requirements of the admitting institutions.

PARAGRAPH 6: Responsibilities of the Joint Working Group

- 6.1 The Participants to this Arrangement acknowledge the existence of, and their participation in, the Joint Working Group on Education and Training ('JWG') which meets every two (2) years.
- 6.2 The functions of the JWG include consideration and action on issues concerning the implementation of the Arrangement and consultation with the Participants including the exchange of information and the continued development of the mutual recognition mechanism of the Participants.

PARAGRAPH 7: Dispute Resolution Mechanism

- 7.1 Any issues that arise regarding the interpretation or implementation of the Arrangement will be resolved by mutual consent of the Participants through the Joint Working Group under Paragraph 6 of the Arrangement.

PARAGRAPH 8: Implementation and amendment of the Arrangement

- 8.1 This Arrangement will come into effect on the date of its signature by both Participants and will remain in effect for an initial period of three (3) years. After the expiry of the initial three years, unless otherwise mutually determined

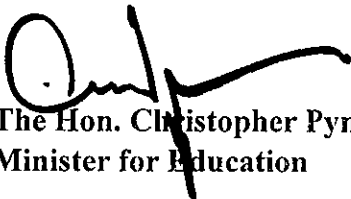
by the Participants, the Arrangement will continue in effect for another three (3) years.

- 8.2 Either Participant may request amendment of the Arrangement in writing. Any amendment mutually determined by the Participants must also be in writing. Any amendment to the Arrangement will come into effect on the date of its signature by both Participants.
- 8.3 The Arrangement may be terminated at any time by either Participant by giving the other Participant six (6) months' notice in writing.

The foregoing represents the understandings reached between the Participants.

Signed in duplicate at Canberra on 17 November 2014, in both English and Chinese languages, both texts having equal validity.

**FOR THE GOVERNMENT OF
AUSTRALIA**



**The Hon. Christopher Pyne MP
Minister for Education**

**FOR THE GOVERNMENT OF
THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA**



**Hao Ping
Vice – Minister for Education**

○

澳大利亚政府

与

中华人民共和国政府

○ 关于相互承认高等教育学历和学位的
协议

○

澳大利亚政府和中华人民共和国政府（以下简称“双方”）于二〇一二年十二月十二日续签了《关于教育、培训与高等教育研究的合作谅解备忘录》（以下简称“2012年谅解备忘录”）。在此基础上，双方建立了合作机制，促进两国教育领域合作，推动两国学生和专业人员交流。

根据“2012年谅解备忘录”第二十九条的相关规定，双方同意续签《关于相互承认高等教育学历和学位的协议》（以下简称“本协议”），并达成共识如下：

第一条 宗旨和实施部门

一、本协议旨在促进澳、中两国相互承认本协议中所描述的高等教育学位和学历，方便获得该学位和学历的学生到对方国家高等教育机构继续学业。

二、澳大利亚教育部代表澳大利亚政府，中华人民共和国教育部代表中国政府负责本协议的实施。

三、双方实施部门将指定适当机构，相互提供学历学位互认信息，并根据各自现行法规和惯例提出具体建议，促进学术交流与合作。

第二条 适用范围

一、双方经相互协商决定本协议适用于：

（一）澳大利亚学历框架指定的具有高等教育学历学位授

予权的所有澳大利亚高等教育机构；

（二）中国政府承认的具有学历学位授予资格的所有中国高等教育机构及研究机构。

二、双方尊重各自高等教育机构在招生时承认海外学历、学位的自主权。

第三条 中国和澳大利亚学历学位结构

一、中国

根据《中华人民共和国高等教育法》、《中华人民共和国学位条例》和《中华人民共和国职业教育法》，中国高等教育学历分为专科、本科和研究生，学位包括学位学士、硕士和博士。

（一）专科

进入高等学校（包括大学、独立设置的学院、高等专科学校和高等职业学校）学习的学生在完成二至三年的专科教育后，可获得高等学校专科学历证书（或毕业证书）。

（二）学士

进入普通高等学校学习的学生在完成相应年限的大学本科教育后，可获得大学本科毕业证书。符合条件的可向有权授予学士学位的单位申请并获得学士学位证书。

未能进入普通高等学校学习的人员，可进入成人高等学校学习或通过国家自学考试，达到相应要求后获得本科毕业证书。符合条件的学生可向有权授予学士学位的单位申请并获得学士

学位证书。

（三）硕士

学士学位获得者，可参加国家统一举行的考试进入到有权授予硕士学位的高等教育机构或科研机构学习，完成相应时限的学习和研究后，符合条件的可获得硕士学位证书；也可在完成相应年限的半脱产学习后向硕士学位授予单位申请并获得硕士学位证书。

（四）博士

硕士学位获得者，可通过相应的考试进入有权授予博士学位的高等教育机构或科研机构学习，完成相应时限的学习和研究后，符合条件的可申请并获得博士学位证书；也可在完成相应年限的半脱产学习后，向博士学位授予单位申请并获得博士学位证书。

部分博士学位授予单位的部分专业采取硕士博士连续培养的办法，学士学位获得者可通过五年的学习和研究，直接申请并获得博士学位。

二、澳大利亚

根据定期审定的澳大利亚学历学位框架，澳大利亚学历学位根据定期审定的澳大利亚学历学位框架，澳大利亚学历学位包括：

（一）专科学历

通过开发学术能力和就业技能，专科学历教育教授学生一个专业的概论。学生获得专科学历一般要经过 1 至 2 年的全日制学习。专科学历教育为学生继续学习相关专业的本科课程提供了基础。获得专科学历的学生，在进入本科相关专业学习时，可直接获得一年的学分免修。

（二）高级专科学历

通过开发学术能力和就业技能，高级专科学历教育教授学生一个或多个专业的专业知识。学生获得高级专科学历一般要经过一年半至 2 年的全日制学习。高级专科学历教育为学生继续学习相关专业的本科课程提供了基础。获得高级专科学历的学生，在进入本科相关专业学习时，可直接获得最多两年的学分免修。

（三）准学位

通过开发学术技能和一系列与就业环境有关的一般就业技能，准学位为一个或多个学科提供基础性支持。学生获得准学位一般要经过 2 年的全日制学习。获得准学位的学生，在进入本科相关专业学习时，可直接获得最多两年的学分免修。

（四）学士学位

澳大利亚的学士学位结构依据学习的课程领域和相关的院系而定。学士学位为学生攻读研究生学位或就业提供基础，通常需要经过 3 年的全日制学习或相应时间的半脱产学习。许多学士学位要经过连续 4 年或更长的时间。除学士荣誉学位外

（见后），学士学位教育在专业教育中最为普遍，但学生可能需要花费更多时间适应职场要求。

（五）学士荣誉学位

学士荣誉学位一般要求经过 4 年的学习，学生一般应在学士学位课程学习中取得优异成绩。增加的一年学习通常包括针对一门专业课的学习、研究并提交论文。

（六）研究生证书和研究生文凭

研究生证书和研究生文凭主要适用于特定专业的学习，如对本科课程中获得的知识和技能的扩展，或者在新的专业领域培养知识和技能。学士学位获得者可进入研究生阶段学习。通常情况下，完成一个学期的全日制学习，可获得研究生证书；完成两个学期的全日制学习，可获得研究生文凭。

（七）硕士学位

硕士学位为学生提供熟练掌握或全面了解某一相关研究领域或专业实践领域的机会。一般情况下，学士荣誉学位获得者，在完成一年研究生课程学习后，或学士学位获得者，在完成二年研究生课程学习后，可获得硕士学位，但不同的学科领域学制要求不同。

（八）博士学位

博士学位代表最高层次的研究生学习。在澳大利亚，最常见的博士学位是哲学博士（PhD），主要包括对相关知识的文献评论、实验研究或其他系统性研究。博士学位的授予对学位获

得者在某一知识领域的重要的独创性贡献予以认可，如提出新的知识，或对现有知识做出重大的独创性的改进、应用和解释。一般要求在取得硕士学位或学士荣誉学位后再经过 3 年的全日制学习。

专业博士学位与博士学位均以研究为重点，但更侧重于高级专业实践，并将课程学习与研究相结合。一般情况下，学生入学时应已获得研究与课程相结合型硕士学位或二等以上的学士荣誉学位，在完成 3 至 4 年的全日制学习后，可获得专业博士学位。此外，还要求在攻读专业博士学位课程前或作为攻读该课程的一部分，有重大的专业实践经验。

通常获得博士学位者，如其在某一知识领域做出独创性贡献，可获得高级博士学位。

第四条 澳大利亚教育机构毕业生

进入中国高等教育机构学习的批准

一、双方明确在允许澳大利亚教育机构毕业生进入中国高等教育机构学习时，中国高等教育机构可依据自身法规决定其学习课程所需学历、入学年级和考试成绩。

二、通过本协议，双方明确以下事项：

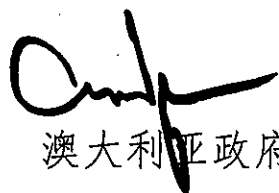
（一）持有官方认可的澳大利亚高等教育机构颁发的专科学历、高级专科学历以及准学士学位者在满足中国学校的具体录取要求的前提下，可以申请攻读中国的学士学位。

双方签字之日起生效。

三、本协议经双方协商可予以终止。任何一方可以书面方式提前6个月通知另一方终止本协议。

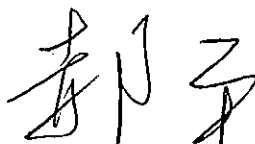
上述事项为双方达成的共识。

本协议于二〇一四年十一月十七日在堪培拉签订，一式两份，每份均用英文和中文写成，两种文本同等作准。



澳大利亚政府

代表



中华人民共和国政府

代表