



# Education Brief – China

September 2018

## Chinese Government Priorities

In January 2017 China's State Council issued the Thirteen Five Year Plan on Education, outlining major objectives and targets for the education sector over the period 2016-2020, including enhancing international cooperation. By the end of 2020, China aims to have strengthened and modernised its education system, and to be in a position to play a more influential role internationally in education. Life-long learning will be supported with faster development of online and distance education, and vocational and continuing education to help meet the growing demand for a more educated and skilled workforce. Individual student learning accounts will be developed, with a new point accumulation system taking into account previous work experience and recognition of prior learning.

Also in January 2017, China released implementation measures to drive the development of [World Class Universities and First-class Disciplines, officially known as the "Double First-Class Initiative"](#). The initiative will see China gradually develop a group of world leading universities and disciplines from 2016 to 2050. A [list of universities and disciplines](#) identified for development was released in September 2017. Further detail can be found on the China pages of [www.internationaleducation.gov.au](http://www.internationaleducation.gov.au)

## Student Mobility

In 2017, there were 184,512 Chinese nationals studying in Australia on a student visa, representing 30 per cent of all international students. More than 70 per cent of Chinese students were enrolled in a higher education course of study. Australia is the second most popular study abroad destination for Chinese higher education students after the United States.

According to the most recent available data from the Chinese Ministry of Education, 5,070 Australian students were studying in China in 2017. The latest *Australian Universities Student Mobility* survey (undertaken by the Australian Universities International Directors' Forum) shows that in 2016 China was the second most popular study abroad destination after the United States for Australian undergraduate students. In 2017, the New Colombo Plan (NCP) supported over 1,200 Australian undergraduate students to study and undertake internships in mainland China, making China the most popular location for NCP supported mobility students in 2017.

## Institutional Agreements

According to Universities Australia survey data, the number of agreements between Chinese and Australian universities covering staff and student exchanges, study abroad and academic/research collaboration increased from 884 to 1,402 between 2012 and 2016, which is more than with any other country. As of December 2017, there are 14 Confucius Institutes and 67 Confucius Classrooms (including independent classrooms and affiliated classrooms) in Australia.

## Chinese-Australian Joint Programs and Schools

Australia currently has around 300 active Chinese-Australian joint education programs and schools across all levels, including 6 joint higher education schools established between Australian and Chinese partners within Chinese host universities:

- **SILC Business School** – Between Shanghai University and University of Technology Sydney
- **Asia-Australia Business College of Liaoning University**- Between Liaoning University and Victoria University
- **Southeast University-Monash University Joint Graduate School(Suzhou)**- Between Southeast University and Monash University
- **Westa College, Southwest University**- Between Southwest University, University of Western Australia and University of Tasmania
- **Central China Normal University Wollongong Joint Institute**- Between Central China Normal University and University of Wollongong
- **Xi'an University of Architecture and Technology University of South Australia An De College**- Between Xi'an University of Architecture and Technology and University of South Australia

As at the end of mid-2018, Australia has 108 joint programs at bachelor and above, and 152 joint programs at below degree level. Australia also has one below degree joint institute.

- **Fuzhou Melbourne Polytechnic** – Between Melbourne Polytechnic and Minjiang University in Fuzhou, established as a separate legal entity (or tier one institution) in January 2017.

According to Australia's National Centre for Vocational Education Research, 26,482 Chinese students were enrolled to complete courses being offered in China by Australian public VET providers in 2016.

## Research collaboration

Australia and China are each other's third most frequent partners for collaboration in scientific research, as measured by the number of joint scientific publications. The number of joint scientific publications involving Chinese and Australian authors published annually has more than doubled over the last four years (from 3,600 in 2012 to nearly 7,800 in 2016) – source InCites™, Clarivate Analytics, 2018.

Government-to-government engagement on science stretches back almost four decades with a treaty on science and technology cooperation signed in 1980. Joint research funding arrangements have been in place since 2001. The Australia-China Science and Research Fund (ACSRF) is administered by the Department of Industry, Innovation and Science (the department), which supports strategic science, technology and innovation collaboration of mutual benefit to Australia and China. The ACSRf is jointly managed by the department and the Ministry of Science and Technology of the People's Republic of China.

Further information on the ACSRf is available at <http://www.science.gov.au/acsrf>