



# Education Brief – China

July 2017

## 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](#) that will see China gradually develop a group of world leading universities and disciplines from 2016 to 2050. The measures call for improvements in student exchange, credit transfer and qualifications recognition with world class foreign universities, and deeper academic exchange and scientific cooperation with foreign institutions. China is seeking to become more involved in setting international standards and regulations around academic and student mobility, as part of its goal to play a more influential global role in education. China also has a long-standing target to have 500,000 international students studying in China by 2020. According to the Ministry of Education, there were 442,773 international students studying in China in 2016. Further detail can be found on the China pages of [www.internationaleducation.gov.au](http://www.internationaleducation.gov.au)

## Student Mobility

In 2016, there were 157,000 Chinese nationals studying in Australia on a student visa, representing 28 per cent of all international students. Almost 60 per cent of Chinese students were enrolled in a higher education course of study. Australia continues to be one of the top three most popular study abroad destinations for Chinese students after the United States and the United Kingdom.

According to statistics collected by the Ministry of Education, 4,796 Australian students studied in China in 2016. A national survey of Australian universities found that China was the second most popular destination for Australian students undertaking studies overseas as part of their Australian degree in 2015. In 2017, the New Colombo Plan (NCP) will support over 1200 Australian students to study and undertake internships in mainland China, making China the most popular location for NCP supported students in 2017.

## Institutional Agreements

According to Universities Australia 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, more than with any other country.

Currently there are 14 Confucius Institutes and 60 Confucius Classrooms (including independent classrooms and affiliated classrooms) in Australia.

Currently there are 35 Australian Studies Centres in China.

## Joint Cooperative Programs and Schools

Australia currently has around 300 active Sino-Australian joint education programs and institutions across all levels, including 6 joint higher education institutions established between Australian and Chinese 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

Australia currently has around 108 numbers of joint programs at bachelor and above and 150 numbers at below degree.

According to Australia's National Centre for Vocational Education Research, in 2014, 29,499 Chinese students were enrolled to complete courses being offered in China by 19 Australian public VET providers.

## 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 over 7,300 in 2016) – source InCites™, Clarivate Analytics, 2017.

Government-to-government engagement on science stretches back at least three decades and joint research funding arrangements have been in place since 2001. The Australia-China Science and Research Fund (ACSRF), administered by the Department of Industry, Innovation and Science (the department), 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.

The ACSRf builds critical mass in areas of strategic priority and supports enduring partnerships between Australian and Chinese researchers. The ACSRf also facilitates activities that encourage the application and commercialisation of research outcomes to the mutual benefit of both countries.

The ACSRF comprises three elements supporting its objective to facilitate stronger collaborative ties between the two countries. These elements are:

- Joint Research Centres
  - Joint Research Centres (JRCs) are virtual centres which link Australian and Chinese research institutions conducting a portfolio of research related activities in a specified field. JRCs facilitate a concentration of effort and outcomes beyond that which can be expected with individual research projects.
- Thematic science workshops, seminars and symposia
  - The ACSRF supports Australia-China science and technology workshops, seminars and the long standing Australia-China Science Academies Symposia Series. These forums strengthen cooperative research links between Australia and China in areas of mutual interest.
- Young Scientists Exchange Programme (YSEP)
  - YSEP provides an opportunity for early to mid-career researchers from Australia and China to undertake a two week exchange. Successful applicants will establish linkages with a range of relevant research organisations in a structured program and learn about the science and research environments of each country.

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