



# India – Education & Research Partnership Opportunities

## Indian Government priorities

The Indian Government is formulating a New Education Policy throughout 2015, replacing the 1986 National Policy on Education. A consultation process will be conducted on 33 topics of focus, resulting in a finalised document towards the end of the year. An outline of the priority areas for consultation can be found at: [www.mygov.in/new-education-policy-group.html](http://www.mygov.in/new-education-policy-group.html).

The 2015 Indian Budget saw an increase in federal funding for higher education from AUD\$4.9 billion to \$5.5 billion. Some of the most significant increases of funding occurred for the National Mission on Teachers and Teaching (\$15.8 million); skill-based higher education (\$40.6 million); open and distance education and ICT (\$79 million); improving the quality of technical education (\$6.2 million); and establishing new Indian Institutes of Technology (\$204 million).

These funding increases underline the Indian Government's stated priorities, which include:

- Equitable access to higher education for females and minorities
- Increasing overall access to higher education, including through e-learning
- Improving the quality of higher education, including through teacher training
- Increasing research capacity of Indian institutions, and research collaboration with industry.

## Emerging trends

Increasingly, universities are looking to build their brand and reputation for quality by establishing partnerships with recognised Indian providers, industry partners and social institutions. This includes joint degrees and PhDs, curriculum development, faculty exchange and two-way student mobility.

For example, the United Kingdom (UK) recently announced the *Generation UK* programme to attract 25,000 British students to India in the next five years. The Indian Government has also launched the *Global Initiative of Academic Networks* to attract 1,000 academics from the United States.

The Indian Government is reviewing the operation of India's major higher education regulatory bodies to streamline their functions and empower them to adequately regulate the burgeoning

higher education sector, which includes over 700 universities and 48,000 colleges and institutes. The Government is also looking at reform of regulations for foreign education providers to enter the Indian market. While no plans have been officially announced, discussions about new regulations or a replacement to the now-lapsed Foreign Education Providers' Bill have begun.

Australia has seen an increase of 36 per cent in the number of student visas granted to Indian students in the last three financial years, with 70 per cent of the students (23,796) undertaking higher education in 2013-14. In 2012, Canada had 33,585 higher education students enrolled from India while New Zealand and European countries have also experienced increases. In contrast, the numbers of Indian higher education students in the UK dropped to 21,000 in 2013-14.

## Opportunities for Australia

Australian providers are well-positioned to help India meet its education priorities. There is a significant opportunity to elevate Australia's reputation as a quality higher education provider through partnerships with recognised Indian providers and industry. Some examples include:

- Joint degrees, student and faculty exchange with top Indian universities and research institutes in areas of mutual interest, such as sport or resources and energy
- Support for quality teaching and learning in Indian institutions through teacher training and curriculum development
- Joint research, including through compulsory Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) spending by large Indian companies, or the new round of the Australia-India Strategic Research Fund.

Providers are encouraged to contact Austrade at Post regarding specific opportunities.

## Our key goals

The key goals for the Department of Education and Training at Post in 2015 are ensuring recognition for Australian higher education qualifications in India; enhancing the perception of Australia as a high quality higher education destination; and strengthening bilateral cooperation.

## Key activities and events 2015 - 2016

- A workshop for Australian university representatives in India to brief them on the policy and regulatory environment, and discuss cooperation to promote the sector as a whole.
- Promotion of the Endeavour Scholarships and Fellowships through eminent Alumni Ambassadors across South Asia.
- A teaching and learning collaboration project involving the Australian Office of Learning and Teaching (OLT) and Indian National University of Education Planning and Administration (NUEPA).
- Encouraging the mobility of researchers and faculty through pilot programs under the Australia-India Education Council (AIEC).

More information on bilateral education projects can be found at [www.australiaindiaeducation.com](http://www.australiaindiaeducation.com).