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QUICK GUIDE

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## Tertiary education: a quick guide to key internet links

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This Quick Guide provides key internet links to information about:

- [general tertiary education resources](#)
- [higher education](#)
- [vocational education and training \(VET\)](#)
- [international students](#)
- [adult and community education](#) and
- [international organisations](#).

### General resources

- The [Australian Qualifications Framework](#) is the national policy for regulated qualifications in Australian education and training. It incorporates the qualifications from each education and training sector into a single comprehensive national qualifications framework.
- [Study Assist](#) has information on Australian Government financial assistance available to tertiary education students.
- [Higher Education Loan Program \(HELP\): a quick guide](#) provides an overview of HELP loans available to tertiary students.

### Key organisations

- The [Australasian Education Directory](#) provides a comprehensive listing of educational organisations.

### Statistics

- [Australian Bureau of Statistics—Education and Training Statistics website](#)

### Higher education

- The [Department of Education](#) has responsibility for higher education. The Department's website has separate pages for higher education [teaching](#) and [research](#) activities.
- The [Higher Education Support Act 2003 \(HESA\)](#) provides the legislative framework for funding higher education institutions and providing loans to students.
- The [Tertiary Education Quality and Standards Agency](#) (TEQSA) is the national regulator for higher education.
- The [Higher Education Report](#) is an annual report on programs, funding and statistics. The latest edition is [2010](#).

- Universities Australia provides a [profile of each university](#) and links to university websites.
- [MyUniversity](#) provides students with a broad range of information about Australian universities and other higher education providers.
- [Australia University Rankings](#) includes details of the major international rankings and the Excellence in Research for Australia (ERA) rankings.
- [Hobsons Course Finder](#) provides university and course rankings from *The Good Universities Guide*, as well as facilities to search for courses by a range of criteria.
- The Group of Eight have produced a number of [Backgrounders](#) and [Policy Notes](#) with information about aspects of the higher education system including:
  - [Higher education financing](#)
  - [University Research Funding in Australia](#)
  - [Profile of Australian Education 2012](#)
  - [International students in higher education and their role in the Australian economy](#) and
  - [Changes in the composition of Australia's higher education workforce](#).

### **Key organisations**

- [Universities Australia](#) is the national representative body for Australian universities. This website contains useful links, policy documents and statistics.
- There are four sub-groups of Australian universities:
  - the [Group of Eight](#) (Go8) is a coalition of established universities, intensive in research and comprehensive in general and professional education
  - the [Australian Technology Network](#) (ATN) is an alliance of five universities with strong links to industry
  - the [Innovative Research Universities](#) (IRU) is a group of seven comprehensive universities with a research focus and
  - the [Regional Universities Network](#) (RUN) is a group of six universities with headquarters in regional Australia.
- The [National Tertiary Education Union](#) represents employees in the tertiary education sector.
- The [National Union of Students](#) is the national representative body for university students.
- The [Council of Australian Postgraduate Associations](#) aims to protect and further the interests of postgraduate students.

### **Statistics**

- The Australian Government's [Higher Education Statistics Collection](#) includes current and time series data on students and staff and summary data on [admissions and offers](#). The [Finance Publication](#) series provides information on university finances.
- [Graduate Careers Australia](#) conducts research into the outcomes and experiences of higher education students and graduates including graduate employment and earnings.
- The [Higher Education Reports](#) website includes the annual *Higher Education Report*
- Australian Tertiary Admissions Rank (ATAR cut-off scores are available for some states: [New South Wales](#) (includes the Australian Capital Territory), [Victoria](#) (have to search by course), [South Australia](#) (see [Universities Semester 1, Table X, 'Year 12 cut-off scores'](#)) and [Western Australia](#)).

### **Vocational education and training (VET)**

- The [Department of Industry](#) has responsibility for VET and its website provides access to information about Australian Government VET policies and programs.
- The *Annual National Report of the Australian Vocational Education and Training System* includes an overview of the national VET system, an analysis of the system's performance and key statistics, and a summary of Australian, state and territory government developments. The latest edition is [2011](#).

- The annual [Report on Government Services](#), published by the Productivity Commission, provides an overview of the VET system, key statistics and funding information.
- The [Intergovernmental Agreement on Federal Financial Relations \(IGA\)](#), agreed to by the Council of Australian Governments, provides for the Australian Government's National Skills and Workforce Development Specific Purpose Payment (SPP).
- The [National Agreement for Skills and Workforce Development \(NASWD\)](#), formulated as part of the IGA, defines the objectives, outcomes, outputs and performance measures and the roles and responsibilities that guide the Australian and the state and territory governments in the delivery of services across the skills and workforce development sector.
- The annual [National Agreement for Skills and Workforce Development: performance report](#) is a report on governments' progress against the agreed objectives and outcomes of the NASWD.
- There are two National Partnerships associated with the NAWSD—the [National Partnership Agreement on Skills Reform](#) and the [National Partnership Agreement on Youth Attainment and Transitions](#).
- The [Australian Skills Quality Authority](#) is the national regulator for Australia's vocational education and training sector.
- [training.gov.au](#) is the official national register of information on training packages, qualifications, courses, units of competency and Registered Training Organisations.
- [Australian Apprenticeships](#) provides information on the Australian Government's programs to support apprenticeships and traineeships.
- [My Skills](#) has a range of information about training options and providers, and includes statistics on student enrolments and outcomes.

### **Key organisations**

- The [National Centre for Vocational Education Research \(NCVER\)](#) undertakes research and evaluation in VET and related areas.
- The [Australian Council for Private Education and Training \(ACPET\)](#) is the national industry association for independent providers of post-compulsory education and training.
- The [Australian Workforce and Productivity Agency](#) is an independent statutory body, providing advice to the Minister for Industry on Australia's current, emerging and future workforce skills needs and workforce development needs.
- [TAFE Directors Australia](#)—provides [links to TAFE Institutes](#).
- The [Australian Education Union](#) is the major union representing TAFE teachers.

### **Statistics**

- [Annual National Report of the Australian Vocational Education and Training System](#)
- [National Agreement for Skills and Workforce Development—performance report](#)
- [National Centre for Vocational Education Research \(NCVER\)](#) is the major collector and publisher of statistics on the VET system.
- The annual [Report on Government Services](#), published by the Productivity Commission, provides key statistics and funding information.
- [VET FEE-HELP Annual Statistical Report](#)

### **State and territory government websites**

#### **Australian Capital Territory**

- ACT Education Directorate, [Training and Tertiary Education](#)
- New South Wales
- Department of Education and Communities, [State Training Services](#)
- [TAFE NSW](#)

## Northern Territory

- Department of Business, [Vocational Education and Training](#)

## Queensland

- Department of Education, Training and Employment, [Training Queensland](#)
- [TAFE Queensland](#)

## South Australia

- [Department of State Development](#)
- [TAFE SA](#)

## Tasmania

- [Skills Tasmania](#)

## Victoria

- Department of Education and Early Childhood Development, [Further Education and Training](#)

## Western Australia

- [Training WA](#)

## International students in Australia

- The [Department of Education](#) has responsibility for international education policy.
- The [Department of Immigration and Border Protection](#) administers student visas.
- The [Commonwealth Register of Institutions and Courses for Overseas Students \(CRICOS\)](#) lists all providers registered to offer courses to people studying in Australia on student visas and the courses offered.
- [Australian Education International](#) (AEI) is an Australian government agency that works to develop and support the Australian international education and training industry.
- The [Education Services for Overseas Students Act 2000 \(ESOS Act\)](#) and its [associated legislative framework](#) regulates the education and training sector's involvement with students on student visas studying in Australia.

### Statistics

- AEI's [International student data](#) website reports on overseas enrolments in all education sectors.
- The Department of Immigration and Border Protection publishes a range of [student visa statistics](#).

## Adult and community education

- [Adult Learning Australia](#) is the national peak body for the adult and community education sector.
- [Tap into Learning Today](#) (TILT) provides information on lifelong learning programs and initiatives.
- [Ministerial Declaration on Adult Community Education](#)— July 2002 declaration of the then Ministerial Council for Vocational and Technical Education which was reaffirmed in December 2008.

## International organisations

- [Organisation for Economic Co-Operation and Development \(OECD\) Directorate for Education—Skills beyond Schools](#)
- [United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization \(UNESCO\)—Education](#) for the 21st Century:
  - [higher education](#)
  - [technical and VET](#)

### Statistics

- [Education at a Glance: OECD Indicators](#) provides comparative data on the education systems of member and partner countries of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development. Latest edition is [2014](#).
- [UNESCO Institute for Statistics](#)

## **United Kingdom**

- [Department for Business, Innovation & Skills](#)—responsible for [higher education](#) and [further education and skills](#).
- [Higher Education Funding Council for England](#)
- [Higher Education Statistics Agency](#)

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