

STUDY IN AUSTRALIA PLANNER

Introduction

Education plays a decisive role in everyone's life as it not only dictates the career graph but also lifestyle and choices one makes in life. A quality education thus is not just a need but also an aspiration of millions of students in India. Study abroad brings the hope to fulfill both and students want to go for the best international education.

Australia is one of the leading study destinations for Indian students. However, in the absence of adequate information, most students fail to get admission.

In my nineteen years of experience in training counselors and managers to guide students, I realized that the information for study abroad is not just scattered and overlapping but it is also too vast for the students to understand it once as they meet counselors. The students' pace and priority of assessing the information varies immensely. Although majority of the students are given the information in a sequential manner, it has been observed that most students get stuck on some point or the other. The problem areas for students differ and so is the solution. The Study in Australia (SiA) Planner is written to fulfill this gap by providing all the relevant information at one place.

The SiA Planner covers the entire process of decision making for the students and parents when they choose to opt for study in Australia.

It supports students in their course selection, expedites the process of admission, creates an effective visa file and prepares the students well before they leave the country. It also helps students to be aware of the situations and the facts that greatly affect their academic performance in Australia.

Using the SiA Planner will help students avoid major failures caused by negligence or lack of awareness including visa rejection or interview failure. It is designed to educate students with direct information. It also gives access to collect and evaluate the information received from various sources and work along with a counselor to make the appropriate decisions.

Who should use the SiA Planner?

Every Indian student who is aspiring to study in Australia should use the SiA Planner. The SiA Planner is of great importance to parents who want to send their children for higher studies in Australia. It is highly valuable to the counselors and the institutions helping Indian students to study in Australia also. It supports the counselor's discussion and provides a base for their conversation with students and their families.

How to use the SiA Planner?

The SiA Planner is meant to support students in preparing their application, and evaluating and assessing it for its success. It gives the facts, resources and relevant information to make right decisions for their admission, visa and settling in Australia. Students can read, make notes and create their application by using this planner.

There are tables created for making notes and space is provided for the issues that need to be discussed with the counselor or the institution. The SiA Planner shares many official links and emphasizes on reading the updated information from the official websites to engage in effective communication with the relevant authorities. You may find some information has changed since the time the planner was created. However, the evaluation criteria may still remain the same.

For documentation, many aspects have been discussed to make students aware of the expectations of the assessing authority. There are generic formats shared for important documentation, which can be personalized and approved from the assigned counselor.

Chapter organization

The SiA Planner is designed as a step-by-step guide for students to prepare for their higher studies in Australia. It is divided into five different sections and 41 chapters that address various aspects of the process.

The first section of the SiA Planner brings forward the facts related to the education system of Australia. It introduces resources that every student must be aware of. This section also has a table to assess student profile and find out the areas that need student attention for rectification. The section assists students with course selection. It brings forward the popular courses for Indian students and provides important aspects to consider while selecting the course. It also provides information that needs consideration in selecting city and institution apart from exploring the specializations, scholarships and rankings. This section helps you to reconcile your choices and guides you through the decision-making questions.

The second section makes your admission journey a well thought and well planned process. It addresses important aspects of the admission including preparation of documents, application process, and addressing important concerns of admission office. This section shares multiple facts that can help you to expedite the process of admission.

The third section deals with the visa application. It addresses aspects of the visa that each student must be aware of while working on their visa application. The visa section has information related to their GTE criteria, finances, reasons for visa rejection and so on. This section also provides various important formats for the easy reference of the students. There is also a chapter for the married students that addresses criteria of their profile evaluation and documentation.

Section four is meant to help students in their preparation to move to Australia. This section helps students to work on their travel, accommodation, food, clothing and so on. It makes students aware of the various aspects related to living in Australia including communication, health insurance and skills that need to be learned. The fifth and final section brings forth various important aspects that students need to be aware of before moving to Australia. Knowing about how to deal with cultural differences, changing emotions, finances and time commitment could ease the pressure that students go through. The planner ends with a concluding chapter that summarizes the planner.

SECTION 1

Why Study in Australia?

Australia is one of the important study destinations for the Indian students. In year 2016, 59, 717 Indian students chose to go to Australia for their higher studies. The reason for choosing Australia for your study can vary from seeking sheer quality of education to personal choices, better environment, career growth or future opportunities. Australia offers all of these and much more. This chapter highlights some of these reasons. It is for you to find out your own reason that you need to know before choosing this country for your education.

Quality Education: Australia has total 43 universities mostly public and one private and two international universities. According to the 2016 QS World University Rankings, Australia has 7 universities in the Top 100. Besides, twenty-nine Australian universities feature in the top 700. The Tertiary Education Quality and Standards Agency (TEQSA) monitors quality, and regulates university and non-university higher education providers.

Excellence and Leadership: Australia has produced 15 Nobel prize laureates in various fields including penicillin, IVF, Wi-Fi, black box and cervical cancer vaccine.

Easy Facilitation: According to the 2012 U21 Ranking of National Higher Educational Systems, Australia has the world's 8th best university system ahead of Germany, the Netherlands and Japan. Australia offers flexible pathways programs like English language preparation courses called ELICOS and foundation studies to enter the career of student choice.

Students' Rights & Safety: Students' rights are protected by law under the Education Services for Overseas students (ESOS) Act. Students also have access to the Tuition Protection Service (TPS)

which is a placement and refund service for international students. It gets activated in the event that your institution is unable to teach your course at any point of time during your studies.

Better Opportunities: Many students find better career opportunities in Australia, home country or around the world after having an Australian qualification. Australia provides work permits to international students both during & after studies.

Better Environment: An important, attractive factor of Australia is weather and climatic conditions which are similar to India. Besides, most universities are located in cities that offer vibrant international culture that welcomes diversity.

Family and Friends: Australia also has a large Indian community that has roots in India and abroad. Many students opt for Australia as they have their relatives and want to stay close to them.

Career after studies in Australia: Australia offers great opportunities to develop career after completing your education. It also provides post study work permit to degree students to practice their skills locally and gain Australian work experience.

Thus studying in Australia is beneficial in multiple ways. In your application process, you will be asked for the reasons for selecting Australia as your study destination. Please fill your reasons in the following table.

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Where to Study in Australia?

Where to study in Australia is majorly influenced by two factors—choice of the city and choice of the institution. Choosing one may influence the choice of the other and reasons vary for individual students. This chapter looks into a few common reasons that may apply to you and the information that you must be aware of when taking this decision.

Although selecting a city looks easy, it is something that needs much more attention than a general knowledge of the place. Each city has a lot to offer to international students. Usually, big cities are famous for many things and are well known, whereas small and not so popular cities offer multiple benefits to students that are not widely discussed. The useful websites to know more about study in various parts of Australia are given in the '*Further Information Section*'.

The Australian states have specialized centers to assist international students for higher studies in their state. You are recommended to use these resources to understand the city's aptness for your requirement. In many regional cities, the cost of living is less and they also offer long-term benefits to students should they decide to stay in Australia. For the purposes of General Skilled Migration, you may be eligible to claim points for the 'Regional Australia' part of the points.

Make sure that you have read enough about your city and record below data to ensure the fulfillment of your requirement. There are links provided with the '*Further Information Section*' which deliver detailed information about different aspects of living and studying in that state.

Selecting an Institution

There are 43 universities in Australia which includes one private and two foreign universities. There are many ways of judging an institution to choose the right place for your studies. Any of the judgment criteria could lead to a good decision. All you need is to consider more than one parameter to find information before taking the final decision.

World University Rankings

Various organizations have ranked world universities for their quality of teaching and research outputs. These lists can support you in your decision-making for choosing the best university for your education.

Some of the leading university rankings are:

1. Academic Ranking of World Universities
2. QS World University Rankings
3. Times Higher Education World University Rankings

These rankings change annually. So, you need to look out for the latest ranking for your university. The ranking websites are provided in the '*Further Information Section*' and the ranking summary is available in the appendix section. Once you finish your reading, use the following table to evaluate the university's ranking value for your education.

Australian Higher Education System

An understanding of the Australian higher education system can also help you to identify suitable university in the country.

The Australian tertiary education has two categories. These include universities and Vocational and Education Training (VET) which comprises both TAFEs and the Private Providers. The Tertiary Education Quality and Standards Agency (TEQSA) ensures the quality of Australia's higher education sector. TEQSA registers and evaluates the performance of higher education providers against the higher education standards framework. You may use the TEQSA register to determine whether a provider can offer Australian higher education qualifications, and the CRICOS register to ensure international student's enrolment possibility in a particular course and institution. While selecting a private institution, also use CRICOS register to discover the courses that international students can study and get visa for. Graduate and postgraduate courses are offered by universities, TAFEs, and private providers. The vocational tertiary programs are primarily offered by the Technical and Further Education (TAFE) institutions. TAFE institutes are funded by the state government.

Various groups of the Australian universities are formed who have similar vision. These groups are:

1. Group of Eight (Go8)
2. ATN—Australian Technology Network
3. Sandstone Universities

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