

# HIGHER EDUCATION QUALITY ASSURANCE IN AUSTRALIA

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# Overview

- Australia's Higher Education Sector
- The Australian Government's agenda for higher education
- Regulation, Quality and Equity
- Internationalisation and transnational education

# Australia's Higher Education Sector

- 37 public universities
- 4 private universities
- 4 other self-accrediting higher education providers
- 2 Australian campuses of overseas universities
- 150+ private, non self-accrediting higher education providers
- 1.2m students

# Australia's universities in the 2012 ARWU Rankings

2012 Rank <sup>(a)</sup>	2011 Rank	Institution
57	60	University of Melbourne
64	70	Australian National University
90	86	University of Queensland
93	96	University of Sydney
96	101-150	University of Western Australia
101-150	151-200	Monash University
101-150	151-200	University of New South Wales
201-300	201-300	Macquarie University
201-300	201-300	The University of Adelaide
301-400	301-400	Flinders University
301-400	401-500	Griffith University
301-400	301-400	James Cook University
301-400	401-500	Swinburne University of Technology
301-400	301-400	University of Newcastle
301-400	301-400	University of Tasmania
301-400	401-500	University of Wollongong
401-500	401-500	Curtin University of Technology
401-500	401-500	La Trobe University
401-500	401-500	University of Technology, Sydney

# Australian Government's agenda for Higher Education

- Higher education is key to Australia's future
- Characterised by quality, diversity and equity
  - ▣ Increasing the number of 25-34 year olds have a bachelor degree or above
  - ▣ Increasing access for low socio-economic students
- Quality improvement initiatives
- National regulatory framework
- Transparency
- Provider and Student mobility

# The Office of Learning and Teaching (OLT)

- Within the Department of Education
- Leads quality improvement
- Promotion of Excellence in Learning and Teaching in Higher Education Program
  - ▣ University-led projects
  - ▣ Australian Awards for University Teaching
  - ▣ Collaboration and partnerships

# Improving regulation

Australia's regulatory framework is based on a standards and risk based approach

- It consists of the following elements
  - ▣ Australian Qualifications Framework (AQF)
  - ▣ the Tertiary Education Quality and Standards Agency (TEQSA)
  - ▣ Higher Education Standards Framework
  - ▣ Higher Education Standards Panel
  - ▣ *Education Services for Overseas Students Act 2000* (ESOS)

# Australian Qualifications Framework

- National policy for qualifications from each sector
- protects quality, international recognition and reputation
- Makes qualifications comparable
- Knowledge and skills of graduates
- Managed and maintained by the AQF Council



# Australian Qualifications Framework



Sets out for each qualification level :

- knowledge and skills
- volume of learning and
- learning outcomes

# The Tertiary Education quality and Standards Agency (TEQSA)

- Australia's independent regulator of higher education
- Registration, accreditation, regulation and quality assurance for all higher education providers, including universities
- Maintains the National Register of Higher Education Providers
- Engagement with quality assurance agencies and relevant government bodies in other countries

# The Higher Education Standards Framework

- The Framework is comprised of:
  - Provider Registration Standards
  - Provider Category Standards
  - Provider Course Accreditation Standards
  - Qualification Standards
- Higher Education Standards Panel separate to TEQSA

# Student focus and transparency



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Search for and compare information on Australian universities. Find detailed statistical information and campus facilities here. Information on other higher education providers coming soon...

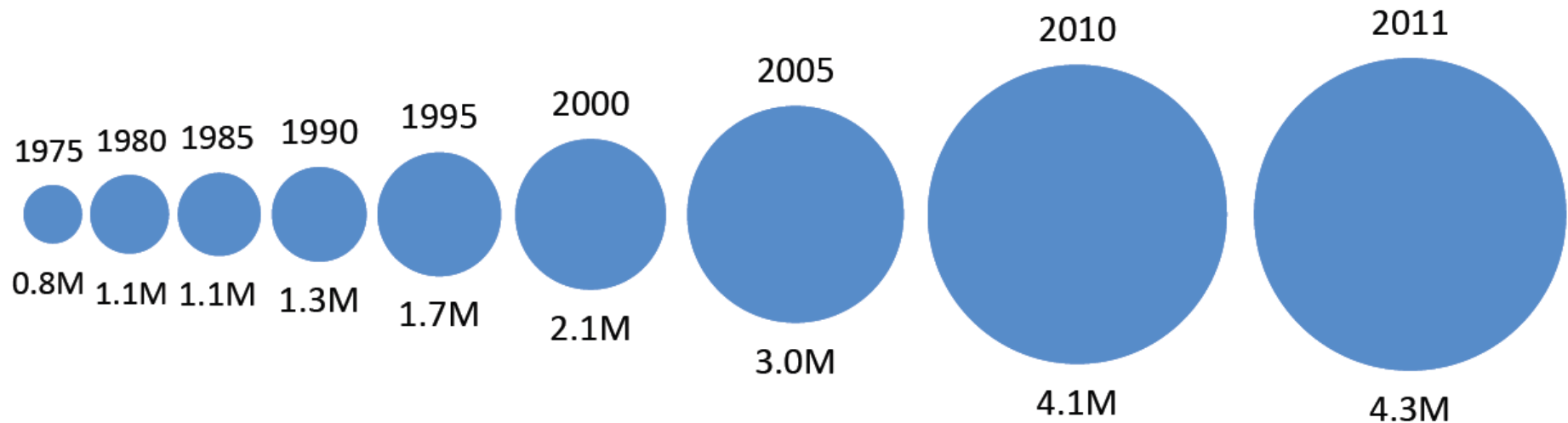
## Postgraduate Research

Find information on starting a postgraduate research degree and search for information on research quality and activity.

<http://www.myuniversity.gov.au>

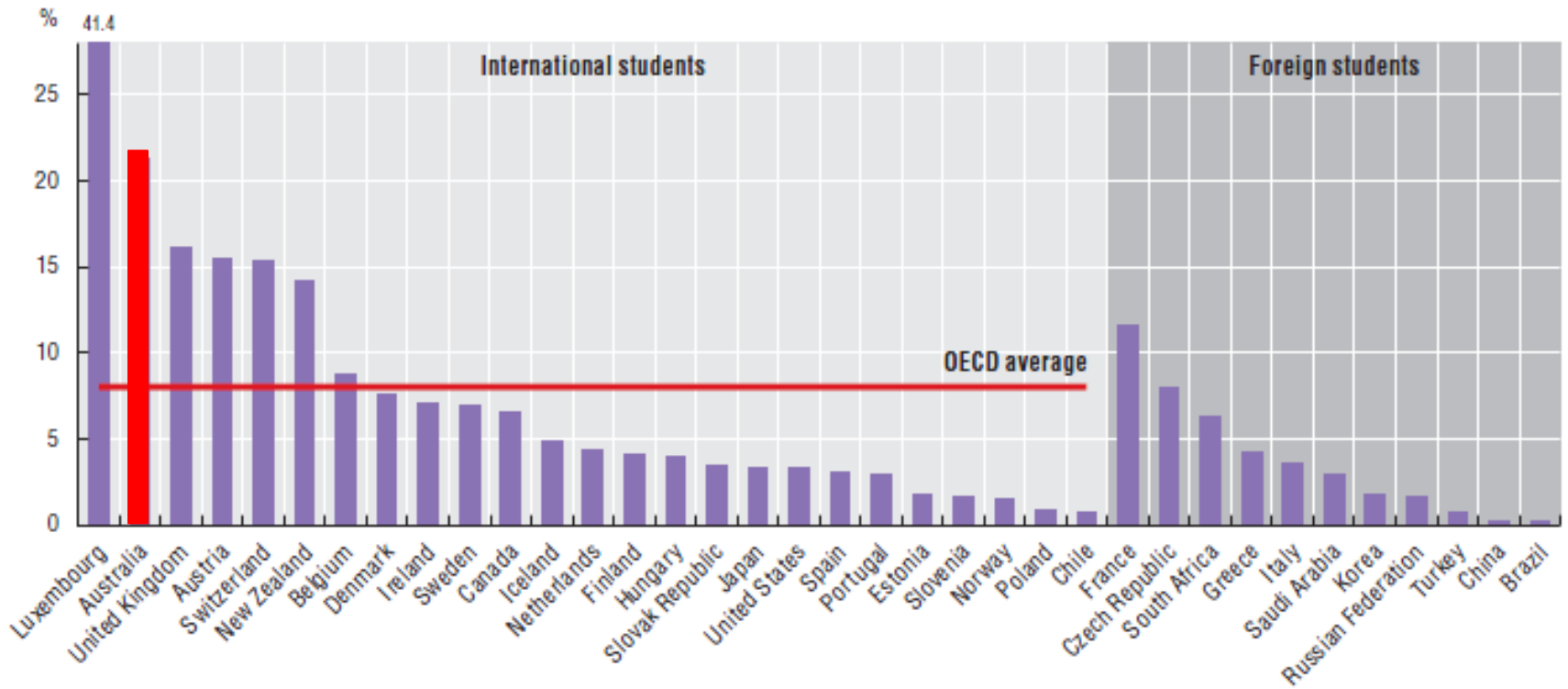
# Global Growth of International Students

## International Students Worldwide



Source: OECD Education at a Glance, 2013

# The percentage of international students at the tertiary level in OECD countries (2010)



Source: OECD, Education at a Glance 2011, Table C4.1, [www.oecd.org](http://www.oecd.org)

# Education Services for Overseas Students legislation

- protects the interests of international students
- supports student visa program
- supports Australia's reputation for quality
  - Commonwealth Register of Institutions and Courses for Overseas Students (CRICOS)
  - Tuition Protection Service (TPS)
  - National standards e.g. for responsible marketing and recruitment, student supports, record-keeping

# Provider mobility

- Opportunities for capacity building
- Promotes exchange and innovation in teaching, teaching, QA and administration
- Expands education choice
- Reputational and economic benefits
- Institutional benefits
- Student benefits



# Student mobility

- Increasing mobility of Australian students in the region
- The New Colombo Plan
- Short-term, semester and full year undergraduate
- internships

# Cross-Border Education Cooperation

- Cross-cutting issue across Asia Pacific
- Delivers sustainable benefits to economies
- Assists with capacity building





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Internet: [www.education.gov.au](http://www.education.gov.au)