

# IMMIGRATION NEWS

(Volume 125)

TODAY'S NEWS STORY'S

## Indian students boost the export economy



### Today's Newspaper Story's Concerning International Students

2nd April 2009

Dear Students

Welcome to the latest edition of IMMIGRATION NEWS. Today's articles come from The Australian.

Feel free to e-mail this newsletter to any of your friends. Our opinion about these articles is provided below along with readers responses to our last edition.

### 1) Indian students boost the export economy

Amanda Hodge, South Asia correspondent | April 02, 2009

Article from: [The Australian](#)

VASHA Vankadesh is the new face of Australia's export economy.

As part of an exploding diaspora of young Indians now studying in Australia, she contributes more than \$30,000 a year to the domestic economy as she ploughs her way through an engineering degree at the Australian National University in Canberra. But Vasha's investment in Australia is unlikely to end there.

The 18-year-old from Chennai, in India's southern state of Tamil Nadu, was one of the 96,739 Indian enrolments in Australian higher education and vocational training courses last year, a massive 54 per cent increase on the almost 63,000 Indian enrolments in 2007 and up from just 11,313 in 2002.

With India projected to be the fifth-largest consumer market by 2025, Australian-trained Indian graduates and skilled workers represent a future trade and investment bonanza as they return home to jobs in the business and government sector.

Australia's now well-established business links with Southeast Asia can be traced back to the 1950s, 60s and 70s when many students from that region studied in Australia.

"You're now seeing the beginnings of that sort of relationship between India and Australia," Australia's High Commissioner to India, John McCarthy, said yesterday.

Indian students now make up almost 18 per cent of Australia's total foreign student population, the second largest group after China, which represents 23.5 per cent of the total foreign student body.

Foreign students are now Australia's third-largest export income earner, behind coal and iron ore, contributing \$14.1 billion in direct income and an additional \$12.6 billion in value-added goods and services, a new Access Economic report has found.

Vasha says she chose Australia over Britain and the US because it was closer to home and cheaper.

"I was quite nervous, but since a large number of (Indian) students are now in Australia they're really helpful to new students," she said.

She plans to return to India at the end of her four-year degree.

Link: <http://www.theaustralian.news.com.au/story/0,25197,25277222-12332,00.html>

End Story

## 2) Learning boom amid the economic gloom

Luke Slattery | *April 01, 2009*

Article from: [The Australian](#)

AUSTRALIA'S export education industry grew 42 per cent in the three years to 2008, employs 126,000 people and contributes 1 per cent of the nation's gross domestic product, according to an Access Economics report.

The report, to be released today, is the first to synthesise all available data on the economic contribution of international students to the Australian economy.

It finds that the total impact of the export industry on the economy, once the "value-added" effect of \$12.6 billion is added to direct expenditure by overseas students and their families of \$14.1 billion, exceeds \$26.7 billion. Commissioned by the Australian Council for Private Education and Training, it confirms that the

**education sector is the nation's third biggest export earner behind coal and iron ore, outperforming travel, services (professional, business and technical), as well as exports of gold, crude petroleum and aluminium.**

**The report found that every dollar spent on education by an international student in Australia contributed an additional \$1.91 to the economy.**

**International student activity is estimated to have contributed just more than 122,000 full-time equivalent employees to the economy in 2007-08, it says. "Of these, 33,482 were employed in the education sector and 88,649 in other related sectors."**

**ACPET national executive officer Andrew Smith confirmed to the HES yesterday that enrolments in private colleges were holding firm this year and in some cases rising amid the recession. "While a number of other industries are contracting, this is one that is going from strength to strength," he said. "It is important to the Australian economy that this is recognised."**

**Mr Smith described the export education sector, comprising public and private providers, as "a booming industry and one of our strongest defences against global recession". For every four overseas students to enter the country, a job was created.**

**The Access Economics report found that in 2007-08 more than 21,000 overseas students were granted residency under various visa class applications.**

**It predicts that a 5 per cent reduction in overseas student numbers would cause 6300 Australians to lose their jobs as the economy lost more than \$600million in export revenue.**

**Australian education providers also earned \$438 million from overseas campuses and consultancy services, bringing total income for the sector to \$14.1billion. Of \$13.7 billion spent by overseas students in 2007-08, more than \$6.4 billion went on education fees and \$4.3 billion on food and accommodation. The report found that Australia, with less than 1 per cent of the world's population, enrolled 7.5 per cent of the world's international students.**

**Overall, the international enrolments of private sector providers grew by 92.6 per cent from 2006 to 2007. The highest growth was experienced in Victoria, where the sector increased by almost 250 per cent.**

**This compares with growth of only 7.7 per cent between 2006 and 2008 in the number of overseas students in higher education, suggesting that "the sector has reached a mature growth phase compared with other sectors of the education market".**

**The English Language Intensive Courses for Overseas Students and vocational education and training sectors, in contrast, experienced a surge in growth during the period, with enrolments increasing by 63.7 per cent and 112.6 per cent respectively.**

**Mr Smith added that the importance of the export education industry could not be measured solely in economic terms.**

**"Education makes an enormous contribution to the students who come here to study, and to their communities when they return and take an Australian education home," he said.**

**IDP Education chief executive Tony Pollock said the report showed that international education was important to the students who came to Australia and the Australian economy.**

**"International education is a high-value, knowledge industry (that) creates jobs in Australia and, as a nation, we have proved we are very good at it," he said.**

**TAFE Directors Australia chief executive Martin Riordan said vocational students accounted for almost half the overseas students, and showed heftier spending on a government campaign to shore up recruitment of overseas students was justified.**

**Mr Riordan also warned that a critical lack of student housing needed to be addressed.**

*Additional reporting: Guy Healy*

Link: <http://www.theaustralian.news.com.au/story/0,25197,25270881-12332,00.html>

**End Story**

### **Our Opinion**

It is good to see a positive realistic article after yesterdays negative story concerning international students.

Overseas students import an abundance of resources and experience yet it seems only now, in a period of economic recession, we are saying how much they are appreciated.

Recognition is well overdue for those who make such an important contribution to this country. These highly educated polite individuals (mostly) represent the very best of their homelands and are fine ambassadors of their cultures.

DIAC should provide them with priority in the visa processing stream for residency

against those applicants who have never visited this country. Currently due to processing delays, most face frustrating processing times of 1-2 years for a permanent residency visa to be granted.

### **Readers Comments to last edition**

**Deepak writes (02.04.09);**

*I was reading the article and that is a very good reply to Mr. Birrell on April fool day..one more thing you need to tell him that, he say'n that students from low wages poor country but he should know that in every six months lots of Australian universities representatives used to visit those " LOW WAGES COUNTRY" and conducting their seminars their. they use to promise students for their bright future and show's them every fake dream which never becomes a reality. One more thing I came to know from one of my friend that they started real state business for overseas people also by offering them houses in very dangerous area like 'sunshine etc' in Melbourne at very low cost. Mr. Birrell should know that Australia's largest income source is the fee they are getting from overseas students. According to a recent survey AU Gov is earning \$ AU 14 million per year just from overseas students.*

**Our response:** Good point Deepak. As I have mentioned in today's comments, all of you have been taken for granted for far too long.

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Kind regards

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