

TRADE SUB-COMMITTEE

Enterprising Australia – planning, preparing and profiting from trade and investment

Report outlining evidence and identifying expenditure of overseas students studying hotel management in Australia and the demand for skilled labour in the Australian International Hotel Industry.

Overview

The Association of Australian Hotel Schools (AAHS) and the Australian Council of Independent Vocational Colleges (ACIVC) has identified a high demand for international student graduates who have studied hotel management in Australia to remain in Australia after graduation for a 12 to 18 month period and gain international hotel experience in key supervisory/managerial positions.

Demand

The Australian International Hotel and Tourism industry has identified the high demand for well qualified key personnel to gain employment in this industry.

In October 2000 the International College of Tourism & Hotel Management at Manly, the Intercontinental Hotel School, William Blue Hotel School and the Blue Mountains Hotel School conducted a career fair whereby over 32 international hotels were represented. Each participating hotel had an average of 20 key vacant employment positions (total 640 positions).

520 students from the four participating schools attended, of which 60% were international students.

Due to the present work visa arrangements, the Australian international hotels are reluctant to indenture international students due to the perceived onerous responsibilities placed on the employer.

The outcome was only 40% (208 domestic students) of the total number of students who attended the career fair were eligible for the 640 employment positions.

Survey

In February 2000, a student survey was conducted at the International College of Tourism & Hotel Management asking the 300 international students the following:

1. If employment opportunities were available in Australia upon graduation would you be interested?
2. How long would you seek to remain working in Australia upon graduation?

Answers

1. 85% (255 out of 300) expressed an interest in gaining employment in Australia upon graduation.
2. 90% indicated the length of employment to be between one to two years.

Presently between 30 – 40% of international students graduating from the AAHS gain employment in the United States of America under the J-1 visa. This visa allows graduates to work in the USA for up to 18 months (please refer to Attachment 2).

Benefits to the Australian Economy

The following model (Attachment 1) outlines the annual expenditure (direct and indirect) of international students presently enrolled and studying at the AAHS.

If Australia implemented a similar program to that of the J-1 visa, it is predicted that a large number of the international student graduates would take up the opportunity to work in Australia providing the Australia International Hospitality Industry with valuable, well qualified professionals in key supervisory/managerial positions.

Main nationality breakdown of the 1090 students:

1. Europe/Scandinavia
2. South-east Asia
3. South America
4. North Asia

Qualification of students

Minimum: - 2 year diploma in Hospitality Management
- 3 year degree in Hospitality and Tourism Management

During the study programs, students are required to undertake paid supervised industry training (8-12 months). Presently students receive between 2-3 job offers for this training period.

Feedback from Australian International Hotel Industry

Students from the AAHS are well qualified and appropriately skilled in the key areas of food and beverage, rooms divisions (front office), marketing, and human resources management.

They possess a professional attitude and a high level of work ethic and enthusiasm and a willingness to serve the guest which is in high demand in the Australian International Tourism and Hotel industry.

ATTACHMENT 1

Association of Australian Hotel Schools – identification of annual expenditure of international students in Australia:

Annual direct and indirect	\$89.24million
Average length of study stay in Australia	2.4 years

AAHS

Association of Australian Hotel Schools

Hotel School	International Students per term	Terms	# PA	\$ fees per student per term	\$ fees PA	Expenditure Accommodation PA	Expenditure Leisure PA	Expenditure Flights PA	Expenditure Family Visits PA	Total PA
International College of Hotel Management Adelaide	150	2	300	7K	2.1M	4.68M	1.56M	.75M	1.5M	10.59M
Kenvale College Sydney	40	2	80	9K	.72M	1.25M	.42M	.2M	.4M	2.99M
William Blue Sydney	200	2	400	6K	2.4M	6.24M	2.1M	1M	2M	13.74M
Australian International Hotel School Canberra	100	2	200	7K	1.4M	3.12M	1.04M	.5M	1M	7.06M
International College of Tourism & Hotel Management Sydney	300	3	900	8K	7.2M	14M	4.68M	2.25M	4.5M	32.63M
Intercontinental Hotel School Sydney	150	2	300	7.5K	2.25M	4.68M	1.56M	.75M	1.5M	10.74M
Blue Mountains Hotel School NSW	150	2	300	10K	3.0M	4.68M	1.56M	.75M	1.5M	11.49M
TOTAL	1090		2480		19.07M	38.65M	12.92M	6.2M	12.4M	89.24

ATTACHMENT 2

Extract from information regarding the United States of America J-1 visa

APPLYING FOR THE J-1 VISA

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What is the visa sponsor form?

The IAP-66 form allows candidates to apply at the American Embassy or Consulate in their home country for the Exchange Visitor Visa (J-1). This visa will allow participation as a trainee at the site indicated in the Training plan. Trainees may not work or study at any other site not included in the training plan. Application for the visa should be made as soon as possible (at least three weeks prior to the planned departure date). Also, travel arrangements should not be made until the visa is received. Unplanned delays in getting a visa are common.

Completing the IAP-66 form...

There are three colored copies of the IAP-66 form. The trainee must complete the back side of the white copy before applying for a J-1 visa. The trainee should follow these steps when completing their section on the IAP-66.

PLEASE REFERENCE APPENDIX B FOR A COPY OF THE IAP-66 FORM.

- First, the trainee should carefully read item #1 to understand what they are signing.
- Fill in the blanks on item two so that the answers agree with sections #2, #3 and #4 on the front side of the form. Indicate the country they will return to at the end of their stay in the USA and check the appropriate box as to whether they

are a citizen or a permanent resident of that country.

- Enter the requested passport information on the blanks in item #3.
- At item #4 check off that they have been in the United States before **only if** they were here **with a J-1 visa**. If they have entered the US before on a J-1 visa, enter the length of time and the dates of that stay.
- Item #5 does not apply to the trainee. Do not write anything here.
- The trainee should sign at item #7, fill in the city and country in which they have filled out the form, and fill in the date.

Getting a visa...

- First, the trainee should contact the US Consulate to find out what other documents they will need. The trainee should also ask if an appointment is needed before going to the Consulate.
- Depending on the trainee's country of nationality, the trainee may have to pay a fee to the United States Consulate for their visa. This fee is set by the United States government and is based on fees that the trainee's government may charge USA citizens for similar visas. Because such fees change on a regular basis, the trainee will need to ask at the US Consulate to determine what costs pertain to their country. The trainee should also ask how and where to pay the fees.

Having an IAP-66 form does not guarantee that a visa will be issued. The IAP-66 form is certification that the trainee has an official sponsor to enter the USA. Because the USA does not impose internal controls on movement, such as registration with local authorities, US immigration law requires consular officials to view every visa applicant as an intending immigrant until the applicant proves otherwise. It is the trainees responsibility to prove to the consular officer that they are going to leave the US within the time period stipulated by the visa.

Section 214 (b) of the Immigration and Nationality Act states:

"Every alien shall be presumed to be an immigrant until he establishes to the satisfaction of the consular officer, at the time of application for a visa, and the immigration officers, at the time of application for admission, that he is entitled to a nonimmigrant status..."

During the brief interview and review of the visa application and supporting documents, the trainee must show that they have a permanent residence and other ties in their home country that would compel them to leave the USA at the end of the temporary stay. Along with the IAP-66 form, the trainee should take documentation to show that they own or rent a house or apartment, they have a job waiting upon return, they have not finished their university studies, they have a family, or they have other commitments that would require them to leave the USA at the end of the visa period. Each person's situation is different and consular officers examine the long-range plans and prospects that each applicant has within their country of residence.

Additionally, the training plan must relate to the trainee's employment or academic curriculum. The trainee should be ready to present job descriptions or academic transcripts which link the training plan to their background.

Terms and Conditions of the J-1 Visa...

- The J-1 Visa is given to exchange visitors. It is issued with the understanding that at the end of the program the trainee will return to their country to continue promoting international understanding.
- Under the terms of the program, participants are allowed to receive a stipend as part of their training arrangement.
- *The visa does not allow the trainee to engage in any other employment while in the USA.*
- The government regulations implemented in 1994 limit the visa to a maximum stay of eighteen months. The J-1 visa cannot be extended beyond eighteen months.
- The pink copy of the IAP-66 form sent to the trainee by WISE must be with their passport in order for the J-1 visa to be valid. If the IAP-66 form is lost, the trainee should contact WISE immediately for a replacement. WISE charges \$50.00 to replace lost IAP-66 forms.
- The dates on the IAP-66 govern the length of the trainee's stay, not the dates on the J-1 visa in the passport.

If the trainee already has a J-1 visa...

Even if a trainee already has a J-1 visa, they will need to make an appointment at the U.S. Consulate to register for a new IAP-66 form. Unless the stamp on their J-1 visa matches the program designation on their IAP-66 form, the trainee will not be allowed into the United States.

A note on just what a J-1 visa is: A J-1 visa is permission given by the U.S. Consular Officer in the trainee's home country for the trainee to enter the United States to perform specific activities. The trainee cannot get a visa to enter the United States if they are already in the United States. For this reason, the IAP-66 form cannot be sent to a U.S. address. A visa is a legal document which shows that the U.S. Consular Officer has determined that the applicant has the proper background and sponsorship to enter the United States. If the Consular Officer cannot verify the trainee's background, the trainee will be denied the visa. For this reason, J-1 visas are issued in the country of legal residence. In the last two years, it has become increasingly difficult to obtain the J-1 visa elsewhere.