



Education in Australia

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It is compulsory for all children aged between 6 and 15 years old to attend school in Australia. Most states operate a two tier system of Primary and high schools with the option to enrol children in pre-school education before the age of 6.

Pre-School

Most states will have privately run kindergarten's or pre-schools for children aged two to five years of age. Long day care centres are also available in most suburbs where children from birth can stay from 7am to 6pm, catering for working parents. All such centres are council approved to ensure they are safe for your children.

Fees for pre-school and care centres will vary area to area however you may be able to claim back some of these fees from the government if you work, depending on your visa status and how much you earn. To find out more visit:

www.centrelink.gov.au

Primary School

In most states and territories schools will have a kindergarten year at the primary school, however it is not compulsory to send your child to school until they are 6 years old. Children attend a primary school until the age of 12.

High School

Secondary school or High School starts when a pupil is aged 12. Students can legally leave school at 15, however students remain at school if they wish to obtain a school certificate in year 10 or Higher School Certificate (HSC) in year 12.

Schooling in isolated areas

In isolated areas there are schools of the air which broadcast lessons to pupils who study at home. Pupils and teachers talk directly to each other or use computers.



Each of the states and territories also operates a correspondence system to cater for children unable to attend a school due to location.

Private or Public?

Public school in Australia means government school and is open to the general public. Non government schools are called private schools.

Each state government manages the school system within their state. This means that they provide funds and regulation for their schools. Both public schools and private schools exist in each state. The curriculum taught in each state or school may vary but the learning areas are the same in all.

Government schools in Australia generally ask for a voluntary contribution of around AU\$200 per year.

Private school fees vary from religious schools starting at between AU\$3,000 and AU\$6,000 compared to the leading private schools which charge fees of up to AU\$20,000.

You can search for private schools at the Private Schools of Australia website:

www.isd.com.au

Vaccinations

Primary and Pre-schools may insist that your children have been vaccinated against childhood illnesses such as polio, smallpox, measles, and diphtheria. You will need to show a vaccination certificate and schools usually ask to see your child's birth certificate for proof of age.

The School Week

The school day in most places starts at 9am and finishes around 3pm and children attend school 5 days a week - Monday to Friday.

School term dates

In most states the Australian School year runs from January to December and has 4 terms. The longest holiday is over the Christmas Period (the Australian summer). Most educational institutions close for at least six weeks at this time.

If you will be enrolling children in school in Australia you may wish them to start at the beginning of a new term. The term dates vary in each region of Australia.

School term dates in each state and Territory in Australia for 2010 are listed over the page.

School Term Dates 2011

Western Australia

- Term 1 Wednesday 2 February - Thursday 21 April
- Term 2 Monday 9 May - Friday 8 July
- Term 3 Monday 25 July - Friday 30 September
- Term 4 Monday 17 October - Thursday 15 December

New South Wales

- Term 1 Friday 28 January - Friday 08 April
- Term 2 Tuesday 26 April - Friday 01 July
- Term 3 Monday 18 July - Friday 23 September
- Term 4 Monday 10 October - Tuesday 20 December

South Australia

- Term 1 Monday 31 January - Friday 15 April
- Term 2 Monday 2 May - Friday 8 July
- Term 3 Monday 25 July - Friday 30 September
- Term 4 Monday 17 October - Friday 16 December

Northern Territory

- Term 1 Tuesday 25 January - Friday 1 April
- Term 2 Monday 11 April - Friday 24 June
- Term 3 Tuesday 26 July - Friday 30 September
- Term 4 Monday 10 October - Friday 16 December

Victoria

- Term 1 Friday 4 February - Friday 8 April
- Term 2 Wednesday 27 April - Friday 1 July
- Term 3 Tuesday 18 July - Friday 23 September
- Term 4 Monday 10 October - Thursday 22 December

Australian Capital Territory

- Term 1 Friday 4 February - Friday 15 April
- Term 2 Monday 2 May - Friday 8 July
- Term 3 Monday 25 July - Friday 30 September
- Term 4 Monday 17 October - Wednesday 21 December

Queensland

- Term 1 Monday 24 January - Friday 15 April
- Term 2 Tuesday 26 April - Friday 24 June
- Term 3 Monday 11 July - Friday 16 September
- Term 4 Monday 3 October - Friday 9 December

Tasmania

- Term 1 Tuesday 15 February - Friday 3 June
(Easter break: Friday, 22 April - Sunday 1 May)
- Term 2 Monday 20 June - Friday 2 September
- Term 3 Monday 19 September - Wednesday 21 December

N.B. Dates may differ slightly school to school



Further Education

Each state has a Vocational Education and Training (VET) or Technical and Further Education (TAFE) system. VET prepares people for work in a career that does not need a university degree. Each state manages their system and meets at a national level to coordinate their effort. VET is transferable between all states. Study done in one state gains the same status in another state. Typically, a VET/TAFE course takes two years of study.

The national government provides the funding for universities in all the states. Each is independent in its governance. They set their courses and course content. A professional body must endorse a course for it to run. Typically, a university course takes three or four years of study.

In the work place employers use agreed courses and outcomes to set standards of training for employment. Many parts of industry and business provide ongoing work place training for their employees. Some of this training can count towards a qualification.

The TAFE website's lists courses, college locations and entry requirements for residents and overseas students. There are different Tafe websites for each state and territory listed in the resource section of this PDF.

University Education

A high proportion of Australia's population has a bachelor degree or higher. Australian Students gain entry onto degree courses by obtaining a specific mark out of 100 in their HSC exams.



Universities and colleges set a Universities Admission Index (UAI) out of 100 that students must achieve to gain entry to a course. For information on the entry requirements for universities and colleges visit the Universities Admissions Centre website:

www.uac.edu.au

The site also provides a course search facility and details of admission requirements for overseas students.



Resources

Western Australia Department of Education
www.det.wa.edu.au

New South Wales Department of Education
www.det.nsw.edu.au

South Australia Department of Education
www.decs.sa.gov.au

Northern Territory Department of Education
www.det.nt.gov.au

Victoria Department of Education
www.education.vic.gov.au

ACT Department of Education
www.det.act.gov.au

Queensland Department of Education
www.det.qld.gov.au

Tasmania Department of Education
www.education.tas.gov.au

Private Schools of Australia Website - www.isd.com.au

TAFE - Technical and Further Education System

NSW - www.tafe.nsw.edu.au

QLD - www.tafe.qld.gov.au

VIC - www.tafe.vic.gov.au

TAS - www.tafe-tasmania.com

SA - www.tafe.sa.edu.au

WA - www.tafe.wa.edu.au