INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION AND TRAINING STRATEGY 2014–2024
Introduction

The Northern Territory International Education and Training Strategy 2014-2024 provides a plan to strengthen the Territory’s position as a gateway between Australia and Asia through education.

Education is a key component of the Northern Territory’s connection with the region, building lifetime partnerships and friendships. Investing in and growing our international education and training sector will have far reaching economic and social benefits, including significant advantages for young Territorians making their way in the world. A stronger education system benefits everyone.

In 2014 1900 international students from 66 different countries chose to undertake study and research with Northern Territory institutions. The Northern Territory has education and research partnerships and exchange programs with countries throughout the region including Cambodia, China, Hong Kong, Indonesia, India, Japan, Malaysia, Papua New Guinea, the Philippines, Nepal, Sri Lanka and Timor-Leste.

The Northern Territory International Education and Training Strategy is based on the work of a Taskforce established by the Northern Territory Government to develop a vision and clear goals to grow international education and training in the Northern Territory over a ten year period.

An all-of-government initiative, the strategy aims to:

- support existing and grow new international education and training partnerships between the Northern Territory and the Asian region, building long term relationships between education institutions, teachers, students and researchers
- continue to develop the high quality Northern Territory education and training system accessed by both domestic and international students and create new investment and infrastructure opportunities
- build on the skills of the Territory workforce, ensuring our students and businesses have Asian cultural competencies that support a strong knowledge-based economy, and
- welcome more international students to the Northern Territory by establishing StudyNT to coordinate the development and promotion of the Territory as an international study and research destination of choice.
The Northern Territory offers a safe and welcoming environment to international students.
The benefits of international education and training

As Australia’s fastest growing economy the Northern Territory provides both domestic and international students with extensive opportunities for part-time employment and internships while studying, along with visa options for post study work for international students which can significantly increase the skilled workforce in the NT. Territory employers value a multicultural workforce.

In 2014 1900 international students chose to study with NT institutions because of these opportunities, along with the friendly, multicultural community. International students strengthen our community and our engagement with the region.

They also provide a large boost to our economy. International education is the NT’s eleventh largest export industry; it was worth $49 million in 2013 and currently employs over 450 people across the Territory.

On returning home many international students help to build trade links and partnerships between the NT and Asia. We expect that by 2024 international education and training will be among the top five export earners for the Territory.

To the south there are around 23 million potential consumers of NT products – to the north (within the same distance) over 300 million, with a faster growing wealth base. Having an Asian capable workforce, able to do business in the region is essential to the NT’s future.
International students make a notable social, economic and cultural contribution to the Territory.
Why we need an international education and training strategy

The Northern Territory is already a successful provider of quality education and training to international students, particularly those pursuing higher education. However, we are well placed to build more partnerships and welcome more students, bringing significant benefits for the Territory as a whole and for international students and their families.

The Northern Territory International Education and Training Strategy will help coordinate:

• the efforts of all NT education and training providers in their promotion of the NT as a quality education destination

• clearly defined pathways between courses of study and providers, that help students achieve their goals

• Asian engagement opportunities for NT students, teachers and institutions through exchange programs, partnerships and education experiences

• support of international students to make the most of their experience in the NT

• the planning and development of education and training facilities of the highest quality that continue to enhance the NT’s reputation and attract students.

In addition, the Territory is always faced with economy of scale issues and increasing the number of students studying in the NT will strengthen the education systems’ offerings – across schools, vocational education and training (VET), and higher education.
The Territory has one of the fastest growing economies in Australia.
The Northern Territory — a great choice for students

The NT provides globally recognised Australian qualifications through high quality education and training across schools, vocational education and training (VET), higher education study and research. Charles Darwin University is ranked in the top 2 per cent of universities in the Times Higher Education Ranking 2013-2014 and in the top 100 new universities in the world that are under 50 years young.

The strategy aims to strengthen the relationship between Australia and Asia, cementing the NT’s place as a gateway between the two. We’re engaging through education; encouraging more partnerships, school to school exchanges and the teaching of Asian languages in our schools. We know by undertaking these initiatives, we’re building greater relationships and opportunities for the NT.

We are home to a diverse and friendly international community from more than 145 countries. The NT is renowned for its warm welcome that makes students feel safe and ‘at home’ here.

We already have strong family and business connections with China, India, Indonesia, Japan, Nepal, the Philippines, South Korea, Timor-Leste and Vietnam. We also have links through education partnerships and exchange programs with China, Indonesia and Japan.

International students studying in the Northern Territory talk about the unique opportunities, personal learning experiences and work pathways offered to them by the relaxed and supportive Territory community.
The Northern Territory will become a destination of choice for international students.
Our vision, action areas and goals

By 2024, the Northern Territory is a destination of choice for students from Asia and international education and training is one of our top five export earners

The vision will be achieved through the following action areas:

• establishing StudyNT to position the Territory as an international study destination, connect business and community to international education and training, and create an international network of former students

• continuing to develop the high-quality, world-class Northern Territory education and training system using state of the art technology and building on the success of our graduates

• building on the skills of our Territory workforce, ensuring our students and businesses have Asian cultural competencies and establishing a strong knowledge-based economy

• creating new investment and infrastructure opportunities to ensure safe, secure, modern student accommodation, excellent public transport and affordable, direct flights to our students’ home countries.
The Northern Territory International Education and Training Hub

In 2015 we will:
Appoint a senior executive to lead StudyNT.

Market and brand the Territory as a destination of choice for international students. Conduct market research to assist Territory education and training providers to meet students’ needs.

Launch a Northern Territory Alumni Network.

Examine the feasibility of establishing government business offices in priority countries, in partnership with education providers.

Lead and host delegations to and from priority education countries.

2017
Coordinate market research to serve the needs of Territory international education and training providers.

2019
Lead a progress review of the Strategy.
The Northern Territory education and training system

In 2015 we will:
Take our story to the national and international stage through Territory presenters at national and international conferences.

2017
Attract institutions with high brand recognition to establish a presence in the NT to co-deliver courses with the Territory’s education and training providers.

Create more pathways for international students to continue their education in the Territory.

Attract international research partners to invest and establish a presence in the Territory.
Territory workforce

In 2015 we will:
Coordinate a study tour with Charles Darwin University, government and schools to build relationships with a key Chinese province.

Align the Asian languages taught in Territory schools with priority countries, ensuring pathways from transition to Year 12 for Chinese, Japanese and Indonesian.

Partner with industry peak bodies to identify additional ‘Asia-relevant’ training needs for the Territory workforce.

Partner with Asian associations to establish grants for international educational exchanges for students, scholars, teachers, professionals, scientists and artists.

Identify gaps in teachers’ ability to deliver Asian language learning in schools, establish baseline data and fill gaps through professional development, innovative recruitment and teacher exchanges.

Work towards partnering with Charles Darwin University for inclusion of Asian languages in pre-service teacher education.

2017
Implement a framework for sister school relationships, including connections through state of the art information and communications technology.

2019
Grow the number of schools with sister school relationships.
Investment and infrastructure opportunities

In 2015 we will:
Identify investors to develop additional purpose-built modern student accommodation in Darwin.

Continue to progress awareness of the importance of a special migration zone for Northern Australia.

Partner with the private sector to establish a coordinated support service for international students.

Increase access to telecommunication options from student accommodation, public areas and mobile platforms.

Establish socialising opportunities, including sports and recreational facilities, and arts and cultural experiences, that recognise the cultural norms of international students.

2017
Identify investors to develop additional purpose-built modern student accommodation in the Northern Territory.

2019
Establish an international grammar school in Darwin.
Find out more
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