



Statement of Intent

This Statement of Intent follows the high-level policy dialogue '*Beyond Competition: Cooperation between Australia and the United Kingdom in International Higher Education*', held on 1 and 2 October 2012 in Melbourne, Australia.

Universities Australia and Universities UK intend to cooperate in key areas of common interest to enhance the activities of both organisations. This statement sets out the content and process of this cooperation.

Joint Working Group

Following the recommendation of the policy dialogue, the IU and UA will jointly establish a senior-level joint working group (JWG) to develop a programme of policy initiatives to enhance cooperation in higher education between the UK and Australia. The group will be led by Professor Colin Riordan for the UK and Professor Margaret Gardner for Australia. The group will meet formally once per year and additionally on an ad hoc basis.

Proposed areas of cooperation

Advised by the JWG, the IU and UA will develop and deliver a programme of policy initiatives, to include:

1. Collaboration and sharing of best practice in higher education policy and data. It is understood that higher education institutions in the UK and Australia share many of the same policy objectives, and also face similar policy challenges. Cooperation will initially focus on sharing data and knowledge on the effect of various external policy initiatives, including (but not limited to) policies relating to fees, immigration and research funding. The IU and UA will also seek to identify ways to advance their mutual policy objectives in third countries, for example by joining forces to argue for a receptive regulatory landscape for transnational education in third countries.

2. A joint project to support outward student mobility, reflecting the importance of this area to both countries. A specific project has yet to be agreed, but may centre on the need to improve definitions and data sources for outward mobility, to allow for more accurate measurement and analysis.
3. A detailed examination of the feasibility of jointly establishing international Doctoral Training Centres to deliver the coursework component of doctoral training in-country or in-region.

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