BUSINESS SYDNEY

International Students are a Vital Part of the Fabric of Our Economy

At Business Sydney, we are unashamedly pro-Sydney, and by extension, we support the things that add to its status as a global city.

If you're a cheerleader for Sydney, as we are, it's natural to also be a strong supporter of international students being welcomed as part of our community.

Business Sydney commends Study NSW and our great education institutions for making international students such a core element of their activities, our economy, and our community life.

NSW is home to more than 220,000 international students studying across universities, vocational education institutions, English language colleges and schools.

Education visitors, as they are known officially, make an enormous contribution to Sydney's economy. In fact, international education is the second largest of our State's service exports, worth $9.7 billion in 2022.

Sydney is lucky to have our wonderful international students both in a community and economic sense. We know that because we experienced that grim loss for two years during the pandemic.

Now, we have seen international students return to Sydney in big numbers, and they couldn't be more welcome. Their return is one of the best things that has happened during Sydney's pandemic recovery.

Let us remind ourselves of our trajectory before the pandemic to understand what is being restored. In 2019, nearly six hundred thousand of the 8.7 million visitors who arrived in Australia were here to pursue opportunities in education. Around 40 per cent came to NSW with Sydney as their gateway.

Education visitors make a huge contribution to our economy. An international student spends an average of $19,000 annually. International education supported more than 95,000 full time equivalent jobs. International education and tourism enhance each other. One in four international students, for example, have friends or family visit during their time here. This is the economic miracle that is now returning to our shores, but this is as much a human story as it is an economic one.

We reinforce the message that international students are a fabulous source of global talent. Sixteen per cent of international students migrate permanently to Australia after their studies. Many of them no doubt settle in Sydney and, as far as we are concerned, they couldn't be more welcome. The more the better, such is their positive impact on our community and our economy.

Our international students are a much-loved member of our community. They add to the wonderful cultural diversity of Sydney. They help make our city a busy and vibrant place.

International students love Sydney as much as we love having them here. They come to our city to live, work and play. Their work contribution is an enormous benefit for our business community, particularly in filling much needed positions in the hospitality and retail sectors.

Study NSW works tirelessly to achieve an environment that is warm and inviting for international students. Its strategic pillars include fostering a positive student experience and maintaining the highest possible level of student satisfaction and their propensity to recommend NSW.

Study NSW also aims to enhance promotion of our State as a first-choice destination for education and work experience. There is every reason to believe that Study NSW is succeeding in its goals.

From 2002 to 2021, there were 4.5 million international student enrolments in NSW — a vast reservoir of people most of whom ultimately return overseas and, in the process, connect NSW to the world fostering an unmatched spirit of goodwill and lifelong bonds.

We support the continuation of generous provisions that allow international students to work during their time with us. Over time, they have become part of the fabric of our economic community. There are key sectors that depend on them. Educating so many people from our Asia Pacific region does as much, if not more, as official diplomatic efforts to build strong international relationships in this part of the world.

Business Sydney's desire for every international student is for them to remember their time in Sydney and NSW as the highlight of their lives.

Business Sydney congratulates Study NSW and our education institutions that support our international student community. Study NSW has earned an enviable 89% satisfaction rate for its student programs and has won numerous awards for its work. Study NSW does not only work with the education sector, but they also contribute in so many positive ways to one of the great economic success stories in our state and city.

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