

MEDIA RELEASE
TUESDAY 14 OCTOBER 2025

THE POWER OF INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION SET TO TAKE CENTRE STAGE AT AIEC 2025

This week, leaders from across the international education sector will come together at the Australian International Education Conference (AIEC) to address one of the most dynamic and unpredictable periods in the industry's history. Co-hosted by IDP Education and the International Education Association of Australia (IEAA), the event will serve as a forum to connect, collaborate and explore ideas for the future of the industry.

AIEC 2025 will be held in Canberra at the National Convention Centre, running from Tuesday 21 to Friday 24 October. This year's conference is centred on the theme "*Navigating Change*". The program will examine how international educators, sector professionals and organisations can adapt to evolving circumstances, strengthen resilience, and leverage change as a driver for innovation and opportunity.

Over the past year, the sector has been tested by shifting policy settings, fluctuating global demand, economic headwinds and the accelerating influence of technology.

These changes have placed international education firmly in the public spotlight, while also highlighting its enduring role in building skills, knowledge and global connections.

IDP Education Chief Executive Officer, Tennealle O'Shannessy, said this year's conference is a timely opportunity for the sector to refocus on its core purpose and plan for the years ahead.

"International education changes lives, both for the students who choose to study abroad and for the communities they join," Ms O'Shannessy said.

"Right now, our sector is navigating complex challenges but also has a chance to redefine how we support students and demonstrate the value we bring to economies, workplaces and societies."

IEAA Chief Executive Officer, Phil Honeywood, said AIEC 2025 will be one of the most significant gatherings in the conference's history.

"The Australian higher education sector stands at a turning point. Beyond the current domestic policy reforms, we are seeing profound shifts in global politics, student mobility and education technology," Mr Honeywood said.

"This year's conference will not only unpack these issues but also reinforce the collaborative spirit that has sustained our sector through decades of change."

"IEAA is proud to build upon and amplify the successes and expertise of industry experts through AIEC. With our partners and international education providers, we will work to ensure that AIEC 2025 continues to play a key role when it comes to raising our industry's voice, making a positive difference for years to come."

The four-day event will feature keynote presentations, panel discussions, workshops and informal networking sessions. Delegates will hear from local and international experts on topics including the future of international student markets, sustainable education models, the role of artificial intelligence, and the evolving regulatory environment.

For more information about the conference schedule and speakers, visit aiec.idp.com/program

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About AIEC

The Australian International Education Conference (AIEC) has been connecting people and ideas for more than 30 years.

It is an opportunity each year for the international education sector to meet, learn about major industry trends and network with Australian and international colleagues.

IDP has been the proud owner and host of this event since it was first held in Canberra in 1986.

Since 2006, the conference has been jointly presented by IDP and the International Education Association of Australia (IEAA).

About IDP Education

IDP is a global leader in international student placement and a proud co-owner of the world's most popular high-stakes English language test (IELTS).

IDP is listed on the Australian securities exchange (ASX:IEL) and has 6800 employees across more than 30 countries. Its websites attract 100 million visits a year.

We specialise in combining human expertise with digital technology to help people get accepted into their ideal course, take an English language test or learn English in their schools. Our teams work side-by-side with our customers, at every step from course search through to starting their dream course or career.

We partner with more than 800 quality universities and institutions across Australia, Canada, Ireland, New Zealand, the United Kingdom and the United States. Our data insights are relied upon by organisations around the world to help ensure policies are informed by the diverse needs, challenges and motivations of students.

Most of all, we are proud of our people, who are trusted by our customers to help them realise their global study or career goals.

About IEAA

International Education Association of Australia (IEAA) is Australia's leading association for international education. IEAA strives to empower professionals, engage institutions and enhance Australia's reputation as a provider of world-class education.

IEAA provides advocacy and member services relevant to professional staff, academics and teachers across all sectors. It delivers high-quality professional learning to advance members' careers and enhance the quality of Australian international education. It also drives new research to highlight emerging trends, inform strategy and policy, and enrich the sector's knowledge.

Together with affiliated bodies, corporate partners and government, IEAA works together to promote the benefits of international education to the broader community.

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