

Which country is best to study in: Canada or Australia?

Here is a comparison between two countries very popular among Asia students: Canada and Australia. Get help with choosing your study abroad destination on the basis of the cost of living, visa, course eligibility, work opportunities etc.



1. Popular courses

Canada

Business Management, Media, Engineering, Nursing, Computer Science and Hospitality.

Australia

Accounting, MBA, Health Care, Information Technology, Education, and Hotel Management.

2. Eligibility/Requirements

Canada

For undergraduate (UG) courses, you need to have completed 12 years of schooling. To get admission, you need to appear for the SAT exam. The duration for degree courses is four years, and that of a diploma is two to three years.

In postgraduate (PG) courses, getting admission in vocational courses is easier as the admission criteria are a lot more relaxed. To get admission for management degrees you will have to appear for GMAT, and for engineering degrees you need to give the GRE exam.

The concept of cutoffs doesn't apply to Canadian colleges. Colleges provide average scores accepted to different courses on their websites. That will give some idea about what's considered a good score. You will also need to appear for language exams like TOEFL or IELTS, irrespective of the degree. There are some colleges that may not require language test for Indian students, but it is advisable you still give either TOEFL or IELTS as they are important for the purpose of getting a visa. If the visa interviewer is not sure of your spoken skills, they may not grant you the visa.

Australia

For UG courses in Australia, almost all universities require 12 years of pre-university education, which makes it easier for Asian students to get admission directly to the course/degree of their choice.

In PG courses, you can get admissions after finishing a three-year UG degree. In the case of engineering, you will need a four-year UG degree in engineering. To get admission in management courses you will have to appear for GMAT, and for science courses you may need to give the GRE exam.

You might not be required to have work experience in case of management courses at some colleges. In the case of no work experience, you need to enroll in a graduate certificate or graduate diploma program. TOEFL or IELTS may be waived by the university but are important for the purpose of getting a visa.

3. Costs for undergraduate courses and Costs for postgraduate courses

Particulars	Postgraduate course in Canada	Postgraduate course in Australia
Tuition	\$15,000 - \$35,000 per year	\$20,000 to \$37,000 per year
Room and Living expenses	\$10,000–\$12,000 per year	\$19,000-\$20,000 per year
Duration of course	1-2 years	1-2 years
Total	\$25,000-\$47,000 per year	\$39,000-\$57,000 per year

Particulars	Undergraduate course in Canada	Undergraduate course in Australia
Tuition	\$10,000 - \$30,000 per year	\$15,000 to \$33,000 per year
Room and Living expenses	\$10,000–\$12,000 per year	\$19,000-\$20,000 per year
Duration of course	4 years	3 years
Total	\$20,000-\$42,000 per year	\$34,000-\$53,000

4. Visa process

Canada

The Canadian student visa has the following regulations -

- You will have to apply for the post-graduation work permit within 90 days of finishing your studies.
- The visa application process to Canada requires a compulsory medical test for Asian applicants.
- Spouses can also work full time if his/her stay is for a year or more.
- It costs \$150 to apply for this visa.
- You cannot work more than 20 hours per week. During holidays, breaks and summer sessions, the student may work up to 40 hours per week.

Australia

For this visa, these rules apply -

- Australian student visa is not granted in the form of a sticker.
- It costs \$ 535 to apply for this visa.
- Spouses get dependant only if the student is pursuing Masters Degree or PhD. The spouses of Masters and PhD students can work unlimited hours.
- Student visa holders are allowed to work up to 40 hours per fortnight during their study in Australia.

5. Post study work permit

Canada

The Canadian Post Graduation Work Visa allows students graduating from any post-secondary institute to work post studying for up time period depending on the duration of their course to a maximum of three years. Under this work permit, the student can work in any field or industry.

Australia

Graduates who have completed a Bachelor's degree, Master's degree may be eligible to apply for a two year post-study work visa. Other graduates may be eligible to apply for an 18-month subclass 485 visa through the graduate work stream.

6. Employment opportunities

Canada

Jobs like nurse practitioner, program analyst, teacher, pharmacist, financial manager, construction manager etc. are some of the most sought after positions in Canada.

Australia

Top jobs in Australia are education, medical services, hospitality industry, computer system design, accounting etc.

Note - The Asian concept of campus placements and on-campus recruitment does not apply to foreign universities. Students are expected to look for internships and jobs on their own.

7. Permanent residency opportunities

Canada

During this period of Post Graduation Work permit, you can apply for Permanent Residency under the Canadian Experience Class. Since the country is sparsely populated, there is a shortage of highly skilled employee. Compared to most other countries, getting PR in Canada is very easy.

Australia

Getting a permanent residency permit to Australia is possible but it is a long process. The immigration officials conduct a thorough background check on the candidate to make sure s/he is not fraudulent. Because of the complicated process, the PR permit may take some time to get approved but it is possible to get Australian citizenship.

8. Scholarships

Abroad, most of the universities have a provision for financial aid. You can find out about the scholarships your university offers through its Financial Aid department. Apart from universities, there are a lot of scholarships made available to organizations; funds etc. here are a few scholarships for Asia students interested in studying in either Canada or Australia. Both countries have a better scholarship opportunity.

9. Cost of living

The overall cost to study and living in the Canada and Australia is dependent on many

Factors like university, course, and location. But approximately Australia is 37% more expensive than Canada.

10. Climate

Canada

Weather in Canada varies widely depending on where you are. Canada stretches from the Pacific to the Atlantic Ocean, covering five time zones. In Toronto, winter is milder than most Canadian cities, yet still cold and snowy. Montreal Weather in winter is cold and snowy. Usually, the country experiences pleasantly cool summers.

Australia

The country is located in the southern hemisphere. This means Australia's summer starts in December and winter begins in June. Nearly a third of Australia is in the tropics where the average temperatures are in the mid 20 degrees Celsius. The southern areas are in a temperate zone.