

The following are answers to questions taken on notice by Luke Sheehy, Executive Director, during the Senate Select Committee on Temporary Migration hearing on 30 September 2020.

## Page 23

*CHAIR: Thank you for that. Do you know what proportion of your students are from overseas? Do you have that breakdown?*

*Mr Sheehy: On average, about 34 per cent of our students are international students. I can give you on notice what source countries they are from.*

In 2018, 33 per cent of ATN students were international students. However, 37 per cent of those international students were studying offshore, including at RMIT's Vietnam campus and Curtin's Malaysia, Singapore, Dubai and Mauritius campuses. In total, 21 per cent of ATN students were onshore international students.

### Top source countries for onshore international students at ATN universities (2018)

| Country                          | Number        | Percentage of total |
|----------------------------------|---------------|---------------------|
| China (excludes SARs and Taiwan) | 18,009        | 44                  |
| India                            | 4,623         | 11                  |
| Malaysia                         | 2,457         | 6                   |
| Vietnam                          | 2,359         | 6                   |
| Indonesia                        | 1,489         | 4                   |
| Other                            | 12,285        | 30                  |
| <b>Total</b>                     | <b>41,222</b> | <b>100</b>          |

## Page 24

*CHAIR: To the best of your knowledge, what have other countries been offering their international students by way of support during the global pandemic?*

*Mr Sheehy: I would highlight particularly Canada, because that's what I have the most understanding of. I'm happy to take some further examples on notice.*

### United Kingdom:

International students who were in employment before the outbreak of COVID-19 are eligible to participate in the Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme providing up to 80% of their usual wage capped at £2,500 (\$AUD5,025) per month.

### New Zealand:

International students in New Zealand who were in employment before the outbreak of COVID-19 are covered by a wage subsidy of up to \$NZD586 (\$AUD569)

8/1 Geils Court Deakin ACT 2600

E: [info@atn.edu.au](mailto:info@atn.edu.au)

T: +61 2 5105 6740

Follow us @ATNunis

#### Ireland:

International students are eligible for a COVID-19 Pandemic Unemployment Payment if they have lost their job as a result of the pandemic.

---

## **Page 26**

CHAIR: I have a last question. When an international student comes to one of your members, is there an induction when they first arrive at a university? If so, could part of the process be that there is time set aside so that, if you are to work, there are people you can go to who can explain in very broad terms our very complex industrial system but also help you, if you need help, to get to the right place?

Mr Sheehy: I'll take some of those individual examples on notice and get back to you about what our individual universities do.

#### University of South Australia:

The *Education Services for Overseas Students (ESOS) Act 2000* is quite specific about the information that must be provided to students prior to commencement. While there is no legal obligation to provide information about work rights, at UniSA it is included (and has been for many years) in the required international student orientation materials, along with links in the offer letter, in the international student handbook, and in the international student services web pages. See the following links:

- International Student Services page: <https://i.unisa.edu.au/students/student-support-services/international-student-services/>
  - Also includes a drill down link to 'Your Workplace Rights and Obligations': <https://i.unisa.edu.au/students/student-support-services/international-student-services/working-in-australia22/>
- Information is also detailed in the International Student Guide found at <https://i.unisa.edu.au/siteassets/students/student-support-services/international-student-services/international-student-guide/International-Student-Guide-2020>
- There are also critical links at the bottom of the email template that is sent with offer letters. One of the links refers to Student Support Services.

There is also a fact sheet for international students produced by Fair Work Australia which was developed as a result of the High Court decision in August 2020. This is also distributed to students by Study Adelaide and available through the student union and linked on the website (<https://www.fairwork.gov.au/how-we-will-help/templates-and-guides/fact-sheets/rights-and-obligations/international-students>).

#### University of Technology Sydney:

The UTS Careers team have organised events such as the recent Fair Work Ombudsman's (FWO) webinar for students and the Australian Workplace Culture Career chat. See social media posts promoting these below.



Since the 2017 launch of the [Fair Work Ombudsman \(FWO\) 'Open Letter to International Students'](#), UTS International has continued its communications with the FWO Community Engagement team and has utilised their resources both during orientation and throughout the student journey, including reinforcing relevant messaging in regular newsletters and social media posts. See examples below.

**1. Presentation at the Essential International Advice session during orientation for all commencing international students:**

- Information on Working in Australia
- How to apply for a Tax File Number (TFN)
- Fair Work Ombudsman
  - Employee rights under Australian law
  - Minimum rights and conditions at work
  - How to contact the Fair Work Infoline

**2. Including material in the welcome packs for new international students:**

- Fair Work Ombudsman postcard
- NSW Fair Training Consumer Guide

**3. Provision of follow-up information in regular communications to international students:**

- One such example was the UTS International eNewsletter which announced the new minimum wage (see image on left below).
- Another example from the eNewsletter is a quiz that was held to test students' knowledge of workplace rights (see image on right below).



**ANNUAL WAGE REVIEW**  
**1.75% increase**



**Do you know that Australia has a minimum wage that applies to your job?**

As an international student, you have the same workplace rights as all other workers in Australia, including minimum wages.

From 1 July 2020, if you are 21 years or over and not covered by an [award](#) or [agreement](#), the new national minimum wage is \$19.84 per hour or \$24.80 for casual employees.

An award covers most employees. [Increases to awards](#) will start on 3 different dates for different groups of awards. If you're not sure which award applies to your work, use the Fair Work Ombudsman's [Find My Award tool](#).

The [Fair Work Ombudsman](#) is Australia's workplace regulator and can help you understand your rights and entitlements in the workplace, as well as resolve workplace issues including [during the impact of coronavirus](#). Information and resources are also available in over 30 other languages.

[Visit FWO website for more info](#)



**WORKING IN AUSTRALIA?**

Be aware of your workplace rights, check your pay and seek free help from the [Fair Work Ombudsman \(FWO\)](#) if you experience issues while working in Australia. Do you know how to protect your workplace rights? Test your knowledge using this simple survey to win a Coles Group and Myer gift card!

[ENTER TO WIN](#)

4. **Some initiatives the Student Service team runs for international students:**

- [Website for international students](#) – this page is regularly updated to include programs, services, resources and referrals specific for international students including FWO resources.
- Career tips for international students – a workshop held in orientation (not compulsory, but international students are encouraged to attend).
- A representative from the International Organisation for Migration run sessions for students (previously once per semester but recently increased to twice per semester due to demand).
- Networking event called 'It's Who You Know' connecting international students with international alumni who are happy to help students with career related questions.

- In the student community on the UTS Microsoft Teams platform there is a dedicated channel for international students.
- Key messages from FWO Australia are included in the student newsletter and social media.
- With ATN colleagues, an online program called 'WIL to Work' was developed to help international students with Work Integrated Learning (WIL).
- Semi-regular 'career chats' – small group conversations about typical career challenges facing international students.
- Individual guidance – 15- and 45-minute appointments students can book to discuss their concerns. Where appropriate they are referred to UTS Legal for further assistance.