

6

Member
Universities
Across four states



\$6.8Bn
Annual turnover

Employing **22,500+**
Staff



We produce:

38% of domestic **architect. & building** graduates



Educating **300,000+**
Students

30% of domestic **engineering (UG)** graduates



11 campuses across
9 countries



18% of Australia's
international students

ATN member universities have extensive
transnational education operations
with partnerships in:

India, Indonesia, Malaysia, Mauritius,
Singapore, Spain, Sri Lanka, United
Arab Emirates, and Vietnam



EDUCATING THE FUTURE WORKFORCE

ATN member universities empower students through innovation and inclusion

10,600

Domestic health students annually

1 in 3

Engineering students

20% of Australian students from
low SES backgrounds



16.4% of all Australia's **First Nations**
students in universities

24%

of students with
disabilities

ATN Universities' *Frontiers* program
provides training for **Higher Degree
by Research (HDR)** candidates to
become work-ready

ATN member universities are expert in
**micro-credentials, short courses,
'earn & learn' and work-integrated
learning (WIL)**



EDUCATING THE FUTURE WORKFORCE

1. Expanding real-world learning opportunities



- ATN member universities have embedded practicums, placements and other kinds of work-integrated learning across disciplines.
- Australia needs to pursue new ways to support more partnerships with industry, particularly with small and medium enterprises.

ATN Universities, government and industry must **collaborate to build more pathways for students** to undertake practicums and placements.

2. Accelerate tertiary harmonisation in support of lifelong learning



- ATN member universities each have delivery and articulation agreements with TAFEs in their states, and offer a range of VET-HE joint programs.
- Better integration across the two sectors will help students access the best mix of study that suits their needs at every stage of life.

ATN Universities will help government forge better connections. We need **more industry partnership in qualification design, AQF reform, better credit recognition, and support for pilot programs.**

3. Prioritising a needs-based funding model



- ATN member universities teach 1 in 5 university students from low SES backgrounds, and 1 in 4 university students living with a disability.
- A better aligned funding model will improve social mobility, help fill skills shortages, and drive national productivity.

ATN Universities seeks to **co-design a needs-based funding model** with government. A fair model would best support students from all backgrounds.

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1 in 3 **engineering**
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36% of Australian **architecture**
students, and
27% of **IT students**

11 campuses across 9
countries



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international students

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have a **disability**

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APPLIED RESEARCH FOR IMPACT

ATN Universities' interdisciplinary research spans clean energy, climate resilience, health, and advanced technology to drive real impact

ATN member universities received more
Category 3 (industry funding) than
Category 1 (competitive grants) in 2023

The only university group to do so –
demonstrating the **positive impact**
of public investment

ATN Universities invest **\$1.7**
billion in research annually



ATN member universities
received almost **\$40 million**
in Cooperative Research
Centres (CRC) funding in 2023



Leaders in **applied research**
partnerships: ATN member
universities participate in four of six
Trailblazer projects and lead two.



46% increase in research block
grant share since 2015



APPLIED RESEARCH FOR IMPACT

1. Enablers of university and industry collaboration can boost impact



- ATN Universities leads in industry-engaged research, generating more industry income than other university groups.
- Current research commercialisation efforts lack national coordination.
- Universities and researchers need clearer recognition and incentives for working with industry.

ATN Universities supports (1) **expanding national research commercialisation efforts** through alignment with existing national initiatives and (2) **updating research and development (R&D) assessment metrics** to equally value industry engagement and academic achievement.

2. Innovation precincts create more opportunities for R&D



- ATN member universities are part of innovation precincts across life sciences, advanced manufacturing, technology, resources, minerals and renewable energy.
- Innovation precincts bring together universities, industry, government and shared research infrastructure to drive growth and innovation.
- Success requires significant coordination, long-term partnership and investment from universities, industry and government.

ATN Universities welcomes partnership with government to **expand and strengthen precinct-based innovation hubs**.

3. Strengthening Australia's sovereign research capability



- ATN member universities have proven their ability to combine deep research expertise with real-world applications and industry impact.
- Strong research pipelines underpin breakthroughs in health, artificial intelligence (AI) and climate resilience.
- A long-term, coordinated research and development funding model is critical for Australia's future.

ATN Universities is ready to work with government on a **balanced research funding approach** that backs discovery, practical solutions and long-term national priorities.

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Trailblazers University Program



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A GLOBAL REACH

ATN member universities are global organisations, with many international academics and a strong presence with campuses overseas

ATN member universities have publicly
advocated that

35%

be considered a reasonable upper limit
for **international student caps**

ATN Universities stand out in attracting
global talent, earning a score of

98.8

In the 2025 QS World Rankings for
International Faculty

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transnational education operations
with partnerships in:

India, Indonesia, Malaysia, Mauritius,
Singapore, Spain, Sri Lanka, United
Arab Emirates, and Vietnam



Initiatives for A GLOBAL REACH

1. Develop a new international education strategy



- Rapid international education sector recovery after COVID has changed the political environment, undermined strategic planning and international competitiveness.
- The *Australian Strategy for International Education* has become outdated; a new strategy for the post-COVID world is needed.

ATN Universities bring extensive expertise in **building global partnerships** and stands ready to work with government in co-developing a new international education strategy.

2. Diversifying international student markets to strengthen resilience



- Due to a mix of demography, financial resources and historical focus, only a few source countries supply most of Australia's international students' cohorts.
- Diversifying the countries students come from will reduce the economic and diplomatic risks this poses.

ATN Universities welcomes the opportunity to partner with government to **expand diversification efforts into emerging markets, in key growth regions** especially in Southeast Asia and South Asia.

3. Promote quality Australian education overseas



- Access to Australian education globally contributes to our regional influence, trade diplomacy and links between friendly populations.
- ATN universities are leaders in establishing such overseas ventures and building these international linkages, with campuses in 10 countries across 4 continents.

ATN Universities invites collaboration with government to grow opportunities to secure market access and develop international partnerships.