



## International Students, Post-study Work Rights and Migration Opportunities

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### Abstract

Post-study work opportunities have been seen as a drawcard for international students in major destination countries and a strategic tool to assist with international education recovery. In Australia, since the introduction of the revised post-study work policy in 2013, the top five countries of temporary graduate visa holders have also matched with the top five provider countries of international enrolments in Masters by coursework. While up to 79% of current temporary graduate visa holders in Australia participated in the labour force, many did not work full time or in their field of study. This presentation draws on a study of the impacts of post-study work rights policy in Australia. It addresses the key finding of the study related to the factors affecting international graduates' participation in the Australian host labour market, including the temporality of their visas, employers' concerns, constraints of the market, and students' bargaining position. In addition, the study shows that that the temporary graduate visa is a possible but not easy pathway to migration. There seems to be a 'chicken or egg' problem around the nexus between the temporary graduate visa, employment and permanent residency. The presentation also discusses the transformation from the education-migration nexus to education-work-migration nexus for international students in Australia.

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