



GROUP OF EIGHT

A U S T R A L I A

THE UNIVERSITY OF QUEENSLAND

THE UNIVERSITY OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA

THE UNIVERSITY OF SYDNEY

THE UNIVERSITY OF NEW SOUTH WALES

THE AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL UNIVERSITY

THE UNIVERSITY OF ADELAIDE

MONASH UNIVERSITY

THE UNIVERSITY OF MELBOURNE

Australia's Group of Eight

The Group of Eight (Go8) is a coalition of Australia's leading research universities. Go8 universities are distinguished by the intensity and breadth of the research they perform, the research-informed nature of the education they offer, and the leadership they bring to community consideration of complex issues.

The Go8 adds value for member universities and for Australia by:

- facilitating collaboration between Go8 universities;
- offering a trusted network through which the leaders and administrators of Go8 universities share ideas and expertise;
- influencing national policies for higher education and university research;
- contributing visibly to national innovation;
- sustaining quality brand recognition;
- building community support for research universities;
- developing international strategic alliances and networks; and
- benchmarking for performance improvement.



The Go8 Board is made up of the Vice-Chancellors (Presidents) of its eight member universities. The Board meets five times per year.

Go8 collaboration is strengthened by an extensive network of committees of both academic and administrative staff which meet regularly for benchmarking, policy development and joint project work. More information about Go8 collaboration at both the domestic and international levels is available at www.go8.edu.au.

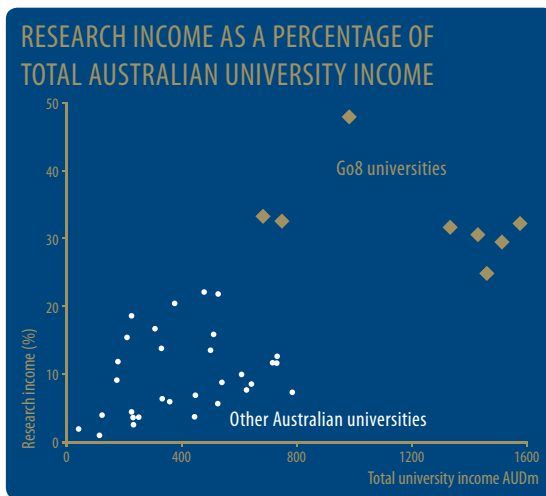


The role of the Go8 secretariat, located in Canberra, Australia's national capital, is to add capacity for its member universities, not to substitute for actions that they can undertake effectively themselves.

Characteristics of Go8 universities

Go8 universities can be distinguished in the following ways:

Go8 universities are the most research intensive of all Australian universities (see graph) and attract the highest levels of industry and competitive government grant funding for research.



They enrol over half of all higher degree by research students.

They attract the highest performing Australian school students and have much lower student staff ratios than other Australian universities.

A focus on the teaching-research nexus at Go8 universities leads to the development of advanced curricula and research-based learning that produce distinctive graduates.

Go8 alumni take up senior positions in professional life, business and government in Australia and other countries.

Go8 universities have nurtured every Nobel Prize winner educated at an Australian university.

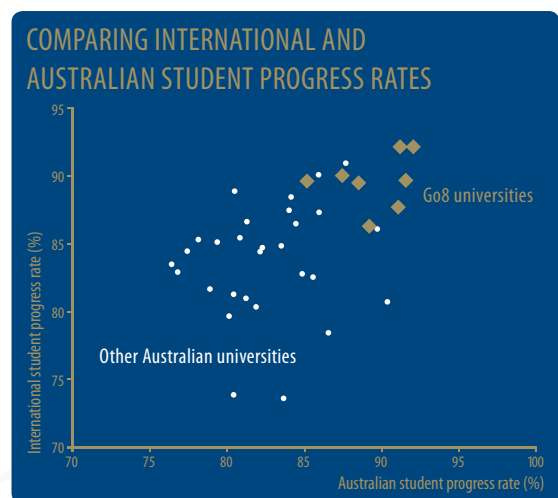
Various international rankings consistently rate Go8 universities as the top tier institutions in Australia.

Go8 universities are leaders in medical and health research, and in translation of that research into both teaching and learning, and patient care. The Go8 works closely with government and other agencies responsible for policy and programs related to health, medical research, health work force and delivery of hospital and other health services.

The Go8 Credit Transfer and Foundation Program agreements demonstrate the mutual recognition of high standards of teaching within the group.

The Australian Research Council has assessed 91 per cent of research undertaken at Go8 universities as world standard or above.

International students succeed at a similarly high level as Australian students (see graph). The average progress rate for international and Australian commencing bachelor degree students at Go8 universities in 2010 was 89%.



Go8 leadership

Go8 universities invest in world class research in order to drive discovery and innovation and to deliver world class education.

Go8 research training has achieved domestic and international recognition. This is because of the high quality of the experience it provides, with access to world-leading research infrastructure and facilities, supervision by leading researchers, an intellectually stimulating, diverse and supportive academic environment, and a rigorous, consistent and transparent assessment process. Together these ensure a depth of discipline specific and generic skills.

The Go8 Quality Verification System promotes discussion on best practice in teaching and learning across institutions. It assists Go8 universities in maintaining and improving their academic standards and learning outcomes.

Go8 committees meet regularly to collaborate on issues such as quality research training, credit transfer, international promotion, international research co-operation, human resource and financial management, planning, benchmarking and data sharing as well as specific education and research disciplines (Deans of Medicine, Engineering, Science and Arts and Social Sciences).

Students from disadvantaged backgrounds have better outcomes in terms of attrition, retention and success at Go8 universities than at other Australian universities. Go8 universities provide particular opportunities in post-graduate education for Indigenous students and students from disadvantaged backgrounds.

Australia's Knowledge Gateway is a Go8 initiative to highlight the activities of Australian researchers and make them more accessible to business, government, Australia's foreign affairs and trade officials, students and the wider community. Visit: gateway.go8.edu.au

International engagement

Global partnerships enable our universities to operate at the cutting edge of research and innovation.

The Go8 seeks to collaborate with like-minded university consortia around the world and facilitate the participation of its member universities in leading centres for research and higher education.

Contacts

For further information on international research or other forms of collaboration with the Go8 visit www.go8.edu.au, phone +61 2 6239 5488 or email executive.director@go8.edu.au



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