Lesson XV: Education in Australia

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culture shock

academic shock

studying abroad
Educational levels:

- Primary
- Secondary
- Tertiary
  - Undergraduate: (B.A. & B.Ec.Sc)
  - Postgraduate: (M.A. & Ph.D)
Academic Year

March to November & divided into either two semesters or three terms
Orientation Week

(an introductory week of activities for new students organized by senior students)

- a preliminary talk in each first course
- social events:
  - films, parties, plays, dances
  - clubs & societies to enroll new members
  - library tours & talk on services (medical services, students loans, & sport facilities)
Official Titles of University Staff

**Chancellor**
formal head of the university but an honorary position usually held by a distinguished citizen.

**Vice-Chancellor**
executive head of the university, nearly always an academic and holding the post for a five or seven year term.

**Registrar (or Academic Registrar)**
 senior administrator responsible for the routine management of the university, including admissions, fees, and exams.

**Dean of Students**
a senior academic appointed to have special responsibility for student interest and welfare.
Faculties or Schools

Dean
head of the Faculty, usually a senior academic elected by the staff of all Departments in the Faculty for a limited term, maybe two or three years.

Sub-deans
elected academics who serve as advisers to students on the structure of their degree course and their academic progress.
Departments

*Head of Department*
  usually a Professor but may be a senior academic, responsible for the organization of the Department, including the teaching, staffing and research.

*Professor*
  the most senior rank; there are seldom more than two Professors in any Department.
Other Academic Ranks in Departments

- Reader
- Senior Lecturer
- Lecturer
- Senior Tutor
- Tutor
Some Other University Staff

*Counselor*

adviser to students on matters of mental health and well-being, social welfare, and such areas as career and study skills advise
Admission

General entry provision: a minimum score (aggregate of marks) which students must reach in their Year 12 or Higher School Certificate studies. This minimum level is not very high in comparison with many overseas countries.

Quotas: particular faculties imposing their own quotas. Those admitted are those with outstanding academic results at the Year 12 level.

Prerequisite: certain departments imposing restriction on entry based on the student’s previous training in particular subjects or courses at the secondary level.
NOTE:

There is also fourth kind of restriction this one imposed by the student’s own desire to study particular courses. Few universities offer the full range of academic courses. ANU, for example, has only five Faculties: Arts (Humanities and Social Sciences), Science (including Forestry), Law, Economics (including Commerce), and Asian Studies.

If a student wished, therefore, to come to Australia to study Engineering or Agricultural Science, he could not do so at ANU but must go to one of the other universities or institutes.
Undergraduate Degree

- Double Degree: B.Ec. Sc.
- Pass Degree Courses: three years of full-time study ‡ 2 major (6); 1 sub-major (2), & additional units (2)
- Honours Degree: an additional year of study after the pass degree
Teaching System

- Lecture
- Weekly Tutorial Meeting/Weekly Practical or Laboratory Session
Assessment System

- A Final Formal Exam
- A Continuous Assessment
- A Mixture of Both
Postgraduate Degree

- professional qualification: a Graduate Diploma

- more advanced studies/research:
  
  a Master’s Degree       a Ph. D.

  by coursework       by research
Doctor of Philosophy PhD

Master’s degree (MA, MSc, MCom, LLM, MChemEng, etc.)

Graduate Diploma (G DipEd. Etc.)

Bachelor of Letters (LittB) degree

Master’s Qualifying programme

Bachelor Honours degree (u/grad) (BAHons, etc.)

Bachelor’s degree (u/grad) (BA, BSc, BCom, LLB, BEng, etc)
Ph.D. (Doctor of Philosophy)

- A research degree in at least three years to complete
- To have completed a Master’s degree or have gained a high distinction in Honours year
- Work independently with minimal oversight by supervisor
- Thesis worth publishing internationally
- Examined by two or more examiners from other universities