



CHARLES DARWIN UNIVERSITY

Foreign Policy White Paper Submission

Office of International Services/ Charles Darwin University / Darwin NT 0909

Charles Darwin University welcomes the opportunity to provide its submission to the Foreign Policy White paper.

Whilst acknowledging that Australia has diverse interests that span the globe, it is in our interest to keep a particular focus on the region that we are part of. Darwin is uniquely placed amongst Australian cities to pursue national interests in the region, and much can be gained by effectively leveraging Darwin's location, and the regional knowledge and research expertise of Charles Darwin University (CDU) when executing Australia's engagement in the region.

CDU has strong and sustained international links, particularly with our neighbours in Southeast Asia, and in relation to both education and research. This activity generates significant non-financial benefit to all stakeholders, including the development of personal, institutional and national links, and allows institutional capacity development both at CDU and at our partners abroad. This kind of activity is of great benefit to Australia in terms of 'soft power' and represents an investment in Australia's security and prosperity, and should be a point of focus in our foreign policy.

The economic importance of the international education industry to the prosperity of Australia should also not be underestimated. At a contribution of approximately AUD \$23 billion to the national economy annually the international education industry is one of our most significant export industries. Advancing this export industry abroad by ensuring market access for recruitment, program delivery and fruitful partnerships development should be a key target in Australia's foreign policy. At home, the industry will benefit from business-friendly regulations including program funding stability and a visa regime that aims to increase collaboration and information sharing between the Australian government and registered providers in order to reduce risk for all parties involved.