

Australian Education & Innovation Summit

Bogotá, Colombia 



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Official Program

Venue: Casa Dann Carlton Hotel & Spa | Calle 93B # 19-44, Bogotá

08:45 – 09:15

Guests Arrival & Registration

09:15 – 09:30

Welcome and Opening Remarks | Salón Victoria

H.E. Anna Chrisp, Australian Ambassador to Colombia

Hon. Ros (Roslyn) Bates MP, Minister for Finance, Trade, Employment and Training of Queensland

09:30 – 10:45

Opening Plenary | Salón Victoria

Why Australia? A Colombian Perspective on Education, Talent and Global Partnerships

Drawing on his extensive experience in international education and 25 years of leadership as Executive Director of COLFUTURO (2001–2026), Jerónimo Castro will share a Colombian perspective on Australia's evolution as a leading education destination and strategic partner. During his tenure, he played an important role in building partnerships with leading universities around the world to expand opportunities for Colombian talent and strengthen the country's human capital, including through growing engagement with Australian institutions.

The keynote will offer a unique perspective on the evolution of Australian education institutions and their growing recognition as global leaders in education, research and innovation. It will explore how these institutions develop globally minded, future-ready graduates, while reflecting on the growth of Australia-Colombia education ties, the contribution of Colombian alumni of Australian universities to the country's development, and the opportunities ahead to deepen collaboration through student mobility, research and institutional partnerships.

Keynote Speaker:

Jerónimo Castro

International Education Expert

Former Executive Director COLFUTURO

In conversation with:

Natalia Piedrahita

Strategic Advisor for Education, Latin America

Study Melbourne - Government of Victoria, Australia

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10:50 - 11:00

Recognition of Jerónimo Castro's Leadership and Contribution to Australia-Colombia Relations

11:00 - 11:30

Presentations by the Sponsors: Michigan Language Assessment, Experience Gold Coast and Next Pay

11:30 - 11:45

Coffee Break

11:45 - 12:30

Morning Concurrent Sessions

Session A - Plenary for education agents and Colombian university representatives

Salón Victoria

Australia: A World-Class Study Destination in a Changing Global Landscape

What makes Australia one of the world's leading study destinations? This session will explore the country's strengths in student experience, employability, research excellence, and global engagement amid increasing international competition.

Speaker:

Anthony Bradley

Regional Director, Europe, Africa and Middle East

Macquarie University

12:30 - 13:00

The session will conclude with a panel discussion featuring representatives from Australian states, exploring how the different Australian regions support international students throughout their academic journey and enhance their overall study experience through dedicated programs, services and initiatives.

Moderator:

Camilo Peña

Education Sector Lead LATAM

Australian Trade and Investment Commission (Austrade)

Panelists:

Natalia Piedrahita, Study Melbourne

Matt Boyd, Experience Gold Coast

Andrew Oldfield, Study Perth

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Session B

B2B Matchmaking Sessions for High Schools and Australian Institutions | Salón Edimburgo

A dedicated B2B matchmaking session connecting guidance counsellors from Colombian high schools with Australian education institutions through targeted one-on-one meetings. Connections will be facilitated based on the interests and priorities identified through the registration process, providing an opportunity to discuss academic offerings, admissions processes and entry requirements in greater detail. The session will also help build stronger connections between Australian institutions and leading Colombian schools, creating new pathways and opportunities for Colombian students to pursue their studies in Australia.

13:00 - 14:00

Lunch Break

14:00 - 15:45

Afternoon Concurrent Sessions

Session A - Workshop for Colombian High Schools

From Who I am to Where I go: A journey from self-discovery to purposeful educational choices | Salón Victoria

Students often make educational decisions by looking outward first — at rankings, prestige, expectations, and destination. This interactive session invites counselors and international education professionals to reverse the lens and begin with the student. Through a purpose-centered framework that connects identity, personality, and self-awareness with vocational and educational decision-making, participants will explore how to help young people move from “Who am I?” to “Where do I go?” — and make global education choices with greater clarity, meaning, and intention.

Speaker:

Tatiana Alajmo

Clinical and Educational Psychologist

Founder and Director | FLYE Counseling Services

A session supported by Adelaide University

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Session B

B2B Matchmaking Sessions: Colombian Universities, Education Agents and Australian Institutions | Salón Edimburgo

A dedicated B2B matchmaking session connecting representatives from selected Colombian universities and education agencies with Australian education institutions through targeted one-on-one meetings. Connections will be facilitated based on the interests and priorities identified through the registration process, creating a platform for meaningful dialogue and engagement. Participants will have the opportunity to explore areas of mutual interest and potential collaboration, including student mobility, academic cooperation, institutional partnerships and broader opportunities to strengthen education links between Australia and Colombia.

15:45 - 16:00

Coffee Break

16:00 - 17:00

Panel Discussion - All participants

World-Class Partnerships: Australian Perspectives on Transnational Education and Opportunities with Colombia | Salón Victoria

This panel discussion will explore the opportunities and challenges of transnational education, with a particular focus on the Colombian context. Drawing on Australia's extensive experience, panellists will share insights on successful partnership models, key enabling factors, and opportunities to adapt and implement transnational education initiatives in Colombia.

Moderator:

Alejandra González
Head of International Affairs
Universidad de La Sabana

Panelists:

Nathalia Plested, Australian Trade and Investment Commission (Austrade)
Renata Balaguer, University of Southern Queensland
Jack Johnston, Deakin University
Andrew Oldfield, Study Perth

17:00

Closing Remarks & End of Program by Ángela Rojas, Study Queensland