

Your gateway to first class schools in Australia.

Providing comprehensive testing for international primary and secondary school students.



Welcome

AEAS is very pleased to issue its first E-newsletter. This newsletter is designed to inform schools of any advances in our test procedures, materials, locations, administrators in fact any new developments and you'll be the first to know! Our newsletters will also flag dates of exhibition tours and other promotional or marketing opportunities which may benefit schools and can be included in current and future marketing plans. As we have news, we'll share it with you.



Season's Greetings and best wishes for the coming year to our partners at Australian schools, Test Centres, students and their parents, and education agents. Thank you for your support over the past year. We look forward to working with you in 2012 and the Year of the Dragon!

Warmest wishes from

*Tracey O'Halloran, Jenni Tobin, Simone Barker, Joan O'Halloran and Ray Gurry (AEAS Melbourne office)
Lan Lan Cao and Eva Peng (AEAS Beijing office)*



Test Materials

In our constant review and development of AEAS test materials, in 2011 we completed the development of new English language materials for Years 7-9. These materials are now consistent in style and format with the Year 10-12 test materials. As with all our test materials, we engaged the Language Testing Research Centre at the University of Melbourne (LTRC) to develop new materials for this age group, using current themes and references suitable for students of this level in today's society. We have distributed these new test materials to our test centres around the world and most have already started using them. We also have new test materials for testing Years 10-12 students. Given the higher demand for testing of students at these levels, particularly in China, it is important that all test centres and administrators have a wide variety of materials for testing, so students do not become familiar with topics, and cannot pass on test information to prospective students looking to take the test in the future. These new materials have been distributed to test centres in China and other busy test centres and will be distributed to all other test centres in early 2012. The next major project for LTRC is to update our English language test materials for primary school students entering Years 4-6. These will be available later next year.

Introducing 3 new Test Administrators in Australia

Queensland – Diane Josey

AEAS has appointed Ms Diane Josey as an independent AEAS Test Administrator. Diane is based in Brisbane and can be contacted directly by telephone or email to arrange testing. Diane has extensive experience in Queensland as a teacher and school administrator. She has worked as a Deputy Principal and Head of Department for ESL at schools in Brisbane and has also coordinated overseas student programs. She has also been an examiner for the Board of Secondary School Studies/Queensland Study Authority.

Diane Josey, AEAS Test Administrator in Brisbane, can be contacted by telephone or email as follows:

Mobile: 0433 795 328

Email: diane@englishlanguageservices.com.au

South Australia – Sally Collins

AEAS has appointed Ms Sally Collins as an independent AEAS Test Administrator. Sally is based in Adelaide and can be contacted directly by telephone or email to arrange testing. Sally has extensive experience in Adelaide as a teacher and director of studies at an English language college. She has considerable experience working with international students.

Sally Collins, AEAS Test Administrator in Adelaide, can be contacted by telephone or email as follows:

Mobile: 0427 433 336

Email: teaustralia@bigpond.com

Western Australia – Juliana Atkinson

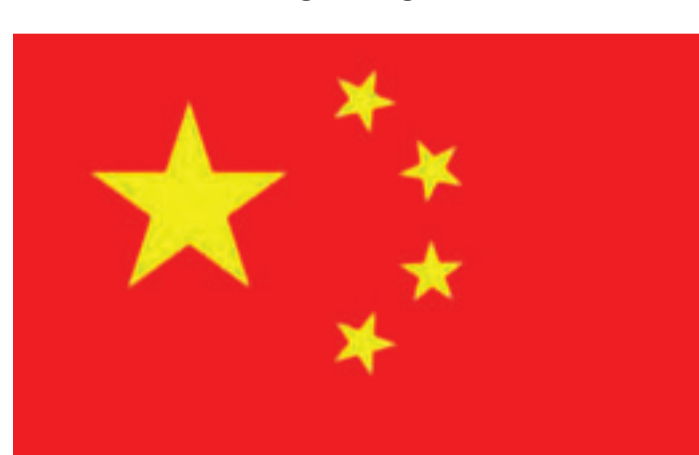
AEAS has appointed Ms Juliana Atkinson as an independent AEAS Test Administrator. Juliana is based in Perth and can be contacted directly by telephone or email to arrange testing. Juliana has extensive experience in Perth and in several countries overseas (Kuwait, Brunei, New Zealand, Malaysia, Vanuatu) as a teacher and examiner. She has a lot of knowledge of the international student market and the Australian education system.

Juliana Atkinson, AEAS Test Administrator in Perth, can be contacted by telephone or email as follows:

Mobile: 0402 544 405

Email: julianaatkinson@hotmail.com

AEAS is very pleased to have all three experienced test administrators join our team. They will discuss and arrange a suitable test date and test venue with the referring school, education agent or parent. If the student is applying to a specific school, then they will usually request that testing occur at this school. The test fee is usually paid for by the student's parents. Please do not hesitate to contact any of these independent test administrators, or of Manager, Operations in the AEAS Melbourne office (03 9645 0077 or admin@aeas.com.au) if you would like to discuss testing arrangements.



New Test Venues in China

Even with international school student numbers taking a dip in the current environment, China is still the largest source of international students for schools in Australia. For many years now we have been testing in Beijing, Dalian, Guangzhou, Nanjing, Shanghai, Shenzhen and Qingdao, and test numbers have gradually grown as our 'brand' becomes better known and education agents and parents become more familiar with the wide range of excellent Australian schools to choose from.

There is however an increasing need to have test centres at more locations in China, to cater for students living in 2nd tier cities and beyond. For this reason we have opened test centres in Shenyang and Zhengzhou, and will continue to expand in 2012. If a group of students require testing in Fuzhou, Wuhan or X'ian or any other city we may be able to organise this on request. The new centres in Shenyang and Zhengzhou along with test dates are listed as options on our website. Other cities being considered for a new test centre include Hangzhou, Kunming and Harbin.

Students must register for testing in China at www.aeas.com.au.

New Manager of AEAS Beijing Office

AEAS has appointed Ms Lan Lan Cao as the new Manager, AEAS Beijing Office. Lan Lan will lead the small team based in this office and will be responsible for promoting and marketing AEAS testing and Australian schools that require testing, as well as the new AEAS Studying in Australian Schools Preparation course. More information will be provided on this course in early 2012. Lan Lan can be contacted on lanlan@aeas.com.cn or +86 10 8454 9147.



Farewell to Jenni Tobin.....

Sadly, AEAS is losing the very talented Jenni Tobin from our team at Christmas. Jenni has decided to return to the import /export business where she was previously working, which is much closer to home. Jenni has been an excellent Operations Manager at AEAS over the past two years and I am sure we will all miss her enormously (and her excellent organisational skills!!) Thanks Jenni... we will miss you!! We will let you know in early 2012 who will take on the Operations Manager role in the AEAS Melbourne office.

AEAS Australian Schools Exhibition Program 2012

AEAS has had in excess of 20 years' experience organising Australian Schools Exhibitions overseas, and these exhibitions have been considered an integral part of many schools' promotional and marketing activities to boost their international student enrolments. For Australian schools to maintain a strong presence in our key markets we must visit regularly to maintain relationships and our profile. In the current climate of declining student numbers, schools should carefully consider their international marketing strategy and regard the exhibition program as one part of the annual plan.

Our exhibition plans for 2012 have been finalised and schools were asked to confirm their participation by 30 September 2011. The response for the March option (China and Hong Kong) was overwhelming, with all cities being over subscribed. Twenty six Australian schools will participate in Beijing, 25 in Shanghai, 22 in Guangzhou and 30 in Hong Kong. Please refer to www.aeas.com.au for further information on participating schools and contact details for co-organising education agents. As a condition of participation, schools are asked to confirm that all students that visit the exhibitions be referred for AEAS testing.

Whilst we cannot guarantee applications and enrolments from the exhibitions, the co-organising education agents are committed to following up enquiries for participating schools for the 12 months after the exhibitions, and AEAS monitors the outcomes closely.

AEAS is also very pleased to receive support from the Austrade North Asia education team for our March exhibitions.

Our program for next year is as follows:

OPTION 1: Beijing, Shanghai, Guangzhou, Hong Kong

CITY	DATE	VENUE	COST	EDUCATION AGENT
BEIJING, PRC	Saturday 3 March 10am-4pm	Swiss Hotel	\$2,200	Arranged with Austar Group Ltd, Beijing
SHANGHAI, PRC	Sunday 4 March 11am-5pm (TBC)	Intercontinental Hotel Puxi Shanghai	\$2,200	Arranged with Austar Group Ltd (Huashen is registered agent in Shanghai)
GUANGZHOU, PRC	Saturday 10 March 12-6pm	The Garden Hotel	\$2,200	Arranged with Guangdong Overseas Education Services (GOES-HKOSC)
HONG KONG	Sunday 11 March 12-6pm	Langham Place Hotel, Mongkok	\$2,250	Arranged with Hong Kong Overseas Studies Centre (HKOSC), IET Group and AUG Global Network

OPTION 2: Hong Kong, Bangkok, Yangon, Jakarta, Kuala Lumpur

CITY	DATE	VENUE	COST	EDUCATION AGENT
HONG KONG <i>Please note: this exhibition includes all sectors</i>	Saturday 23 & Sunday 24 June 1-6pm	Hong Kong Convention & Exhibition Centre	\$3,950	Arranged with AEC Education Consultancy
BANGKOK, THAILAND	Saturday 30 June 11am - 4pm	Dusit Thani Hotel	\$2,200	Arranged with CETA
YANGON, MYANMAR	Sunday 1 July 1pm - 5pm	Traders Hotel (TBC)	\$2,000	Arranged with CETA and Edulink Australia
JAKARTA, INDONESIA <i>Please note: this is an education agent workshop not an exhibition</i>	Thursday 5 July 9am-5pm	Shangri La Hotel (TBC)	\$800 (TBC)	Arranged by AEAS
KUALA LUMPUR, MALAYSIA	Sunday 8 July 1-6pm	Mandarin Oriental Hotel (TBC)	\$2,200	Arranged with E.T. Education Services and AUG Global Network

Costs for AEAS exhibitions include venue hire, table and chairs, 1 interpreter per school, advertising, permits, coffee breaks. Option 1 and Bangkok in June are now fully subscribed but places are still available for other cities listed under Option 2 in June and July 2012. Please don't hesitate to contact AEAS to discuss any aspects of our exhibition program for 2012.

Student Visa Review Outcomes

The Australian government announced the outcome of the visa review (<http://www.immi.gov.au/students/knight>). There are 41 recommendations and the government has said that it accepts all 41 and will implement most in 2012 for students applying for semester 2 next year. In relation to the school sector, the following recommendations were made and have been accepted by the Australian government.

- Recommendation 11 – That the English language requirements for school students in AL4 be the same as those applying for AL1 through to AL3 and the associated waiver scheme abolished.
- Recommendation 12 – That the maximum period of time a school student visa holder can study English be 50weeks across all ALs.
- Recommendation 13 – That the current restrictions on student guardians of a maximum of three months of study be maintained but unlimited part time study rights for ELICOS study only be allowed.
- Recommendation 14 – That pre-paid homestay fees be included in the financial assessments on the same basis as pre-paid boarding fees.

There is still one outstanding issue ... there is a separate clause in the Migration Regulations under AL4 which states "he or she has successfully completed secondary schooling to at least the year 9 level (or its equivalent)". If the government would reduce China to at least AL3 it would potentially open up the market for students interested in studying in Australia at a younger year level. Perhaps a bit of active lobbying may be required by the school sector!

Conclusion

We hope you have found our first newsletter relevant and informative. Any feedback is gratefully accepted and if you would like to suggest content that would be of interest to the industry, please let us know. Email admin@aeas.com.au. Best wishes for a relaxing summer break and we will be in touch in early 2012 with another edition.