

**Submission  
No 12**

**INQUIRY INTO FUTURE DEVELOPMENT OF THE NSW  
TERTIARY EDUCATION SECTOR**

**Name:** Mr Harvey Rough

**Date Received:** 24 July 2020

---

FileNote: NSW Education Sector  
Submission: Portfolio Committee #3 - Tertiary Education  
Author: Harvey Rough - Parent, Friend, Education Reform Campaigner  
Date: July 17, 2020

Premise: The presence of foreign students in lectures and tutorials lowers the quality of education for all students and devalues a degree from an Australian university.

Location: The following submission pertains to the quality of tertiary education in two Western Australian Universities.

1. University of Western Australia
2. Notre Dame University

From conversations with university staff in NSW and Queensland, I believe the experience to be common to NSW universities

Anecdote #1 I have two daughters who have studied double degrees at the universities listed above.

Both daughters regularly decried the presence of foreign students in tutorial workgroups.

Tutorial workgroups were routinely made up of 4-5 students per group. Tutors insisted that each group included local and foreign students.

Foreign students did not understand the language or the concepts in the assignments and they:

- a. slowed the group down
- b. failed to deliver on their 20-25% share
- c. plagiarised material from text books or other students
- d. failed to present their findings to the broader class.

Anecdote #2 I have one friend who lectures and one friend who tutors at UWA. Both want to remain anonymous.

They routinely complain that the quality of work submitted from foreign students is well below pass levels for an Australian degree.

When they report their opinions to their superiors, senior staff instruct them to lower the criteria and pass the student so that the students return to spend more money next semester.

Conclusion Degrees from Australian universities are becoming worthless due to the presence of non-english speaking foreign students.