

The Australian

Higher education sector in peril

- **Guy Healy**
- From: **The Australian**
- August 17, 2010 12:00AM

[Recommend](#)

Be the first of your friends to recommend this.

0 tweet

AUSTRALIA faces 36,000 lost jobs and risks "economic suicide" as tighter rules for skilled migration drive away foreign students.

The tighter rules also imperil the \$18 billion export education industry.

Losses would rise to \$3.3bn annually in three years under a worst-case scenario of a 30 per cent fall in university starts, the country's technological universities warned yesterday.

Losses would build up to \$1.1bn a year, in three years, even under a "mild scenario" of a 10 per cent fall in university commencements, Australian Technology Network chairman Ross Milbourne told The Australian.

"What we are seeing from current policy settings is potentially economic suicide," the University of Technology, Sydney vice-chancellor said.

Professor Milbourne made the comments in response to Curtin University modelling that found higher education -- which accounted for the lion's share of export education revenue -- was suffering "collateral damage" from policies aimed at dodgy colleges.

The modelling, the first tracing the fallout for universities, shows 36,000 fewer jobs in 2014 if university commencements drop by 35 per cent next year.

Melbourne University professor of higher education Simon Marginson said there had been no recognition that the foreign student market "was collapsing around the government's ears . . . a collapse induced by the government's own migration policy settings, which the opposition would take further".

[Recommend](#)

Be the first of your friends to recommend this.

0 tweet