



Explanatory notes for International Student Numbers

There are a number of figures that can be used to describe the total number of international students studying in Australian institutions. This document seeks to clarify the criteria that apply to the different numbers used to describe the international student population and provide a consistent explanation for the numbers. The estimates are based on the latest available figures (which vary for particular groups) as at July 2005.

Estimated number of students	Includes	Excludes
270,000*	International students studying in Australia on a student visa in: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Higher Education • Vocational Education and Training (VET) • Schools • English Language Intensive Courses for Overseas Students (ELICOS) • Non-Award (eg Foundation Studies, Other programs) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • International students on non-student visas and students studying off-shore by distance/on-line • Sponsored students (including DFAT, Defence, and Endeavour International Postgraduate Research Scholarship)
315,000	International students studying in Australia on a student visa (270,000) plus: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 45,000 ELICOS students studying on non-student visas 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • International students on non-student visas and students studying off-shore by distance /on-line • Sponsored students (including DFAT, Defence, and Endeavour International Postgraduate Research Scholarship)
415,000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • International students studying in Australia on a student visa (270,000) • ELICOS students studying on non-student visas (45,000) • 5,000 sponsored international students[#] (including DFAT, Defence, Endeavour International Postgraduate Research Scholarship) • 77,000 public higher education students studying off-shore (at an offshore campus or by correspondence) • 18,000 VET students in off-shore courses (in 2003) delivered by publicly owned providers (Technical and Further Education). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • International students off-shore undertaking VET courses delivered by private providers • International visitors on non-student visas (including persons on a Professional Development Visa) undertaking some form of study in Australia (other than ELICOS)

* These students were enrolled in 320,000 courses across all sectors—Higher Education, VET, Schools, ELICOS and Non-Award. (Note: a student can be enrolled in more than one course and in more than one sector).

Source: Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) website— Estimated Number of Australian Development Scholarship Students Commencing in 2006; Defence – Department of Immigration and Border Protection (DIBP) for offshore student visa grant data; and Endeavour International Postgraduate Research Scholarship – Department of Education and Training data.

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