



Monthly Summary of International Student Enrolment Data¹ – Australia – January 2015

In January 2015, there were 291,002 enrolments by full-fee paying international students in Australia on a student visa. This represents a 10.3% increase on January 2014.

There were 31,785 commencements in January 2015, representing a 15.4% increase over January 2014.

The January data should be interpreted with caution as most higher education and vocational education and training (VET) commencements for first semester typically take place in February and March each year. In 2014, only 2% of higher education and 10% of VET commencements were in January.

In January 2015, the higher education sector recorded the largest volume of enrolments. Enrolments increased by 5.7%, although this precedes the majority of new students commencing in 2015. China and India accounted for 34.4% and 11.8% respectively of enrolments by students in higher education.

The VET sector accounted for 24.0% of total enrolments.

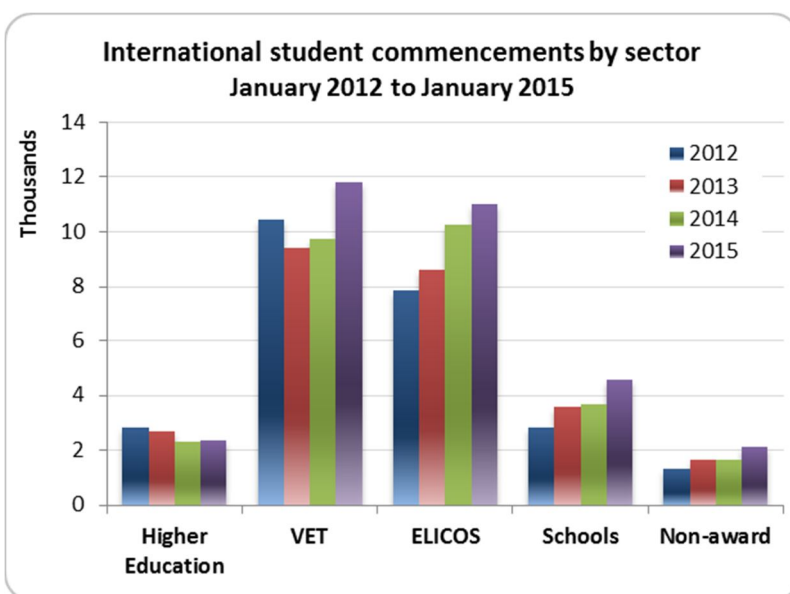
Enrolments and commencements in the sector increased by 16.9% and 21.5% respectively on January 2014 figures. India had the largest share of total enrolments (18.8%) in January 2015. The Republic of Korea was the next largest source country for enrolments with 8.2%, followed by Thailand (7.9%) and China (7.6%).

The English Language Intensive Courses for Overseas Students (ELICOS) sector accounted for 15.4% of total enrolments and 34.5% of total commencements in January 2015. Enrolments grew by 11.7% and commencements by 7.4% on January 2014. By nationality, China accounted for the largest cohort of enrolments and commencements in ELICOS with shares of 26.7% and 20.8% respectively. Thailand was the next largest nationality for ELICOS enrolments with 8.0%, followed by Brazil and Colombia (7.9% and 6.5% respectively).

In January 2015, schools accounted for 4.9% of total enrolments which grew by 14.0% on January 2014 figures. Asia contributed 87.7% of enrolments and 80.8% of commencements. By nationality, China and Vietnam had the largest shares of enrolments in schools, accounting for 50.8% and 9.6% respectively.

Enrolments and commencements in the non-award courses (which include study exchange and foundation programs) increased by 32.4% and 27.8% respectively. China (43.1%), Brazil (10.4%) and the UK (5.8%) accounted for the most enrolments in non-award courses.

Recent data published by the Department of Immigration and Border Protection showed that in the December quarter 2014, there was 16% growth in higher education student visas and 24% growth in VET student visas granted to offshore applicants (compared to the equivalent period in 2013). Also, there was nearly 20% growth in ELICOS commencements in the last three months of 2014. It is anticipated that these changes will flow through to further commencements growth later in 2015, particularly in higher education and VET.



Sector	Enrolments			Commencements		
	January 2014	January 2015	Growth on Jan. 2014	January 2014	January 2015	Growth on Jan. 2014
Higher Education	143,494	151,701	5.7%	2,294	2,327	1.4%
VET	59,805	69,908	16.9%	9,713	11,803	21.5%
ELICOS	40,152	44,852	11.7%	10,221	10,973	7.4%
Schools ²	12,442	14,179	14.0%	3,661	4,563	24.6%
Non-award	7,827	10,362	32.4%	1,658	2,119	27.8%
Total in Australia	263,720	291,002	10.3%	27,547	31,785	15.4%

The Top 5 nationalities contributed 54.1% of Australia's enrolments in all sectors					Double-digit growth in markets with over 3,000 enrolments (outside top 5)			
Nationality	January 2014	January 2015	Growth on Jan. 2014	Share of all nationalities	Nationality	January 2015	Growth on Jan. 2014	Rank
China	73,885	81,089	9.8%	27.9%	Thailand	11,084	15.9%	6
India	25,484	33,642	32.0%	11.6%	Nepal	9,567	21.5%	7
Vietnam	13,860	14,114	1.8%	4.9%	Pakistan	8,011	16.7%	9
Republic of Korea	12,511	12,492	-0.2%	4.3%	Taiwan	5,070	31.1%	14
Malaysia	11,864	12,163	2.5%	4.2%	Sri Lanka	3,386	12.4%	18
Other nationalities	126,116	137,502	9.0%	47.3%	Italy	3,252	44.0%	19
All nationalities	263,720	291,002	10.3%	100.0%				

For more information: <https://internationaleducation.gov.au/research/international-student-data/pages/default.aspx>

¹ The Department of Education and Training data on enrolments and commencements (including the data in this update) relate only to international students in Australia on a student visa.

² Commencements in schools for the current reference period are not strictly comparable to earlier years due to recent changes to secondary school level courses at a single large provider.