



In 2015, there were 645,185 enrolments by full-fee paying international students in Australia on a student visa. This represents a 9.8% increase on 2014 and compares with the average annual growth rate for enrolments of 6.1% per year over the preceding ten years.

There were 377,973 commencements in 2015, representing a 7.6% increase on 2014 figures. This compares with the average annual growth rate for commencements of 7.4% per year over the preceding ten years.

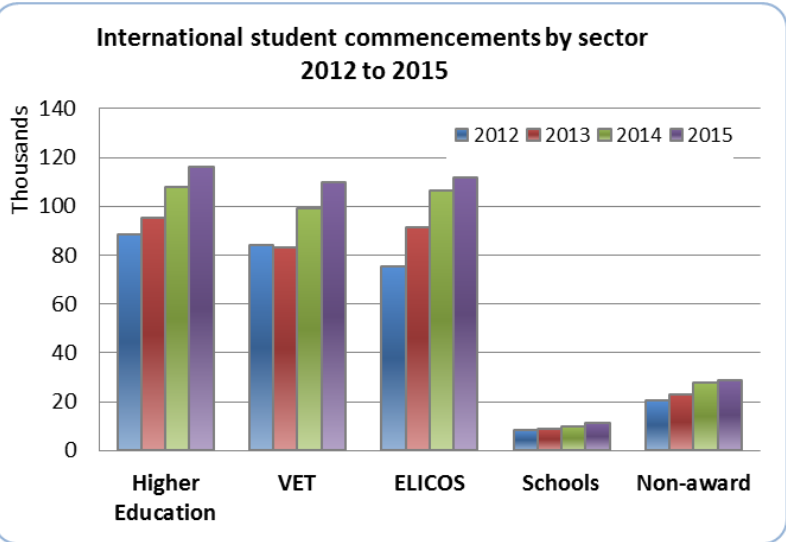
The higher education sector had the largest share of enrolments at 42.2%. Enrolments and commencements in the sector increased by 9.2% and 7.7% respectively. China and India accounted for 35.7% and 13.0% respectively of enrolments by students in higher education. Postgraduate research commencements decreased by 3.5%, while other postgraduate commencements increased by 3.5% on 2014 figures. Bachelor degree commencements grew by 16.4% in 2015.

The VET sector accounted for 26.3% of total enrolments and 29.1% of total commencements. Enrolments and commencements in the sector increased 13.7% and 11.1% respectively in 2015. India had the largest share of total enrolments (17.0%) and total commencements (15.5%). The Republic of Korea was the next largest source country for enrolments with 8.3%, followed by China (7.9%) and Thailand (7.7%).

The English Language Intensive Courses for Overseas Students (ELICOS) sector accounted for 22.5% of total enrolments and 29.6% of total commencements in 2015. Enrolments and commencements grew by 6.5% and 4.8% respectively in the sector. China was the largest ELICOS market in the period with a 26.5% share of enrolments and 25.8% of commencements. Brazil was the next largest nationality for ELICOS enrolments with 9.1%, followed by Thailand (8.0%) and Colombia (6.7%).

In 2015, the schools sector accounted for 3.2% of total enrolments and 2.9% of total commencements. Enrolments and commencements in the sector grew by 11.8% and 14.8% respectively. Asia contributed 84.2% of enrolments and 78.4% of commencements. By nationality, China contributed the largest share of enrolments in schools at 50.0% followed by Vietnam and the Republic of Korea at 8.9% and 6.2% respectively.

Enrolments and commencements in non-award courses (such as exchange and foundation programs) increased by 9.8% and 3.5% respectively. China (28.9%), the USA (14.9%) and Brazil (6.7%) accounted for more enrolments in non-award courses than any other nationality. Commencements from China and the USA increased by 26.6% and 3.9% respectively.



Sector	Enrolments			Commencements		
	2014	2015	Growth on 2014	2014	2015	Growth on 2014
Higher Education	249,074	272,095	9.2%	107,894	116,165	7.7%
VET	149,316	169,700	13.7%	99,065	110,061	11.1%
ELICOS	136,390	145,298	6.5%	106,598	111,707	4.8%
Schools <sup>2</sup>	18,422	20,596	11.8%	9,644	11,075	14.8%
Non-award	34,163	37,496	9.8%	27,995	28,965	3.5%
<b>Total in Australia</b>	<b>587,365</b>	<b>645,185</b>	<b>9.8%</b>	<b>351,196</b>	<b>377,973</b>	<b>7.6%</b>

The Top 5 nationalities contributed 51.0% of Australia's enrolments in all sectors					Double-digit increases in markets with over 13,500 enrolments (outside top 5)			
Nationality	2014	2015	Growth on 2014	Share of all nationalities				
China	150,893	170,212	12.8%	26.4%				
India	62,733	72,504	15.6%	11.2%				
Vietnam	29,923	29,575	-1.2%	4.6%				
Republic of Korea	27,875	28,725	3.0%	4.5%				
Thailand	25,538	27,965	9.5%	4.3%				
Other nationalities	290,403	316,204	8.9%	49.0%				
<b>All nationalities</b>	<b>587,365</b>	<b>645,185</b>	<b>9.8%</b>	<b>100.0%</b>				
					Growth on 2014			
					Nationality	2015	2014	Rank
					Brazil	24,672	11.1%	6
					Pakistan	16,091	10.8%	10
					Hong Kong	15,808	10.6%	11
					Colombia	14,095	10.6%	12
					Taiwan	13,662	34.4%	13

<sup>1</sup> 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.

<sup>2</sup> 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.