



## Study pathways of international students in Australia

### Introduction

In their Australian education experience, the majority of international students undertake study in more than one educational sector. The English Language Intensive Courses for Overseas Students (ELICOS) sector is the first step in an Australian study pathway for almost half of the international students who study in Australia's tertiary sector. Many other study pathways are also followed by international students. For example, 60 per cent of international students in higher education had studied in another sector previously and 40 per cent of international students in Australian schools go onto study in the tertiary sector.

This paper examines the main study pathways undertaken by international students through Australia's educational system. To achieve this, the study pathway options of four separate cohorts of international students are analysed in detail. The key findings are presented below, followed by a more comprehensive analysis of each group. Lastly, the appendixes detail the methodology used in this study; and present a set of tables showing the most common inter-sectoral study pathways undertaken by students in each of the cohorts examined.

### Key findings

#### *Study pathways of international students who completed ELICOS in 2010*

- Two thirds of international students enrolled in an ELICOS course underwent further study in Australia in another sector; 35 per cent moved immediately to Higher Education and one in five (20%) moved immediately to VET. One-third of ELICOS students did not undertake any further study.
- Overall, when other indirect study pathways are also considered, 21 per cent of ELICOS students eventually progressed to VET; and 40 per cent eventually progressed through to Higher Education.
- Of the top ten nationalities, almost three-quarters (72%) of Chinese ELICOS students and 53 per cent of Saudi ELICOS students recorded study pathways to Higher Education. About half (47%) of Indian ELICOS students and 42 per cent of Thai ELICOS students progressed to VET. Students from the Republic of Korea, Brazil, Japan, Colombia and Taiwan were most commonly enrolled in ELICOS without undertaking any further study.

#### *Study pathways of international students who completed School in 2010*

- Over half (56%) of school students did not progress to another sector after Schools. Over one-quarter (27%) of school students moved immediately to Higher Education and 8 per cent moved immediately to VET.
- Overall, when other indirect study pathways are also considered, 30 per cent of Schools students eventually progressed from Schools to Higher Education and 10 per cent from Schools through to VET.
- More than half (53%) of Malaysian school students, 48 per cent of Chinese school students and 37 per cent of Vietnamese school students progressed from Schools to Higher Education. One in five Schools students from Taiwan, 18 per cent of those from Vietnam and 14 per cent from China recorded a pathway to VET. Students from the Republic of Korea, Germany, Japan, Brazil and Italy were most commonly enrolled in school without undertaking further study in another sector.

#### *Study pathways of international students who commenced in Higher Education in 2011*

- About one-third (30%) of the student cohort undertook study in ELICOS immediately before commencing in Higher Education, 14 per cent were in VET, 11 per cent in non-award study and 5 per cent in Schools. Two in five (40%) students commenced study in Higher Education without prior study in any other sector.
- Overall, 43 per cent had some prior study in ELICOS, 16 per cent had prior study in VET, 12 per cent recorded study in non-award courses and 8 per cent in Schools.
- Students from China, Vietnam, the Republic of Korea, Saudi Arabia and Thailand most commonly progressed from ELICOS to Higher Education. Students from Malaysia, India, Indonesia and Singapore most commonly enrolled directly into Higher Education. One in three (35%) of students from India progressed from VET to Higher Education.

### Study pathways of international students who commenced in VET in 2011

- Two in five (39%) of VET students studied in ELICOS immediately before their commencement in VET, 12 per cent in Higher Education, 4 per cent in Schools and 2 per cent in non-award study. Over two-fifths (43%) of the cohort commenced study in VET without prior study in any other sector.
- Overall, half (50%) of VET students had some prior study in ELICOS, 13 per cent had Higher Education study, 6 per cent in Schools and 4 per cent in non-award courses.
- VET students from China, the Republic of Korea, Brazil, Thailand, Vietnam and Japan were more likely to have progressed to VET from ELICOS than any other pathway type. Larger proportions of students from Pakistan and Malaysia were VET students without prior study in any other sector. Students from India who commenced study in VET most commonly did so directly into their course (42%), a similar proportion of Indian VET students recorded a Higher Education to VET pathway (41%) and one in four (26%) recorded prior study in ELICOS.

### Study pathways of international students after completing ELICOS

In 2010, there were 63,370 international students who completed an ELICOS course of study in Australia on a student visa for the first time. More than one-third of these students moved immediately to Higher Education and one-fifth moved immediately to VET.

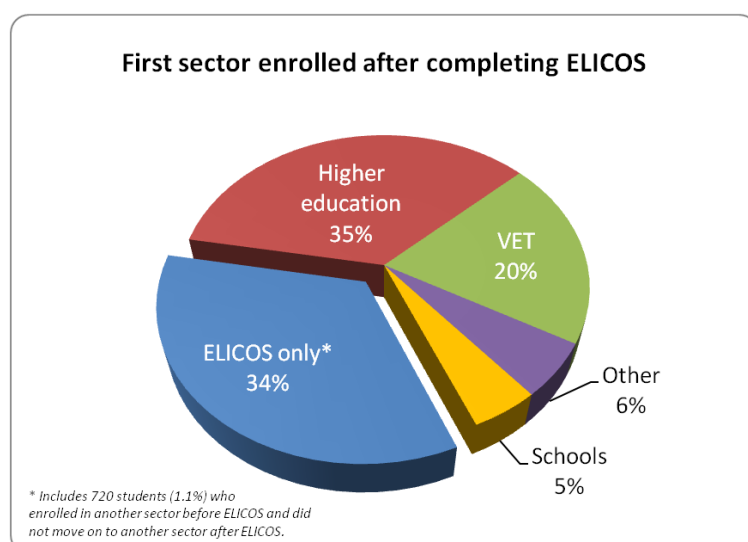


Table 1 shows the overall flow of students from the ELICOS sector through to the Higher Education, VET, Schools and Other sectors. This incorporates students who enrolled directly to the ELICOS sector and those who eventually enrolled in the sector via a different inter-sector pathway. Of the students who completed an ELICOS course in 2010, 40.1 per cent progressed from ELICOS to Higher Education, 21.4 per cent from ELICOS through to VET and 34.2 per cent of students only undertook study in ELICOS and did not progress to another sector. Comparatively small proportions progressed from ELICOS to either the Schools or Other sectors.

**Table 1. Direct and indirect Inter-sector study pathways from ELICOS**

<i>Inter-sector pathway*</i>	<i>Students</i>	<i>Share of total</i>
<b>Total in cohort</b>	<b>63,370</b>	<b>100.0%</b>
ELICOS and no further <sup>^</sup>	21,680	34.2%
ELICOS-Higher education	25,385	40.1%
ELICOS-VET	13,537	21.4%
ELICOS-Schools	2,987	4.7%
ELICOS-Other	3,870	6.1%

\* the inter-sector pathway of students who recorded study in more than one sector are not mutually exclusive, therefore the individual components do not add to the total.

<sup>^</sup> includes 720 students who enrolled in another sector before ELICOS and did not move on to another sector after ELICOS.

Using the distribution of students with inter-sectoral study pathways from ELICOS discussed above, in the event of a 10 per cent increase in the number of students who complete ELICOS shows student numbers progressing to Higher Education and VET increases by about 2,600 and 1,400 respectively. Conversely, a 10 per cent decline on 2010 figures of the number of students completing an ELICOS course of study would mean that the number of students progressing to Higher Education and to VET would decline by about 2,500 and 1,300 respectively.

Table 2 shows 58.8 per cent of students who completed an ELICOS course in 2010 had a study pathway that included ELICOS and one other sector. These were mostly students who undertook ELICOS study before progressing to courses of study in the VET and Higher Education sectors. A further 7.7 per cent recorded a pathway from ELICOS to two other sectors and a small share progressed from ELICOS to three or more sectors. One-third (33.1%) of the cohort were ELICOS students who enrolled directly into an ELICOS course of study and did not move on to another sector.

**Table 2. Students in ELICOS: Number of sectors recorded**

<i>Number of sectors</i>	<i>Students</i>	<i>Share of total</i>
ELICOS only	20,960	33.1%
ELICOS and one other	37,258	58.8%
ELICOS and two others	4,903	7.7%
ELICOS and three or more others	249	0.4%
<b>Total</b>	<b>63,370</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

Of the top ten nationalities by volume of students, three-quarters of ELICOS students from Colombia and about two-thirds of ELICOS students from Brazil and Japan did not progress to any other sector. Similarly, half of all ELICOS students from the Republic of Korea did not undertake study in any other sector. Almost three-quarters of Chinese students and more than half of Saudi students progressed from ELICOS to Higher Education. About two in five Thai students and under half the Indian students in the cohort progressed from ELICOS to VET (Table 3).

**Table 3. Top 10 nationalities and their direct and indirect inter-sector study pathway from ELICOS**

<i>Nationality</i>	<i>Inter-sector pathway</i>					<i>Total Number</i>
	<i>ELICOS only</i>	<i>ELICOS-Higher Education</i>	<i>ELICOS-VET</i>	<i>ELICOS-School</i>	<i>ELICOS-Other</i>	
	Proportion of total for each nationality					
China	8.0%	71.6%	10.6%	9.2%	11.2%	22,571
Republic of Korea	49.8%	16.8%	28.1%	4.2%	3.3%	5,282
Brazil	68.6%	1.8%	29.0%	0.0%	0.4%	4,509
Thailand	41.0%	16.3%	41.7%	1.3%	0.5%	3,848
Vietnam	17.2%	44.1%	32.3%	9.6%	6.7%	3,723
Japan	65.4%	9.7%	18.2%	2.7%	3.8%	2,703
Saudi Arabia	37.9%	53.0%	6.6%	0.0%	8.6%	2,623
Colombia	73.7%	10.5%	16.2%	0.1%	0.8%	2,538
Taiwan	45.4%	36.1%	14.6%	3.6%	3.8%	1,359
India	16.1%	32.7%	46.6%	0.6%	1.3%	1,349

Legend (% of total): 40% - 49% 50% - 69% > 69%

## Study pathways of international students after completing School

There were 10,778 international students in 2010 who completed school level study in Australia for the first time. Over one-quarter of these students moved immediately to Higher Education and 7.5 per cent moved immediately to VET.

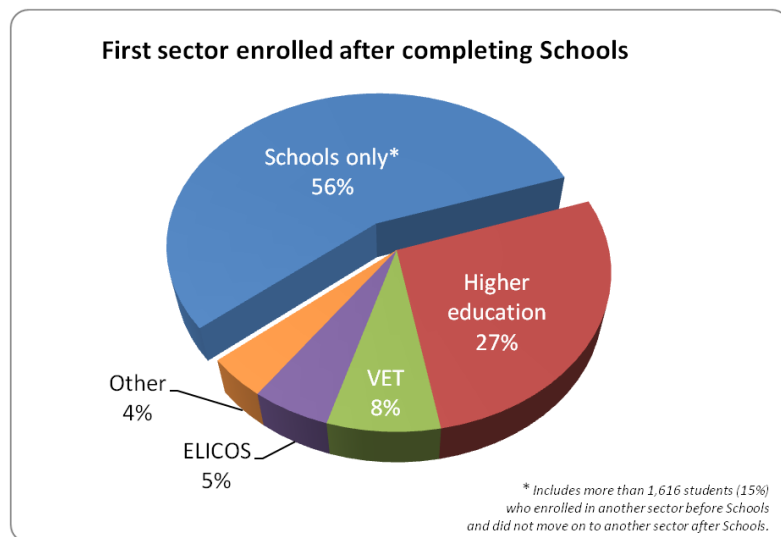


Table 4 shows the overall flow of students from the Schools sector through to the Higher Education, VET, ELICOS and Other sectors both directly and indirectly. Of the students who completed Schools in 2010, 30.0 per cent progressed from Schools to Higher Education and 9.9 per cent progressed from Schools through to VET. More than half (55.8%) the cohort who completed school in 2010 did not record a pathway to another sector after Schools. Smaller proportions progressed from Schools to either the ELICOS or Other sectors.

**Table 4. Direct and indirect Inter-sector study pathways from Schools**

<i>Inter-sector pathway*</i>	<i>Students</i>	<i>Share of total</i>
<b>Total in cohort</b>	<b>10,778</b>	<b>100.0%</b>
Schools and no further <sup>^</sup>	6,016	55.8%
Schools-Higher Education	3,235	30.0%
Schools-VET	1,071	9.9%
Schools-ELICOS	640	5.9%
Schools-Other	563	5.2%

\* the inter-sector pathway of students who recorded study in more than one sector are not mutually exclusive, therefore the individual components do not add to the total.

<sup>^</sup> includes 1,616 students who enrolled in another sector before Schools and did not move on to another sector after Schools.

Using the distribution of students with inter-sectoral study pathways from Schools discussed above, a 10 per cent increase in the number of students who complete Schools show the number progressing to Higher Education and to VET increases by about 320 and 100 respectively. A 10 per cent decline on 2010 figures of the number of students completing school would mean the number of students progressing to Higher Education and to VET declines by about 325 and 110 respectively.

About one-third (32.8%) of students who completed Schools in 2010 had a study pathway that included Schools and one other sector. These were mostly students who completed school and progressed to courses of study in the Higher Education and VET sectors. A further 24.2 per cent progressed from Schools to two other sectors and 2.2 per cent from Schools to three or more sectors. Two in five (40.8%) of all students in the cohort enrolled directly into school and did not move on to another sector after school (Table 5).

**Table 5. Students in Schools: Number of sectors recorded**

<i>Number of sectors</i>	<i>Students</i>	<i>Share of total</i>
Schools only	4,400	40.8%
Schools and one other	3,531	32.8%
Schools and two others	2,605	24.2%
Schools and three or more others	242	2.2%
<b>Total</b>	<b>10,778</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

Of the top ten nationalities by student volumes, the majority of Schools students from the Republic of Korea, Germany, Japan, Brazil and Italy did not progress to any other sector. More than half of Malaysian school students, 47.7 per cent of Chinese school students and about one-third of Vietnamese and Taiwanese school students progressed from Schools to Higher Education. About one in five Vietnamese and Taiwanese school students progressed to VET (Table 6).

**Table 6. Top 10 nationalities and their direct and indirect inter-sector study pathway from Schools**

<i>Nationality</i>	<i>Inter-sector pathway</i>					<i>Total Number</i>
	<i>Schools-Higher Education</i>		<i>Schools-VET</i>	<i>Schools-ELICOS</i>	<i>Schools-Other</i>	
	<i>Schools only</i>	<i>Higher Education</i>				
	Proportion of total for each nationality					
China	12.6%	47.7%	14.4%	10.4%	9.0%	4,752
Republic of Korea	60.3%	13.5%	3.6%	3.0%	1.0%	1,269
Germany	99.3%	0.4%	0.0%	0.0%	0.2%	1,202
Vietnam	18.3%	36.7%	17.6%	7.0%	3.7%	840
Japan	67.0%	6.4%	2.9%	1.9%	2.1%	376
Malaysia	34.4%	52.8%	5.7%	0.7%	7.7%	299
Brazil	97.8%	0.4%	0.4%	0.4%	0.0%	231
Thailand	46.4%	19.3%	8.8%	3.3%	2.2%	181
Taiwan	16.3%	31.3%	22.4%	9.5%	8.8%	147
Italy	98.5%	0.7%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	135

Legend (% of total): 40% - 49% 50% - 69% > 69%

## Study pathways of international students before commencing Higher Education

In 2011, there were 67,962 international students who commenced a Higher Education course of study in Australia for the first time. Of this cohort, 29.6 per cent undertook study in ELICOS immediately before commencing in Higher Education, 13.9 per cent in VET, 11.0 per cent in non-award study in the Other sector and 5.4 per cent in Schools. Two in five (40.2%) students commenced study in Higher Education without prior study in any other sector.

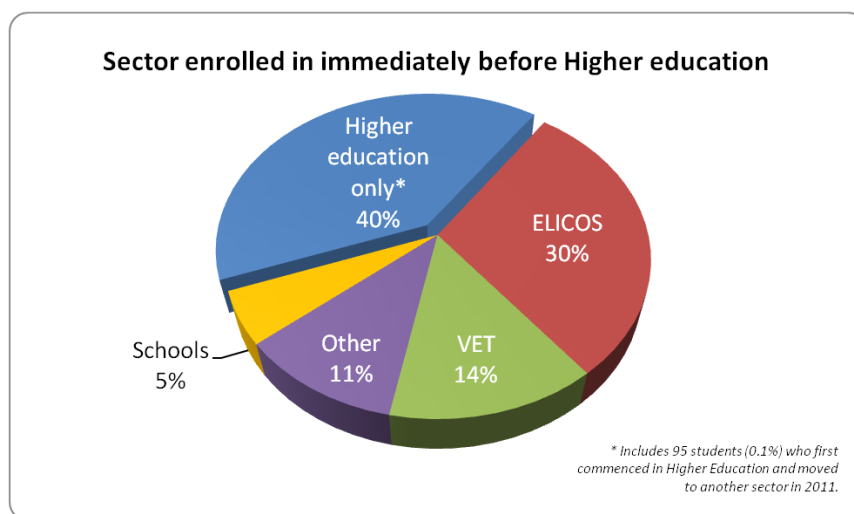


Table 7 below shows the overall flow of students from the other educational sectors through to the Higher Education sector both directly and indirectly. Of the students who commenced a Higher Education course of study in 2011, two in five (43.2%) recorded some prior study in ELICOS. A further 16.3 per cent recorded prior study in VET, 12.2 per cent in non-award courses in the Other sector and 7.6 per cent in Schools.

**Table 7. Direct and indirect Inter-sector study pathways to Higher Education**

<i>Inter-sector pathway*</i>	<i>Students</i>	<i>Share of total</i>
<b>Total in cohort</b>	<b>67,962</b>	<b>100.0%</b>
Higher Education <sup>^</sup>	27,352	40.2%
ELICOS-Higher Education	29,388	43.2%
VET-Higher Education	11,071	16.3%
Other-Higher Education	8,295	12.2%
Schools-Higher Education	5,163	7.6%

\* the inter-sector pathway of students who recorded study in more than one sector are not mutually exclusive, therefore the individual components do not add to the total.

<sup>^</sup> includes 95 students who first commenced in Higher Education and moved to another sector in 2011.

Using the distribution of students with inter-sectoral study pathways to Higher Education discussed above, a 10 per cent increase in the number of students who complete ELICOS show the number progressing to Higher Education increases by about 2,910 and a 10 per cent increase in the number of students who complete Schools would mean the number progressing to Higher Education increases by about 520.

A 10 per cent decline on 2011 figures in the number of students who complete ELICOS show the number progressing to Higher Education will decrease by about 3,000 and a 10 per cent decline in the number of students who complete Schools would mean the number progressing to Higher Education will decrease by about 510.

Of the students who commenced in Higher Education in 2011, 42.8 per cent progressed to Higher Education from one other sector of study. These were mostly students who completed ELICOS study before moving into a Higher Education course of study. A further 15.5 per cent progressed through two other sectors before commencing in Higher Education and 2.0 per cent through three sectors before commencing in Higher Education. Two in five (39.7%) students commencing in Higher Education moved immediately into the Higher Education sector (Table 8).

**Table 8. Students in Higher Education: Number of sectors recorded**

<i>Number of sectors</i>	<i>Students</i>	<i>Share of total</i>
Higher Education only	26,966	39.7%
Higher Education and one other	29,107	42.8%
Higher Education and two others	10,540	15.5%
Higher Education and three or more others	1,349	2.0%
<b>Total</b>	<b>67,962</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

Of the students from the top ten nationalities by volumes of students who commenced in Higher Education, about four in five students from Malaysia and Singapore enrolled directly to Higher Education and did not progress from another sector. Larger proportions of students from India and from Indonesia enrolled directly to Higher Education than any other pathway. Nine of ten Saudi students recorded study in ELICOS before progressing to Higher Education; and larger proportions of students from China, Vietnam, the Republic of Korea and Thailand recorded prior study in ELICOS before Higher Education than any other pathway type. Four in five students from Nepal recorded a VET to Higher Education pathway (Table 9).

**Table 9. Top 10 nationalities and their direct and indirect inter-sector study pathway to Higher Education**

<i>Nationality</i>	<i>Inter-sector pathway</i>					<i>Total Number</i>
	<i>Higher Education only</i>	<i>ELICOS-Higher Education</i>	<i>VET-Higher Education</i>	<i>Other-Higher Education</i>	<i>Schools-Higher Education</i>	
	Proportion of total for each nationality					
China	20.2%	65.9%	9.8%	17.8%	13.1%	25,512
Malaysia	80.5%	2.9%	5.5%	9.6%	4.7%	4,835
India	59.7%	18.8%	34.6%	1.3%	0.3%	3,484
Vietnam	26.6%	62.1%	17.8%	11.4%	12.6%	3,346
Nepal	12.1%	28.8%	85.9%	0.5%	0.1%	2,865
Indonesia	52.4%	22.0%	13.2%	19.5%	2.9%	2,559
Republic of Korea	25.6%	57.1%	18.3%	10.7%	18.2%	2,506
Singapore	86.9%	0.3%	1.8%	9.9%	1.8%	2,382
Saudi Arabia	11.2%	87.7%	5.9%	19.6%	0.0%	1,769
Thailand	25.2%	67.1%	19.4%	4.6%	7.0%	1,172

*Legend (% of total):* 50% - 69% > 69%

## Study pathways of international students before commencing VET

In 2011, there were 27,909 international students who commenced a VET course of study in Australia for the first time. Of this cohort, 39.4 per cent undertook some study in ELICOS immediately before their commencement in VET, 12.2 per cent in Higher Education immediately before VET, 3.7 per cent in Schools and 1.9 per cent were in non-award study in the Other sector.

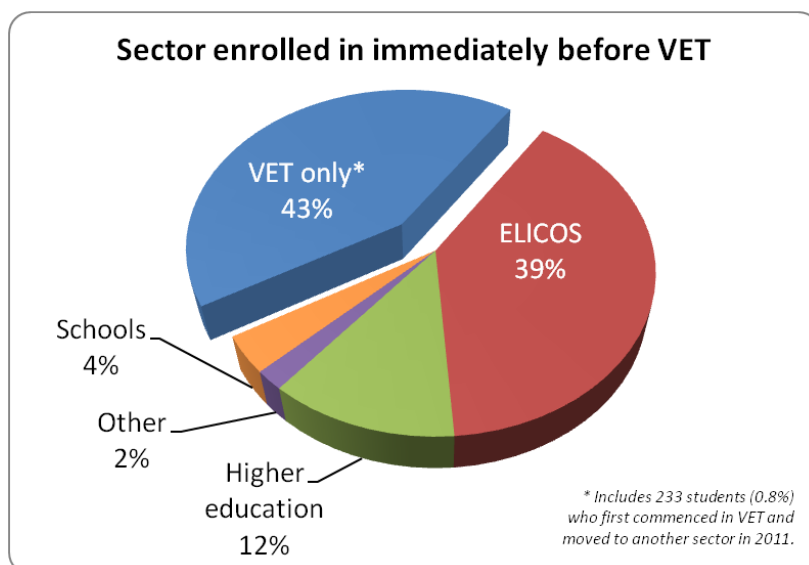


Table 10 below shows the overall flow of students from the other educational sectors through to the VET sector both directly and indirectly. Half (49.9%) of the students who commenced a VET course of study in 2011 undertook some prior study in ELICOS. A further 13.3 per cent recorded some Higher Education study prior to commencing in VET, 6.4 per cent in Schools and 3.6 per cent in non-award courses in the Other sector.

**Table 10. Direct and indirect Inter-sector study pathways to VET**

<i>Inter-sector pathway*</i>	<i>Students</i>	<i>Share of total</i>
<b>Total in cohort</b>	<b>27,909</b>	<b>100.0%</b>
VET <sup>^</sup>	11,888	42.6%
ELICOS-VET	13,927	49.9%
Higher Education-VET	3,705	13.3%
Other-VET	1,008	3.6%
Schools-VET	1,773	6.4%

\* the inter-sector pathway of students who recorded study in more than one sector are not mutually exclusive, therefore the individual components do not add to the total.

<sup>^</sup> includes 233 students who first commenced in VET and moved to another sector in 2010.

Using the distribution of students with inter-sectoral study pathways to VET discussed above, a 10 per cent increase in the number of students who complete ELICOS would mean the number progressing to VET increases by about 1,400 and a 10 per cent increase in the number of students who complete Schools show the number progressing to VET increases by about 190.

A 10 per cent decline on 2011 figures in the number of students who complete ELICOS show the number progressing to VET will decrease by about 1,400 and a 10 per cent decline in the number of students who complete Schools would mean the number progressing to VET will decrease by about 160.

Of the students who commenced a VET course in 2011, 44.1 per cent progressed to VET from one other sector of study. These were mostly students who completed ELICOS study before moving into a VET course of study. A further 11.8 per cent progressed through two other sectors before commencing in VET and 2.3 per cent progressed through three or more sectors before commencing in VET. Two in five (41.8%) students in the cohort commenced study in VET without prior study in any other sector (Table 11).



**Table 11. Students in VET: Number of sectors recorded**

<i>Number of sectors</i>	<i>Students</i>	<i>Share of total</i>
VET only	11,655	41.8%
VET and one other	12,316	44.1%
VET and two others	3,306	11.8%
VET and three or more others	632	2.3%
<b>Total</b>	<b>27,909</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

Of the students from the top ten nationalities by volumes of students who commenced VET in 2011, larger proportions from China, the Republic of Korea, Brazil, Thailand, Vietnam and Japan recorded some study in ELICOS prior to commencing in VET than any other pathway type. More students from Pakistan, Indonesia, India and Malaysia enrolled directly to a VET course and did not progress to any other sector. Similar proportions of Indian VET students moved directly into VET as those who undertook prior study in Higher Education before moving to VET (Table 12).

**Table 12. Top 10 nationalities and their direct and indirect inter-sector study pathway to VET**

<i>Nationality</i>	<i>Inter-sector pathway</i>					<i>Total Number</i>
	<i>VET only</i>	<i>ELICOS-VET</i>	<i>Higher Education-VET</i>	<i>Other-VET</i>	<i>Schools-VET</i>	
	Proportion of total for each nationality					
China	15.2%	71.3%	36.5%	9.9%	24.6%	4,561
Republic of Korea	30.4%	65.0%	6.3%	1.9%	5.1%	2,256
Brazil	14.1%	84.6%	1.1%	0.2%	0.2%	1,690
Pakistan	73.3%	18.7%	7.7%	1.1%	0.3%	1,587
Thailand	8.2%	90.0%	5.9%	0.5%	1.8%	1,484
Indonesia	50.2%	41.5%	8.1%	2.3%	2.3%	1,411
India	42.2%	26.3%	41.4%	2.7%	2.8%	1,169
Vietnam	9.2%	84.2%	22.6%	6.3%	17.2%	1,169
Japan	40.1%	56.8%	4.4%	1.6%	2.8%	928
Malaysia	64.0%	19.5%	11.1%	4.2%	4.0%	897

Legend (% of total):

40% - 49%	50% - 69%	> 69%
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## Appendix 1: Methodology

The data used in the analysis for this paper is based on information from the Provider Registration and International Student Management System (PRISMS), the source of Australian Education International's (AEI) International Student Data. As such, it is limited to international students studying in Australia on a student visa only<sup>1</sup>.

This paper examines the study pathways of four separate cohorts of international students<sup>2</sup>.

The first cohort was the students who *completed* a course of study in the Australian ELICOS<sup>3</sup> sector for the first time in the year 2010. The analysis was focused on the sector to which students moved to immediately after their ELICOS study was completed and the study pathways they undertook from the sector in the period through to the end of the following year.

The second cohort examined were the students who *completed* a course of study in the Schools sector for the first time in the year 2010. As with the earlier discussion on students who completed ELICOS study, the analysis of the second cohort highlights the sectors to which students moved to immediately after their school study was completed and the study pathways undertaken by the cohort through to the end of 2011.

The third and fourth cohorts were the students who *commenced* study in the Higher Education and the VET sectors respectively for the first time in the year 2011. The analysis highlights their study pathway *prior* to their commencement in Higher Education or VET sectors in that year.

Readers should note that for the purposes of this research paper, a period of study in a particular sector signifies a student has undertaken a course of study in the sector and does not necessarily indicate they have completed or been awarded a qualification for that course.

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<sup>1</sup> Visa sub-classes 570 to 575.

<sup>2</sup> Student numbers for each cohort are derived from AEI data by matching a number of different variables such as date of birth, name and gender.

<sup>3</sup> As AEI international student data relate only to students in Australia on a student visa, ELICOS students on other visa types are not included in this paper. AEI is unable to investigate study pathways of ELICOS students on other visa types to student visas. A 2010 survey by *English Australia* found 60% of international students enrolled in ELICOS courses are on student visas.

## Appendix 2: Top 20 study pathways

**Table A2.1. Top 20 study pathways of students who completed ELICOS in 2010**

<i>Sector pathway</i>	<i>Students</i>	<i>Share of total</i>
ELICOS	20,960	33.1%
ELICOS-Higher Education	20,584	32.5%
ELICOS-VET	10,254	16.2%
ELICOS-Schools	2,621	4.1%
ELICOS-Other-Higher Education	1,874	3.0%
ELICOS-Other	1,248	2.0%
ELICOS-VET-Higher Education	686	1.1%
VET-ELICOS-VET	540	0.9%
VET-ELICOS-Higher Education	513	0.8%
ELICOS-VET-ELICOS	496	0.8%
ELICOS-Higher Education-VET	421	0.7%
VET-ELICOS	342	0.5%
ELICOS-VET-ELICOS-VET	223	0.4%
ELICOS-Higher Education-ELICOS	219	0.3%
Higher Education-ELICOS-Higher Education	163	0.3%
ELICOS-Other-VET	155	0.2%
Higher Education-ELICOS	152	0.2%
ELICOS-Other-ELICOS	116	0.2%
ELICOS-Other-ELICOS-Higher Education	100	0.2%
ELICOS-Schools-ELICOS	78	0.1%
<i>Other pathways</i>	1,625	2.6%
<b>Total all pathways from ELICOS</b>	<b>63,370</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

**Table A2.2. Top 20 study pathways of students who completed Schools in 2010**

<i>Sector pathway</i>	<i>Students</i>	<i>Share of total</i>
Schools	4,400	40.8%
ELICOS-Schools	1,519	14.1%
ELICOS-Schools-Higher Education	1,490	13.8%
Schools-Higher Education	1,351	12.5%
ELICOS-Schools-VET	437	4.1%
Schools-VET	243	2.3%
ELICOS-Schools-Other	173	1.6%
Schools-Other	138	1.3%
ELICOS-Schools-ELICOS	108	1.0%
ELICOS-Schools-ELICOS-VET	97	0.9%
Other-Schools	83	0.8%
ELICOS-Schools-ELICOS-Other	60	0.6%
ELICOS-Schools-ELICOS-Higher Education	52	0.5%
Schools-ELICOS	49	0.5%
ELICOS-Schools-VET-Higher Education	44	0.4%
ELICOS-Schools-Other-Higher Education	42	0.4%
Schools-ELICOS-VET	40	0.4%
ELICOS-Schools-Higher Education-VET	36	0.3%
Schools-ELICOS-Higher Education	34	0.3%
Schools-Other-Higher Education	30	0.3%
<i>Other pathways</i>	352	3.3%
<b>Total all pathways from ELICOS</b>	<b>10,778</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

**Table A2.3. Top 20 study pathways of students who commenced Higher Education in 2011**

<i>Sector pathway</i>	<i>Students</i>	<i>Share of total</i>
Higher Education	26,966	39.7%
ELICOS-Higher Education	18,048	26.6%
VET-Higher Education	5,085	7.5%
Other-Higher Education	3,899	5.7%
ELICOS-VET-Higher Education	3,052	4.5%
ELICOS-Other-Higher Education	2,883	4.2%
ELICOS-Schools-Higher Education	1,819	2.7%
Schools-Higher Education	1,705	2.5%
VET-ELICOS-Higher Education	570	0.8%
ELICOS-VET-ELICOS-Higher Education	529	0.8%
ELICOS-Schools-VET-Higher Education	338	0.5%
ELICOS-Other-ELICOS-Higher Education	241	0.4%
ELICOS-Schools-Other-Higher Education	197	0.3%
Schools-VET-Higher Education	195	0.3%
ELICOS-Higher Education-ELICOS	152	0.2%
Schools-Other-Higher Education	135	0.2%
ELICOS-Other-VET-Higher Education	133	0.2%
Other-VET-Higher Education	128	0.2%
ELICOS-VET-Higher Education-VET	116	0.2%
ELICOS-Schools-ELICOS-Other-Higher Education	86	0.1%
<i>Other pathways</i>	<i>1,685</i>	<i>2.5%</i>
<b>Total all pathways to Higher Education</b>	<b>67,962</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

**Table A2.4. Top 20 study pathways of students who commenced VET in 2011**

<i>Sector pathway</i>	<i>Students</i>	<i>Share of total</i>
VET	11,655	41.8%
ELICOS-VET	9,965	35.7%
ELICOS-Higher Education-VET	1,433	5.1%
Higher Education-VET	1,201	4.3%
ELICOS-Schools-VET	599	2.1%
Schools-VET	324	1.2%
ELICOS-VET-ELICOS	306	1.1%
Other-VET	215	0.8%
ELICOS-Other-VET	203	0.7%
ELICOS-Schools-Higher Education-VET	195	0.7%
ELICOS-Schools-ELICOS-VET	152	0.5%
ELICOS-Higher Education-ELICOS-VET	148	0.5%
Other-Higher Education-VET	129	0.5%
VET-Higher Education	118	0.4%
Schools-Higher Education-VET	117	0.4%
ELICOS-Other-Higher Education-VET	103	0.4%
ELICOS-VET-Higher Education	103	0.4%
VET-ELICOS	89	0.3%
Schools-ELICOS-VET	57	0.2%
ELICOS-VET-ELICOS-VET	53	0.2%
<i>Other pathways</i>	<i>744</i>	<i>2.7%</i>
<b>Total all pathways to VET</b>	<b>27,909</b>	<b>100.0%</b>